

Principal
T. Wisnicki

Head Secretary
L. Abbas

School Council Chair
S. Gordon

Superintendent
L. Kazimowicz

Family of Schools
Mississauga Central

Wards
5 & 11

Trustees
T. Thomas
L. Del Rosario

Parish
St. Francis Xavier
St. Joseph

Parish Priest
Fr. O'Brian
Fr. Andre

Parish Telephone
905-890-5290

Director of Education
John Kostoff

Board Chairperson
Mario Pascucci



Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board



School Plan for Sustained and Continuous Improvement 2008 - 2010

St. Marcellinus Secondary School

730 Courtneypark Drive West
Mississauga, ON
L5W 1L9

<http://www.dpacsb.org/St.Marcellinus>



Let Every Spirit Soar!

School Plan for Sustained and Continuous Improvement 2008 - 2010

Mission Statement

Let it be known that, at St. Marcellinus Secondary School, Christ is the reason for our school. He is the unseen but ever present teacher in our classrooms. He is the model for our staff and the inspiration for our students.

St. Marcellinus Secondary School is a community built on the teachings of our Catholic faith that encourages all the members of its community to strive for personal and spiritual success while living the Gospel values.

We value the whole student, nurturing the vitality and strength of mind, body and spirit.

We advocate for social justice and equality.

We excel in academia, the arts, technology and sport.

We embrace the Holy Spirit and celebrate the teachings of the Gospel

We are St. Marcellinus Secondary School

Our School

St. Marcellinus Secondary School is a secondary school of approximately 1317 students, of diverse social and ethnic backgrounds. The surrounding community consists of single family homes situated in a suburban area that is located in northwest Mississauga. Our student population over the past 4 years has seen a significant increase overall as well as in English as a Second Students (ESL).

St. Marcellinus SS a beacon for Catholic Education in the area. Catholic Education, rooted in Christ, is called to a unique way of seeing and interacting with our world. Through the examples of our master teacher, Christ, we take our calling to “reach out into the deep” and “be community” for others seriously. Our Catholic view of academics, spiritual and moral development, sacramental preparation, prayer, discipline, and community, challenge us to use our learning for the benefit of others. We are called to be Christ for others.

At St. Marcellinus Secondary School our commitment to academic excellence is a shared responsibility. As a Staff and School Council, we work hard bringing together students, parents, teachers, pastoral team, trustees and other partners to form a Catholic community in the service of the spiritual, intellectual, physical and emotional needs of students in our care.

Our students come to us with a variety of strengths and needs, with their Catholic *faith* as their common bond. Our prayer life, liturgical celebrations, the sacraments, and our *faith* and values system form the foundation of our school program. The curriculum is broad, balanced and relevant to the needs and aspirations of all our students. A wide range of subjects and learning experiences are offered to develop the skills, abilities and talents of individual students. Accordingly, appropriate assessment procedures are employed regularly to motivate and encourage student success. To ensure coherence and wholeness, subjects are taught within the context of *The Ontario Curriculum*, Gospel values and sound educational practices.

Measures of Student Achievement and Success

All students in the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board schools are provided with the same opportunities to learn, to grow and to achieve their potential. Assessment results ensure that schools, parents and other stakeholders in our communities have access to high-quality information needed to make informed judgments and effective educational decisions. Schools continuously collect assessment data on student learning to plan for student growth. Teachers assess knowledge, skills and strategies on an ongoing basis. Regular assessments, both classroom and large scale, allow teachers to determine the effectiveness of their instruction, assess student learning, and make informed decisions about how to organize and pace instruction.

Provincial Measures of Student Achievement

The Primary and Junior EQAO assessments of reading, writing and mathematics are conducted annually by the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) in every publicly funded elementary school in Ontario. The assessments are based on *The Ontario Curriculum* and measure how well students know, understand and apply their skills and knowledge in reading, writing and mathematics. At the secondary level, the Grade 9 EQAO assessment of mathematics is administered at the close of each semester (or at the end of the year in non-semestered schools) each year to measure Grade 9 student achievement of mathematics expectations in *The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 9 and 10: Mathematics, 2005 (Revised)*. In addition, EQAO conducts the annual Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) each March. Successful completion of this test (or the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course) is one of the 32 graduation requirements of the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD).

The provincial assessments provide a ‘snapshot’ of how well students are learning what is expected of them in the curriculum at specific points in time. The assessments complement local school data and can help identify ways to influence instruction and other practices to help students learn more effectively and efficiently. Students’ work is assessed according to curriculum expectations and using a four-level assessment scale that reflects the four achievement levels in *The Ontario Curriculum*. Level 3 on the assessment scale represents the provincial standard and identifies a high level of achievement of the provincial expectations. The results from the assessments are used by boards and schools to improve learning and teaching and not for ranking schools. **Ranking of schools is inappropriate and could result in misleading comparisons, which may ignore the unique conditions that affect student achievement and prevent schools and the board from addressing the critical issue of improving learning for all students.**

School, Board and Provincial Achievement Results: 2007 - 2008

SAMPLE: School results on the EQAO Gr. 9 Mathematics assessment and OSSLT indicate that the school-wide emphasis on reading, writing and mathematics has produced a marked improvement in our students’ reading and mathematical skills. Our Gr. 9 Mathematics and OSSLT results have exceeded the results from the previous year. Our writing results show some improvement from the previous year but suggest that there is room for improvement.

Percent of students, enrolled in the grade (Method 1), who scored at and above the provincial standard (Levels 3 & 4):

OSSLT '06-'07	School	Board	Province
All	99%	96%	93%
Successful	88%	86%	84%
Not Successful	12%	14%	16%

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	Applied (All Students) Levels 3,4	Academic (All Students) Levels 3,4
Grade 9 EQAO Mathematics Test		
School	53%	87%
Board	32%	74%
Province	34%	75%

Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board
Planning for Sustained and Continuous Improvement

System Goals	Actions for Implementation	Indicators of Success	Monitor and Review for Success	
			Evidence from Monitoring and Review Cycles	Completion Date / Next Steps
<p style="text-align: center;">Catholicity</p> <p><i>The goal of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic community is to enhance the faith formation of all community members (staff, student, trustees, parents) by strengthening the partnership of home, parish and school.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review board-wide and school expenditures in the area of Religious Education and faith Formation during the 2008-2009 budget year, to determine the average budget commitment and make recommendations for future annual budget commitments commencing in 2009-2010. • Create and implement a Catholic Community Study Unit for elementary and secondary schools. • Increase opportunities for students and staff to learn more about and experience social justice, service, and stewardship of the earth. • Recognizing the Catholic call to be stewards of the earth, to be champions of social justice, to make ethical decisions and 	<p>Foster student spiritual development within the image of Christ by the integration of faith stories into the formal curriculum.</p>	<p>Departmental goals will include the integration of faith stories and activities into course content</p>	<p>Activities will be included in course outlines:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 2009

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<p>to care for one another, the Dufferin-Peel community will work to develop a sustainability committee that will review best practices for design of new schools, sustainability and recycling programs and targets and an integrated curriculum approach that will assist all in our community in working towards greener schools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and integrate faith stories and teachings (all staff within their roles as Catholic educators), in order to provide a Catholic perspective across the system. • Expand work on equity and diversity by focusing on hiring and promotion practices, professional and staff development, and curriculum development and learning resources, so that all feel valued as part of the fabric of our diverse community. • Continue to nurture relationships between school and parish teams, and school and home. 				
<p style="text-align: center;">Community Development</p> <p><i>The goal of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic community is to strengthen community relationships in an effort to sustain confidence in our commitment to improving support for student learning.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to focus on Catholic professional learning communities. • Enhance opportunities for communication and collaboration with all community partners. • Increase awareness and build system-wide capacity towards the development of a comprehensive whole-school approach to violence and bullying prevention, and progressive discipline within our Catholic faith perspective. 	<p>Develop and maintain strong working relationships with St. Marcellinus feeder schools</p>	<p>Frequent and ongoing sharing of information between St. Marcellinus and its feeder schools</p>	<p>Evidence from student transition from elementary to secondary school.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">November 2009</p>

Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board
 Planning for Sustained and Continuous Improvement

System Goals	Actions for Implementation	Indicators of Success	Monitor and Review for Success	
			Data from Monitoring and Review Cycles	Completion Date / Next Steps
<p>Excellence in Student Achievement</p> <p><i>The goal of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic community, within the context of the Catholic Graduate Expectations, is to continue to establish and nurture the conditions needed to advance high levels of student achievement, and narrow the gap in student achievement so that all students can grow in their journey to know God and ultimately transform the world around them.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand and deepen the implementation of high quality literacy and numeracy practices and achievement in all schools in order to contribute to the development of the whole child. • Expand differentiated learning opportunities, within fiscal responsibility, for students including cooperative education, dual credits, specialist high skills majors, credits for external credentials, the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Programs, e-learning opportunities, experiential learning, Continuing and Adult Education, and specialized programs including Extended French, French Immersion, and International Baccalaureate 	<p>Implement high yield strategies to engage Grade 9 & 10 students.</p>	<p>Reduction of the pass rate differential between applied and academic level courses.</p>	<p>Analysis of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Credit Accumulation Data – Gr. 9 & 10 • Use of Trillium/Skopus data warehouse to monitor student achievement data 	<p>February 2009 June 2009 February 2010 June 2010</p>

<p>programs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop electronic resources to support teachers of combined grades that reflect curriculum expectations, differentiated instructional strategies, and planning for assessment and reporting. • Enhance effective transition plans for students entering Dufferin-Peel and moving from elementary to secondary, and for students leaving secondary to community work place and post secondary institutions, with a particular focus on helping students with At-Risk factors. • Enhance the continuous cycle of assessment for learning and intervention planning within a multi-disciplinary team process. • Implement Ministry initiatives relating to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -ongoing curriculum review -Ministry Policies (e.g. ELL, - Aboriginal Policy Framework, Safe Schools) -Special Education -Literacy / Numeracy Secretariat -Student Success/Learning to 18 -Alternative Education / Continuing and Adult Education <p>ensuring the distinctiveness of Catholic education is explicitly infused.</p>				
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<p>Financial Accountability and Transparency</p> <p><i>The goal of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic community is to continue to comply with board policies and best practices in the areas of fiscal responsibility, accountability, and transparency.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain a balanced and sustainable budget to balance student achievement with fiscal prudence within the Catholic stewardship context. • Develop a financial support tool (Finance Department), that will identify best practices to ensure financial accountability and transparency at the system and school level, including compliance with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Board Policy -Audit Recommendations -General Administrative Procedures • Provide in-service sessions related to the finance support tool for administrators and support staff. 	<p>Ensure that the school budget is aligned to school goals.</p>	<p>Budget allocation will align with school priorities.</p>	<p>Use i-Ren reports to monitor and track school budgets</p>	<p>Monthly</p>
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<p>Student Enrolment Impact</p> <p><i>The goal of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic community is to develop proactive strategies to address the impact of changes in student enrolment and its impact on staff, students, and our Catholic community through all practices of the Board including Human Resources, Employee Relations, Budget, Planning, Etc., in a manner that will ensure sustainable balanced budgets in the future.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop labour relations and human resources strategies that will minimize the impact of fluctuations in enrolment. • Closely monitor historical enrolment trends and use up-to-date assumptions in the development of enrolment projections. 	<p>Ensure 100% of eligible student transfer from feeder schools to St. Marcellinus.</p>	<p>100% of eligible grade 8 students from St. Marcellinus feeder schools register at this school.</p>	<p>Compare pre-registration data with feeder school register data</p>	<p>February 2009</p>
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