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Regional Secondary Schools
Holy Name of Mary

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School Plan for Sustained and Continuous Improvement 2008 - 2010

Notre Dame Catholic S.S.
2 Notre Dame Avenue, Brampton, Ontario
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<http://www.dpcdsb.org/notredame>



Justice, Love and Peace

Mission Statement

We, at Notre Dame Catholic Secondary School, celebrate spirituality and diversity through achieving, believing and community living in an inclusive Catholic environment.

It is the mission of the school community at Notre Dame Catholic Secondary School to challenge students to:

- *engage in life-long learning and the pursuit of excellence in reaching their full spiritual, academic and physical potential*
 - *acquire and demonstrate the required skills and attitudes that equip them for the future*
- *grow in an understanding of Roman Catholic teachings and traditions and to incorporate these into their everyday life*

It is the mission of the school community at Notre Dame Catholic Secondary School to provide an environment:

- *where we grow and learn within the context of a cooperative, community team of the Family, School and Church;*
 - *where the ideals of mutual trust, responsibility, equality and respect for all are encouraged*

Our School

Notre Dame Catholic Secondary School is a secondary school of approximately 1600 students, of diverse ethno-cultural backgrounds, from Grade 9 to Grade 12. Our school population generally reflects the socio-economic mix found within Brampton. Notre Dame Catholic Secondary School was established in 1984 to support Catholic parents in their responsibility for the spiritual, religious, moral, academic and physical needs of their children in accordance with the teachings of the Church. The school community at Notre Dame Catholic Secondary School is committed to the search for excellence, the uniqueness of the individual and the education of the whole person while experiencing a life in a community founded on gospel values.

Notre Dame Catholic Secondary School is a caring school and community environment that stresses tolerance and acceptance of others, commitment to our Catholic *faith* and high academic standards. We provide a safe and comfortable learning environment where models of Gospel values and Catholic doctrines, teachings and beliefs are an integral part of the daily life of our school. The school motto, "Justice, Peace and Love" was chosen through the process of community consultation and reflects a holistic philosophy where religion and daily life are intertwined. As such, all activities of administration, management, counseling, academic and pastoral work, prayer and worship, extracurricular and intra-curricular involvement, help to prepare Notre Dame students for their lives as Catholics in the community.

Our students come to us with a variety of strengths and needs, with our Catholic *faith* as our common bond. Our prayer life, liturgical celebrations, the sacraments, and our *faith* and values system form the foundation of our school program. At Notre Dame Catholic Secondary School, we are proud of our balanced religion, academic, arts, technology and athletics program. It offers students a well-rounded and value-centered education to help them make good choices for the future and allows us to reflect and serve the entire community as we prepare our students for post-secondary education and careers. The curriculum planned and provided in the school is broad, balanced and relevant to the needs and aspirations of all students. A wide range of subjects and learning experiences is offered in order 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 against the background of the Ontario Secondary School Curriculum, the Gospel values of Jesus Christ 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

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 '07-'08	School	Board	Province
All	315	7226	145 603
Successful	81%	86%	84%
Not Successful	19%	14%	16%
% of students BELOW Ministry success standard (Level 2 or lower)	19%	14%	16%

School Plan for Sustained and Continuous Improvement 2008 - 2010

	Applied (All Students) Levels 3,4	Academic (All Students) Levels 3,4
Grade 9 EQAO Mathematics Test		
School	17%	66%
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>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"> • Increase opportunities for students and staff to learn more about and experience social justice, service, and stewardship of the earth. 	<p>Foster student spiritual development within the image of Christ through the development and implementation of pastoral plans with: parents, pastoral team, administrators, student council, Religion department heads and chaplaincy leaders</p> <p>Promote initiatives of World Issues Group such as; Amnesty International, food drives in the community, 30 hr famine, Red Cross Emergency Fundraising, Culture Jam Show, Toys for Tots, Fundraising for housing in Africa, Sport for Peace, and assisting at local food banks</p>	<p>Infusion of pastoral plan in departmental plans</p> <p>Greater awareness of global issues</p> <p>Increased comprehension of Virtues education in the development and formation of responsible citizens</p>	<p>Informal feedback from: parents, pastoral team, administrators, student council, Religion and Social Studies department heads and chaplaincy leaders</p> <p>Moral tone of the school</p>	<p>February 2009</p> <p>May 2009</p> <p>Ongoing feedback will inform the school's planning for next steps</p>

School Plan for Sustained and Continuous Improvement 2008 - 2010

<p>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"> • 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>Establish Student Leadership programs</p> <p>Establish Peer-Mediation program</p> <p>Establish Harmony Movement</p> <p>Participate in student leadership symposium offered by Ontario Educational Leadership Council</p> <p>Present Huddle Up Program</p>	<p>Reduced number of conflicts</p> <p>Increased student sense of safety</p> <p>In creased student participation in positive activities</p>	<p>Informal feedback/student, staff, parents</p> <p>Suspension data / incident tracking data</p> <p>Safe Schools Survey</p>	<p>January 2009</p> <p>June 2009</p>
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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. 	<p>Implement high yield strategies to engage Grade 10 students (refer to detailed School Action Plan)</p> <p>Implement Numeracy and Literacy class</p> <p>Job embedded instructions with Grade 9 and 10 teachers of Applied level In-service on A & E and DI for all teachers</p> <p>Run TIPS4M in Gr. 9 Applied</p>	<p>Improvement of Credit Accumulation in Grade 10</p> <p>Improvement of EQAO scores</p>	<p>Analysis of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Credit Accumulation Data – Gr. 9 & 10 ○ Pass rates in Gr. 9 & 10 compulsory courses <p>Use of Trillium/Skopus data warehouse to monitor student achievement data</p>	<p>October 2008 February 2009 June 2009</p>

<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. 	<p>Ensure that the school budget is aligned to system/school goals vis-à-vis improved student achievement</p>	<p>Budget allocation will align with school priorities for student achievement</p>	<p>Use i-Ren reports to monitor and track school budgets</p>	<p>September 2008 May 2009</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"> • Closely monitor historical enrolment trends and use up-to-date assumptions in the development of enrolment projections. 	<p>Ensure accurate reporting of student enrolments through the electronic register (e.g. following Ministry guidelines)</p>	<p>Electronic registers reflect accurate classroom enrolments</p>	<p>Enrolment registers align with Ministry guidelines</p>	<p>Monthly</p>
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