

St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Catholic Elementary School

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"Faith in God and Service to Others"



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Director of
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Mission Statement

We believe that by providing children with a forum to develop their faith and increase their knowledge of Christ, they will continue to grow as learners and builders of Christian communities.

We believe that through a cooperative partnership among the school, family, and the church, every learner will be provided with the opportunity to become a valued and contributing member of society.

We believe that it is only by involving and fostering an appreciation for their learning that the children who are entrusted to our care will become life long learners.

We believe that we must foster an atmosphere of mutual respect in order to help children to grow in self-esteem and self-confidence.

We believe that a supportive, nurturing Catholic environment will help each child to grow into a positive role model for other members of the community.

Our School

St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Catholic Elementary School is an elementary school of approximately 350 students, of diverse social and ethnic backgrounds, from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8. Our school population generally reflects the socio-economic mix found within Brampton. Most of the surrounding community consists of single family dwelling homes situated in a geographic area within the city of Brampton. St. Marguerite Bourgeoys offers a before and after school program. The school is a site for International Languages on Saturday. St. Marguerite Bourgeoys is used by the community in the evening for sports, Pathfinders, Scouts and other community events such as piano recitals.

St. Marguerite Bourgeoys is committed to Catholic education as outlined in the mission statement of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board. St. Marguerite Bourgeoys is a caring school that stresses tolerance and acceptance of others, commitment to our Catholic *faith* and high academic standards. We provide a learning environment where models of Gospel values and Catholic doctrine, teachings and beliefs are an integral part of the daily life of our school.

At St. Marguerite Bourgeoys, Language Literacy and Mathematics Literacy are the main curriculum focuses from Kindergarten to Grade 8. Emphasis is placed on providing a balanced literacy program which involves our students in a variety of reading, writing, listening and speaking experiences across the curriculum. We continue to increase our literacy materials and to provide opportunities for staff development. Early intervention programs such as "Students to Watch" will have a positive impact on the primary program. In both the primary and junior divisions, reading skills and comprehensive strategies are taught individually and in small groups using a wide range of reading materials. Students, at all grade levels, write on a daily basis for a variety of purposes and audiences.

Students, at all grade levels have an opportunity to communicate mathematical thinking through math journals, group journals and group and class discussions. Teachers at St. Marguerite Bourgeoys, facilitate this process when they pose questions and invite children to explain their thinking. Exploring, investigating, describing, and explaining mathematical ideas promote communication.

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 St. Marguerite Bourgeoys, we are proud of our balanced religion, academic, arts and technology program, which offers students a well-rounded and value-centred education to help them make good choices for the future.

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 Grades 3 and 6 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, Grades 1-8* and measure how well students know, understand and apply their skills and knowledge in reading, writing and mathematics for decision-making and problem solving. The provincial assessments provide a 'snapshot in time' of how well students are learning what is expected of them in the curriculum, and identify ways to influence instruction and other practices to help students learn more effectively and efficiently. Students' work is marked according to four levels of achievement, which are based on the curriculum expectations and are aligned with those in the Ontario Student Report Card. Level 3 on the assessment scale represents the expected 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 provides misleading comparisons, which ignore the unique conditions that affect student achievement and prevents schools and the board from addressing the critical issue of improving learning for all students.**

School, Board and Provincial Achievement Results: 2005 - 2006

School results on EQAO Grade 3 and 6 indicate that the school-wide emphasis on reading has produced a marked improvement in our students reading and mathematics skills. Our Grade 6 results in reading, writing and mathematics have exceeded both the board and province. Our Grade 3 results in writing and math have exceeded both the board and the province. Our Grade 3 reading continues to improve by 14 percentage points from last year.

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

| | Reading (All Students) Levels 3,4 | Writing (All Students) Levels 3,4 | Mathematics (All Students) Levels 3,4 |
|--------------------------|---|---|---|
| Grade 3 ('05-'06) | | | |
| School | 60% | 74% | 68% |
| Board | 64% | 70% | 66% |
| Province | 62% | 64% | 68% |
| Grade 6 ('05-'06) | | | |
| School | 71% | 73% | 63% |
| Board | 67% | 67% | 61% |
| Province | 64% | 61% | 61% |

Response to School Assessment Information

There has been a steady improvement in performance of both our grade 3 and 6 students over the past three years. Staff will continue to focus intensely on improving instruction and achievement by using student assessment data to support student success, addressing barriers to teaching and learning and emphasizing systems for identifying those students who are at risk of not meeting with literacy success particularly in the primary division.

Staff will continue to collect and analyze learning data on an ongoing basis to plan for improved student achievement, to determine the effectiveness of their instruction, assess student learning and make informed decisions about how to organize and pace instruction.

Commitment to Improvement

Targets are a commitment to improvement and determine the highest level of student achievement. The following table lists the 2006-2007 school targets for the percentage of students who will reach levels 3 & 4 in Grades 3 and 6 reading, writing and mathematics assessments.

| | Reading (All Students) Levels 3,4 | Writing (All Students) Levels 3,4 | Mathematics (All Students) Levels 3,4 |
|--------------------------|---|---|---|
| Grade 3 ('06-'07) | 10% | 10% | 10% |
| Grade 6 ('06-'07) | 10% | 10% | 10% |



Programs & Services

The instructional programs provided are adapted to meet the holistic needs of all our students. These programs are conducted in an atmosphere that is supportive, caring and stimulating in order for students to achieve their specific learning expectations. Every effort is made to provide this atmosphere using current practices and resources as mandated by the Board and the Ministry's policies and guidelines. Students who experience difficulty with regular classroom work are discussed and instruction is accommodated/modified as needed. If necessary, the support of a social worker, child and youth worker, psychologist, speech and language pathologist and other specialized teaching personnel are available. The co-ordination of programs between specialized resource classes and regular classrooms ensures ongoing consultation between teachers in order that each child is taught the content and skills at his/her level of ability through a process which is consistently relevant to the child's style of learning. Parents are always invited to participate in the review process and are regularly apprised of modifications and progress.

The "Student to Watch" initiative is intended to closely watch, monitor, and support those students who are at risk of not meeting with literacy success, particularly in the primary division. It will inform intervention strategies and future directions for improving the teaching and learning process. The staff will continue to examine the issue of boys literacy achievement. Hands on experiences with building materials, manipulatives and other technological tools provide our students from junior Kindergarten to Grade 8 with the opportunity to apply mathematical and scientific principles to their day-to-day activities.

We believe that all students, including those who have been identified through the identification, placement and review committee process, have a right to full and active presence in our school community. Special needs students are primarily serviced in the mainstream with the necessary support services.

Specific program accommodations and modifications are the shared responsibility of curriculum staff and all resource personnel. Resource teachers provide assistance and program accommodations and modifications for students formally identified by an identification, placement and review committee, and for students having difficulty coping.

Safe, Caring, and Inclusive School Community

Our safe school policy encompasses routines and procedures that ensure a secure, safe and supportive learning environment for **all** students. Our code of behaviour emphasizes mutual respect, conflict resolution and self-discipline. St. Marguerite Bourgeoys has student assemblies each school term to outline and communicate expected student behaviour. Our school continues to work collaboratively with community partners i.e. Region of Peel Police, Region of Peel Health, Brampton Parks and Recreation. In the fall the Community Police Liason Officer gives Bullying presentations appropriate to the ages of the students. This year we have introduced the P.A.L.S. program with the objective of decreasing conflicts and reducing the incidence of playground bullying. The school library has acquired a collection of books and teaching materials in regards to Bullying and related issues. This year in conjunction with Parks and Recreation we are offering a drop-in evening for our youth. We continue to be proactive in our initiatives.

Nurturing a Catholic Christian Community

The school works in partnership with the church. We belong to St. Anthony's Parish and are fortunate to have Fr. Mullins from St. Anthony's Church visit the school to celebrate the Eucharist, share in liturgies and administer the sacraments.


At St. Marguerite Bourgeoys mass is celebrated at special times of the year. Thanksgiving, Advent, Lent and the closing of the school year. All our students participate in these celebrations and parents are invited to attend. In addition we have student liturgies every week during Advent and Lent. At St. Marguerite Bourgeoys we have a strong Ambassador Program, which provides adult faith opportunities for the staff.


The school community is involved in Social Outreach initiatives. Children for Children is a student led organization whose mission is to raise money and awareness for children in distress. They have supported organizations such as Covenant House, Sick Kids and Children's Help Phone. The Student Council supports a child through World Vision and organizes food drives twice a year. The School Council support families in need at Christmas with food baskets. The School Council provides financial assistance so that all students can participate in school related activities. Throughout the year the staff organize activities to support ShareLife.

School Plans and Initiatives

We are in the process of reviewing the results of the Grades 3 and 6 Assessments of Reading, Writing and Mathematics, in conjunction with school data, to identify areas of strength and areas for improvement and move forward on our commitment to improvement. The information gathered will be used to refine the school plan which is aligned to Ministry mandates and the board's plan to improve student achievement. In the interim, a variety of remedial assistance programs and services will continue to be provided to all students who are not meeting grade level expectations.

Our school plan is grounded in the Board's foundational pillars – Catholicity, Excellence in Student Achievement, Quality Programs and Services, Community Development and Financial Accountability and Transparency. All schools in Dufferin-Peel honour each pillar in the context of their daily practice and individual and collective goal-setting activities. Increased student achievement in literacy and mathematical literacy continues to be identified as a priority for schools, the families of schools and the board for September 2006 to June 2007.





Some of the initiatives we are focusing on this year to improve student achievement include:

Literacy

- “Students to Watch” initiative
- Implementing the reading assessment tool (CASI) in grades 4, 5 and 6 and introducing Casi in grade 7 and 8.
- Continuing to implement a balanced literacy program in grades 1-3 in reading with a focus on the use of non-fiction materials

Mathematical Literacy

- Use of Prime in Grades 2, 5 and 7.
- Use of Math Journals
- Implement new Math textbooks in grades K to 8

Catholic Faith Development

- Sustain school involvement in Catholic charities such as ShareLife, Knight’s Table, Birthright..
- Provide liturgical opportunities for students and staff to learn the importance of reflection.
- Continue to reinforce what it means to be a “Eucharistic people” committed to the Catholic school mission.

School-Based Initiatives

- Implementation of P.A.L.S.
- Turn off the Screens Initiative
- Weekly Drop-In Centre for youth in conjunction with Parks and Recreation

Our School Council

The St. Marguerite Bourgeoys School Council works closely with the community, principal and staff to support school programs and to provide the best possible learning environment for our students.

Our School Council displays an active interest in the development of our school facilities and programs. Under the direction of our chair, the organization has grown in membership to provide us with a representative sample of our school community. The School Council meets regularly to discuss issues surrounding education. The Council provides a forum for parents to express their views on the programs, services and operation of the school. They continue to fundraise. The monies collected supplements field trips, the Library, the Performing Arts, school initiatives and needs such as sports equipment, AV equipment, maps and globes.

Our School Community

The school community is cohesive, student-centred and innovative. All of our staff members are dedicated to providing an optimum educational environment and to encouraging personal excellence.

We offer extra-curricular and co-curricular programs, which include Student Council, junior choir, environmental awareness activities, such as Recycling, speech competitions, spring Variety Show, school teams and intramural events. As a school community we believe that young people’s involvement with the Church and the community allows them a fuller understanding of the positive impact they can have on the world. The St. Marguerite Bourgeoys community supports our Parish Church St. Anthony’s through annual food drives, Christmas and Easter as well as the local, Knights of Columbus non-profit restaurant “The Knight’s Table”. Our students are involved in Terry Fox Run, UNICEF Jump Rope for Heart, Autism, CNIB, Daffodils for Cancer and Share Life activities.

The student council supports two children through the “World Vision” program. “Children for Children” is a group of intermediate students who raise funds for children in need such as Covenant House and Sick Kids Hospital.

Our teaching staff is dedicated, in their commitment to educational excellence. They continuously seek professional growth opportunities to help students extend their interests, skills and leadership qualities.

A Message from the Principal

St. Marguerite Bourgeoys is a Catholic education community. We recognize and encourage excellent in academic, athletic, artistic and personal pursuits. Underlying the pursuit of excellence is the development of the whole person. Our traditions and practices are rooted in the life of Jesus Christ.

I would like to express my gratitude to the staff, students, parents/guardians, community partners and others who contribute day in and day out to make St. Marguerite Bourgeoys School a successful Catholic education community and family.

