

September 6, 2011

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Re: Elementary School Organization Plans for 2011-2012

As you know, the provincial government has imposed a cap on the maximum number of students that may be enrolled in primary classes (Junior Kindergarten to Grade 3). Primary classes are capped at 20 students. For many schools, this will mean smaller primary class sizes. In rare instances a small number of classes may have a maximum of 23 students. The exception to this cap, of course, is the Full Day Early Learning Program. The Board average in such classes is 28 students. These classes are staffed by one teacher and one Designated Early Childhood Educator.

The provincial government also requires that the size of Grades 4 to 8 classes not exceed a board-wide average of 24.8 students. Because this is an average, not a cap, some classes in these grades will have more than 25 students, and others will have less.

Parents / Guardians should know that grade / class reorganization for September will be necessary in order to meet these government-mandated requirements. While lowering class size is positive, this initiative can lead to a number of combined grade classes in many schools. Teachers will be provided with the resources needed to ensure appropriate curriculum delivery for all students assigned to their classes.

All school organization plans are subject to review in early September, based on actual enrolment. Where a need to adjust class plans is identified due to unanticipated enrolment fluctuations, reorganization will be implemented effective September 16, 2011. The effect of school reorganization may result in your child moving from one class to another. Where such is the case, your principal will keep you duly informed.

The Ministry of Education publication, "An Introduction to Combined Grades", provides information for parents/guardians regarding combined grade classes and is attached for your additional information and reference.

Kindly be assured that the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board will continue, as always, to provide quality education for all students entrusted in its care.

Yours sincerely,



Ralph Borrelli
Associate Director, Instructional Services