

# St. Leonard and St. Rita Communities - Frequently Asked Questions

June 8, 2020

## **Why does St. Leonard need to be hosted at another location?**

On May 9, St. Leonard Catholic Elementary School suffered extensive damage as a result of several fires that were set within the building. The Health and Safety Department, in conjunction with the Plant Department is working with the Ontario School Board Insurance Exchange (OSBIE) to determine the extent of the damage. Until such time as further information is available from OSBIE and for staff to recommend a permanent plan of action, students from St. Leonard will require hosting at an alternate location.

## **Why was St. Rita selected to host St. Leonard students?**

Various options were explored in developing a contingency plan to host St. Leonard students. St. Rita was the most viable since it has sufficient capacity available in the building and the six portables on site to accommodate both schools. Infrastructure is in place to operate separate telephone lines, PA system and school bells. St. Rita is in close proximity to the St. Leonard school community which will provide for a shorter bus ride for students. St. Rita and St. Leonard are both within the St. Leonard Parish boundary.

## **Will St. Leonard students be in combined classes with St. Rita students?**

No. Both schools will operate with their own classes and teachers. There will be limited interaction between students at the two schools.

## **Will St. Leonard have administration and support staff on-site at St. Rita?**

Yes. St. Leonard administration and support staff will be located at St. Rita for the duration of the host period.

## **What about start/end times?**

Start and end time for St. Rita and St. Leonard will remain the same. St. Rita will start at 9:15 am and end at 3:45 pm. St. Leonard will start at 8:30 am and end at 3:00 pm.

## **What about recess and the use of the gymnasium and library?**

Due to the earlier start and end times for St. Leonard, all events will be offset from those of St. Rita. This includes access to the gymnasium, library and outdoor play space.

## **How long will St. Leonard be hosted at St. Rita?**

Investigation with respect to the damage caused as a result of the fire is expected to take up to three months. Following this, Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB) will determine next steps which will set out the timing for host period.