St. Raymond

East Credit Pupil Accommodation Review
Jesus Is The Reason!

- No matter which school our kids attend in the future – Jesus is the reason for each of the schools.

St. Raymond

Be it known to all who enter here that Jesus is the reason for this school.

- He is the unseen but ever present teacher in its classes.
- He is the model of its faculty and the inspiration of its students.
A Bit Different…

- We already have 14 different options – do we want to make it 15?
- At this stage in the PAR process, the St. Raymond community does not wish to formulate and present an additional option.
- Emphasis on the qualities which make St. Raymond an ideal receiving school.
Central & Safe Location

- St. Raymond is centrally located.
- Ensures Catholic presence within East Credit area.
- Maintains a convenient location for receiving students and families.
- Street where school is located is calm and safe with low traffic.
- Two crossing guards and cross-walks are positioned at the north and south points of the school.
- Since school is located on a corner – there is ample street parking in addition to school parking lot.
Catholic Education

- Catholic education is under fire with growing interest demonstrated within Ontario to amalgamate Ontario’s school system and the elimination of publicly funded Catholic schools.

- St. Raymond is located immediately next door to Whitehorn Public School.

- Whitehorn Public School accommodates children in JK – grade 5, and currently has over 900 children enrolled with 4 portables. Enrollment is thriving.

- The potential closure of St. Raymond while the public school next door is thriving would present negative optics and provide further support to those in the community who believe in one publicly funded school system.

- The potential closure of St. Raymond presents a higher risk of losing enrollment to the public school next door for reasons of convenience.
Ontario budget wish list sparks debate over future of Catholic schools

The province took suggestions on what subjects ordinary Ontarians would like to see addressed in Thursday’s budget.

Gordon: Yet another reason to amalgamate the school boards

Enrollment is down in many public schools across Ontario, resulting in more empty spaces to repair and maintain, reduced budgets and the possibility of school closures.

Many Catholic schools have also experienced this decline.

According to a recent parish report, Catholic school boards report enrollments in its schools fell by about 1,000 students in the past year.

While this may be at least partly attributable to a lack of new residential communities in Mississauga and Brampton, it may also indicate a deeper issue.

Many parents today enroll their children in schools outside of both the public and Catholic systems.
Proximity to Feeder High School

▪ St. Raymond is located within very close proximity to feeder high school – St. Joseph’s Secondary School.

▪ According to Google Maps – St. Raymond is located 850 meters from St. Joseph’s Secondary and would take 7 minutes to walk from one school to the other.

▪ This maintains a convenient and safe location for graduating students and their families transitioning into high school.

▪ Close proximity allows older siblings who attend St. Joseph Secondary to pick up siblings after school at St. Raymond.
Air Conditioning (!)

- St. Raymond is a fully air-conditioned building. It is one of only three schools in the East Credit review area which is fully air-conditioned.

- Comfortable air-conditioned environment is conducive to learning and can aid in revenue generating rental opportunities during the summer months.

- A fully air-conditioned building also boasts health & safety benefits.
(No) Portables

▪ St. Raymond is currently unable to accommodate portables. The St. Raymond community views this as a very positive fact based on the below points:

▪ Based on the ARC’s evaluation of all options, comments of “no portables” can be frequently found as being listed as a pro.

▪ Reviewing the vast majority of proposals, St. Raymond will be able to receive projected enrollment from other schools without the need of portables.

▪ “Minimize the need for portables” was a critical item and was selected as a category on the March 2016 survey.
Newer School / Low Renewal Costs

- St. Raymond is a reasonably new school, with the second lowest renewal costs in the East Credit area.
Rental Permits

- St. Raymond has a high number of community permits, currently with eight (two per night, four times per week) making it a significant contributor on a cost recovery basis.

- This suggests that St. Raymond is a community hub, and a solid component of the community.
St. Raymond is a fully accessible school with ramps, an elevator, automatic doors, etc.

Accessible washrooms on both the first and second floors within the school were recently upgraded (2015) with automatic door accessibility and safety alarms. Closing St. Raymond would potentially result in the receiving school incurring additional costs to accommodate children with special needs.
Prayer Room

- The prayer room within St. Raymond school is used regularly which instills and reinforces strong Catholic values.

- The space was converted into a prayer room in 2015 where the community was engaged and contributed with various donations of faith-based items.

- The prayer room is used for class-based activities and for individual use.

- The St. Raymond prayer room contains:
  - 6 full size church pews which can accommodate at least two full classes at once
  - Altar with large crucifix on wall
  - Stations of The Cross (Donated by the Archdiocese of Toronto)
  - Large Mother Mary statue with kneeler (pictured at right)
  - And more…
More images of the St. Raymond chapel...
Primed for Immediate & Future Accommodation

- In 2001/2002, St. Raymond effectively accommodated a student population of 800+ children.

- St. Raymond can accommodate incoming pupils, and can sustain future growth if needed.

- St. Raymond currently has four full-day kindergarten classrooms with a self-contained outdoor play yard. This is sufficient to accommodate incoming pupils and can also be utilized for childcare programs in the future.

- Out of 17 different options (14 ARC + 3 Staff), only one option (option F) projects St. Raymond would be at over-capacity. With projected continual decline in enrollment, this over-capacity issue would be short-lived.

- Beginning in the transition year (2017) – St. Raymond can accommodate 283 additional pupils without making any changes or retro-fits to the building. Going forward, St. Raymond will continue to be able to accommodate additional students should the community demographics change, or should school programs be implemented (i.e., French immersion program) – St. Raymond will continue to present itself as a solution.
Proximity to Key Community Facilities

- As St. Raymond is centrally located, it is within walking distance to:
  - St. Joseph Secondary School
  - River Grove Community Center
  - St. Joseph Church
  - Soccer Fields (directly behind school)
  - Park/Playground (directly behind school)
St. Raymond Community Response - Option Which Names St. Raymond as a School Recommended for Closure
St. Raymond Community Response

The St. Raymond community would like to address certain points from an option which was put forth earlier in the PAR process:

The option proposes that St. Raymond should be closed and have the students relocate to St. Gregory.

Option Supporting Details:

- “School communities would be kept together”
- **Community response:** Inaccurate. When transitioning into high school, students living within the St. Gregory proximity would attend St. Marcellinus, and grade 8 students living within the St. Raymond proximity would attend St. Joseph.
St. Raymond Community Response

Option Supporting Details:

- **“Aging Schools” (Closure of)**
- **Community response:** Inaccurate. St. Raymond (tied with St. Valentine) is the latest school built in the East Credit review area.
St. Raymond Community Response

Option Supporting Details:

- “The presence of catholic communities within the proposed boundaries is still maintained”

- **Community response:** Inaccurate. St. Raymond school is centrally located within the East Credit review area. The closure of St. Raymond would create a significant void of Catholic education (elementary level) within the review area particularly as it is adjacent to a public school.
St. Raymond Community Response

Option Supporting Details:

▪ “Schools with higher financial/operating cost”

▪ Community response: St. Raymond has the second lowest renewal costs in the East Credit review area, and other cost areas (i.e., utilities, transport, etc.) are average or below average.
Highly Active School / Strong Community Engagement

St. Raymond is thriving with school activities such as:

- **Sports:**
  - Volleyball, basketball, beach volleyball, soccer (all tournament fees paid by council)

- **Extra Curricular:**
  - Lego Club, Forest of Reading, Eco Club, Choir, Karate Canada, Rock & Rings, Chess Club, Faith Ambassadors, Skills Canada, Craft Club, Crew Club, etc.

- **Purchases/Contributions by Parent Council:**
  - Library books, numeracy & literacy website licensing fees, butterfly larvae kits, playground equipment, sports bins, virtue prizes, club t-shirts, Sacrament Gifts, first communion retreat, agendas, transportation to church & sporting events, $5 per student trip subsidy, SK and grade 8 graduation, smart boards, iPads, birthday pencils, etc.

- **Rosary Apostolate:** Rosary Visitors go into the classrooms to teach children to pray the rosary. The aim of the Apostolate is to create a positive experience of prayer which the students enjoy and remember with the goal of forming good habits of prayer.
Highly Active School / Strong Community Engagement

St. Raymond is thriving with school activities such as:

- **Event Days:**
  - Pancake Day, Freezie Day, Cap Day, Blue Jay Spirit Day, Picture with Santa, grade 8 retreat trip, Kinder Play Day, etc.

- **Lunch Days:**
  - Pizza (weekly), pita day, sub day, Food 4 Students, Lunch Lady, Popcorn Sales, Pretzel, etc.

- **Charity Support:**
  - Christmas Hampers, ShareLife, Dr. Simone’s Canadian Food For Children, Human Family in Christ, etc.
Highly Active School / Strong Community Engagement

St. Raymond is thriving with school activities such as:

- **Parent/Community Engagement:**
  - School barbecue and open house in September where St. Raymond partners with our local Knights of Columbus council.
  - Various guest speakers
  - Family Movie Night
  - Blue Jay Game Day
  - Grandparents Day
  - Welcome to Kindergarten Night

- **And more…**
Thank You!