

April 3, 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians:

It has come to the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board's (DPCDSB) attention that there is the potential of a province-wide student protest on Thursday, April 4, 2019 at 1:15 pm. This protest has been prompted by recent Ministry of Education announcements identifying proposed changes to the education system in Ontario. Information regarding this student-led initiative is being shared widely through social media directly with students. Your child may have received information through various social media platforms that they follow encouraging them to leave school property, during the school day, to express concern with the government's recent announcement.

The DPCDSB honours student voice as integral to overall student-achievement and well-being. Our partnerships with our student senates and other student voice groups helps to inform our practice and areas of priority related to faith-filled, safe, caring and inclusive Catholic schools. We honour every citizen's right to express their own individual thought and to peaceful protest.

Please be aware that this student action is not being organized or supervised by the DPCDSB.

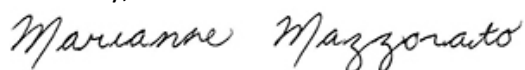
As you are aware, the DPCDSB maintains policies and procedures that identify means by which students are permitted to leave school during the instructional day. Whenever a student leaves school property, parent/guardian permission is required. A student who leaves school property without parent/guardian permission will be marked absent, and school staff will initiate the safe arrival policy to verify student attendance and inform parents. Furthermore, please be aware that school staff will not be supervising students who choose to participate in the student protest, as they will be attending to their regularly assigned duties at that time. As this protest is being planned to occur during the instructional day, we encourage you to speak to your child(ren) regarding this proposed student action, and implications regarding their own personal safety.

DPCDSB has always placed an emphasis on working collaboratively with parents/guardians and the community to support the achievement and well-being of all learners. Our priority remains the safety and well-being of each and every member of our Catholic community.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your school principal.

We thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



M. Mazzorato Ed. D.
Director of Education