



<b>DUFFERIN-PEEL CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD</b>	
<b><u>POLICY</u></b>	
<b>POLICY NUMBER:</b>	P-2011
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	School Graduations, Award Ceremonies, and Significant Events
<b>REFERENCE:</b>	<a href="#">GAP8010</a> – School Blessings/School Re-dedications/Official Openings/Anniversaries <a href="#">GAP2011</a> – School Graduations, Award Ceremonies, and Significant Events <a href="#">GAP8001</a> – School, Facility, or Property Memorials
<b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b>	May 25, 2004
<b>AMENDED DATE:</b>	March 23, 2010; January 25, 2011; April 23, 2013; June 19, 2018; October 25, 2022; May 23, 2023; August 27, 2024

*"I have taught you the way of wisdom; I have led you in the paths of uprightness...Keep hold of instruction; do not let go; guard her, for she is your life."*

*Proverbs 4:11, 13*

## **1. School Graduations and Award Ceremonies**

- a) Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB) school graduations mark the culmination of a student's faith and education journey, nurtured and encouraged to become who they are meant to be: persons of dignity and freedom, created in the image and likeness of God as modelled in Jesus Christ.
- b) The liturgy and graduation ceremony must reflect DPCDSB's Catholic identity, and the extraordinary contribution Catholic schools make to the formation of students through the distinctive Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations.
- c) DPCDSB recognizes the important role dignitaries and DPCDSB officials play in supporting the system, its school communities, and Catholic education. As such, DPCDSB sets forth an expectation that such individuals will be appropriately recognized and acknowledged at graduation ceremonies, award ceremonies, and/or other significant events for their presence and support.
- d) The emphasis at DPCDSB school graduation ceremonies and award ceremonies should be on the local school community and its members. The focus at this type of special event includes the students, parents and guardians, trustees, and school and other DPCDSB staff.

## **2. School Blessings, Re-Dedications, Official Openings, and Significant Anniversaries**

- a) DPCDSB recognizes that a school blessing, re-dedication, official opening, or significant anniversary is a milestone event in the life of a school or facility community. These occasions may mark:
  - commitment to Catholic education,
  - establishment of school structure for new schools,
  - celebration of the school community or facility,

- completion of the school building project for new schools and existing schools or facilities undergoing major renovations,
  - a reflection on the accomplishments and successes that encompass the history of the institution, for schools or facilities celebrating a significant anniversary.
- b) As a Catholic community, DPCDSB supports the liturgical celebration as the central focus of the school blessing, re-dedication, and/or official opening for all new schools and major renovations to existing schools or facilities.
- c) School and facility anniversaries are significant events that shall be formally recognized and celebrated by the community at every successive 10<sup>th</sup> and/or 25<sup>th</sup> year milestone. All dates shall be confirmed with the local family of schools or other appropriate superintendent. These occasions shall include the involvement of the greater DPCDSB community as they are significant events within the history of the Catholic school or facility. Other interim anniversary milestones may be celebrated to a lesser degree as determined at the local level.
- d) In keeping with DPCDSB's Christ-centred approach, the liturgical celebration will be the central focus of all anniversary celebrations.

### **3. School and Facility Memorials**

- a) DPCDSB schools, facilities, or other properties may memorialize individuals or groups in accordance with Catholic tradition. This process is aligned with the Catholic Social Teaching of Subsidiarity, in which decisions affecting the local community are made at the local level.
- b) DPCDSB schools, facilities, or other properties may memorialize an exemplary Catholic person or group of historic significance, or a person or group who has made a significant contribution to Catholic education locally, nationally, or globally.
- c) DPCDSB staff shall assess proposed memorials and submit them to the appropriate area superintendent for consideration and approval.
- d) A plaque, of standard size and format, outlining the historic significance of the exemplary person or group and/or tradition being honoured will be displayed at the DPCDSB school, facility, or other property in recognition of the memorial, as appropriate.