

## AGENDA

### Faith and Program Committee Meeting

Tuesday, May 13, 2025, 7:00 P.M.

Boardroom, Catholic Education Centre

***Mission: Disciples of Christ, nurturing mind, body, and soul to the fullness of life.***

***Vision: Changing the world through Catholic education.***

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## Faith and Program Committee Meeting May 13, 2025

### *Memorare*

*In the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

*Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession, was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, we fly unto you, O Virgin of virgins, our Mother.*

*To you do we come, before you we stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not our petitions, but in your mercy, hear and answer us. Amen.*

*Mary, Queen of Peace, pray for us.*

*In the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

## **MINUTES**

### **Faith and Program Committee Meeting**

**Tuesday, March 4, 2025, 7:00 p.m.**

**Boardroom, Catholic Education Centre**

Trustees:	Shawn Xaviour	Chair
	Brea Corbet	Vice-Chair
	Paula Dametto-Giovannozzi	Trustee
	Luz del Rosario	Trustee
	Darryl D'Souza	Trustee
	Bruno Iannicca	Trustee
	Mario Pascucci	Trustee
	Stefano Pascucci	Trustee
	Anisha Thomas	Trustee
	Bailey Clyne	Indigenous Student Trustee
	Raheem White	Student Trustee
Regrets:	Jia Sharma	Student Trustee
	Thomas	Trustee
	Herman Vioria	Trustee
Staff:	Marianne Mazzorato, Ed.D.	Director of Education, Secretary to the Board
	Max Vecchiarino	Associate Director, Instructional Services
	Dulcie Belchior	Superintendent, Family of Schools
	Wayne Brunton	Superintendent, Equity and Indigenous Education
	Peter Cusumano	Superintendent, Family of Schools
	Brian Diogo	Superintendent, Family of Schools
	Carmel Murphy	Superintendent, Program and Learning Services
	Laura Odo	Superintendent, Policy, Strategy, Research, Safe Schools
	Lucy Papaloni	Superintendent, Special Education and Learning Services
	Drago Radic	Superintendent, Family of Schools
	Adrian Scigliano	Superintendent, Family of Schools
	Viviana Varano	Superintendent, Family of Schools
	Kevin Wendling	Assistant Superintendent: Math Lead
	Bruce Campbell	General Manager, Communications and Community Relations
	Christiane Kyte	General Manager, Clinical Services and Special Education
Recorder:	Cindy Child	Board and Committee Information Officer

#### **A. Routine Matters**

##### **1. Call to Order and Attendance**

Chair Shawn called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.



2. Opening Prayer

Vice-Chair Brea Corbet led the Opening Prayer.

3. Land Acknowledgment - Chair Shawn Xaviour

4. Approval of Agenda

Distribution: C1 PowerPoint, D1 speaking notes and L4b.

**Moved by** Stefano Pascucci

**THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.**

**CARRIED**

5. Declaration of Interest - Nil

6. Approval of the Minutes from the Faith and Program Committee Meeting, January 14, 2025

**Moved by** Anisha Thomas

**THAT THE MINUTES OF THE FAITH AND PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING, JANUARY 14, 2025, BE APPROVED.**

**CARRIED**

a. Business Arising from the Minutes - Attached.

**B. Awards and Presentations**

1. Founder Donna F. Boucher and Cathy Corsetti of *Making Prom Happen*

1. Trustee Brea Corbet: Thank you for the important work you are doing to support our students.

2. Trustee Bruno Iannicca: Can staff send this presentation to trustees to share with Catholic School Councils (CSC)?

Associate Director Vecchiarino: The recorder will forward the PowerPoint to trustees.

**C. Delegations**

1. Diane Borrelli regarding: EQAO, Awards and Going Against Policy

Trustee question to Staff:

1. Trustee Paula Dametto-Giovannozzi: Can staff please explain Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) testing?

Associate Director Vecchiarino: EQAO is the standardized testing that measures student achievement of the Ontario curriculum. There is a bank of questions that are used repeatedly and are refined to get to know the learner and support a variety of answers to the questions. The answers gauge students' strengths and weakness.

2. Trustee Paula Dametto-Giovannozzi: Can staff provide a better understanding of the secondary benchmarks used for honour roll and for awards of distinction?

Associate Director Vecchiarino: The standard for honour roll is a mark of 80% and over and high distinction is 90% or more.

3. Trustee Mario Pascucci: There should be the same opportunities at school A and school B. Is there not supposed to be standardization for awards of distinction?

Associate Director Vecchiarino: We will provide further details in Issues & Events.

4. Trustee Brea Corbet: EQAO is hosting free live webinars for parents/guardians to help support their children's math learning. The webinars March 6 and 26 are both full. Although it is not a DPCDSB event, can staff follow up with EQAO to ask about opening the registration to allow more registrations? Or open up more dates? And will it be recorded and available to parents afterwards?

Director Mazzorato: Assistant Superintendent Wendling has been advised that EQAO is offering an additional date of April 1. We will communicate this information.

5. Trustee Darryl D'Souza: Is it true that EQAO testing is being conducted using artificial intelligence (AI)?

Associate Director Vecchiarino: AI generates an algorithm. The questions are increasingly refined based on the answer to each previous question. This helps educators to determine what support is needed. It helps group students into level of knowledge.

6. Trustee Luz del Rosario: How can teachers help students prepare if AI is generating the test?

Associate Director Vecchiarino: As mentioned there is a bank of questions to draw from, and teachers review the results of the previous test to determine categories and different levels of knowledge to prepare students accordingly.

#### **D. Updates/Information/Reports from Trustees for Receipt**

##### **1. Regular Reports**

##### **a. Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA) Report**

Trustee Luz del Rosario reminded trustees that the OCSTA Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Conference is May 1-3 and that the Canadian Catholic School Trustees' Association (CCSTA) AGM and Convention is June 5-7. Please see Michelle Vritsios to register.

##### **b. Good News - Nil**

#### **E. Updates/Information/Reports from Committees for Receipt - Nil**

#### **F. Updates/Information/Reports from Administration for Receipt**

##### **1. Catholic Education Week 2025**

Superintendent Murphy and Deacon Ray Frendo summarized the report. Superintendent Murphy added that OCSTA has curated a list of Catholic library resources for educators to help students learn and celebrate Catholic Education Week.

2. Multi-Year Strategic Plan Updates and Next Steps for 2024-2025

Superintendent Odo summarized the report.

*Trustee Bruno Iannicca left the meeting at 7:55 and returned at 7:57 pm.*

#### **G. Trustee/Committee/Administration Reports requiring Action**

1. Naming of Mount Pleasant #2 Catholic Elementary School

Superintendents Varano and Odo summarized the report.

1. Trustee Bruno Iannicca: Can staff provide data on the selection of both these names?

Superintendent Varano: We surveyed approximately 100 families and 68% voted for St. Ruth and the remainder of votes were for St. Joseph Vaz. Each family was allowed one vote.

*Trustee Shawn Xaviour passed the chair to Vice-Chair Brea Corbet.*

2. Trustee Shawn Xaviour: Is there a concern with having several elementary schools named St. Joseph?

Associate Director Vecchiarino: There is St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School (CES) Streetsville and St. Joseph CES Brampton. There were a variety of stakeholders consulted i.e., parishes, Catholic School Councils (CSC), and families.

3. Trustee Stefano Pascucci: How did we come to two names? Is it possible to send in only one name to the Archdiocese?

Associate Director Vecchiarino: We consulted various stakeholders and 18 other names were suggested but each had only one vote. As per board policy, we need to send at least two names to the Archdiocese.

4. Trustee Mario Pascucci: Commented that there are many St. John CES i.e., St. John of the Cross, St. John the Baptist CES, St. John the XXIII, St. John Bosco CES.

*Trustee Shawn Xaviour resumed the chair.*

**Moved by Darryl D'Souza**

**THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVE FOR SUBMISSION TO THE ARCHDIOCESE OF TORONTO THE NAMES ST. JOSEPH VAZ AND ST. RUTH AS OPTIONS FOR THE NAMING OF MOUNT PLEASANT #2 CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.**

**CARRIED**

#### **H. Additional Business**

1. Notices of Motion - Nil

#### **I. Questions Asked by Trustees**

1. Trustee Mario Pascucci: On the plaque of the new school can staff ensure the full name of the trustee is included?

Associate Director Vecchiarino: We will ensure first and last names of the Board of Trustees are included.

2. Trustee Stefano Pascucci: Previously we had requested that report cards be sent to the email accounts of parent/guardian rather than to student emails, is this still in process?

Director Mazzorato: This request is under review. We would like to have a parental portal but need to ensure absolute security. Details will be provided in Issues & Events.

3. Trustee Stefano Pascucci: At a CSC meeting the question was asked regarding how many parents sign report cards and return the envelopes to the school.

Associate Director Vecchiarino: A substantial number do not get returned to the school and the rate of return diminishes as students progress through the grades.

4. Trustee Brea Corbet: With March Break just around the corner can we share the Homework Policy regarding tests, assignments, and major projects for the week following the break.

Superintendent Murphy: I spoke with the Principal/Vice-Principal Association today to ensure that additional work is not assigned during the break and that nothing is due on the day students return to school. Student achievement and well-being are our priority. There will be cases whereby senior students have been given sufficient time to work on a project or assignment and have left it to do over the break, in these cases teachers need to negotiate with students about work that is to be handed in during the returning week.

5. Trustee Brea Corbet: With the snap provincial election on February 27, unfortunately we were not able to move our February 14 Professional Activity (PA) day to align with the election. There are concerns with our schools having open access to the public to vote when they are designated as poll locations, despite the presence of a security guard. Some of our elementary schools do not have easy access to the gym, so members of the public have to go down the same hallways and also access the washrooms. We do not know when the upcoming federal election will be. Can we keep this in mind to consider moving the May 16 PA day, once we have confirmation of the federal election date?

Associate Director Vecchiarino: Our preference is to have no students in the school during voting or to have limited access for voters while students are in school. We will review dates, as necessary.

6. Trustee Bruno Iannicca: If necessary, would the School Year Calendar Committee reconvene to discuss aligning our PA day with the coterminous board?

Associate Director Vecchiarino: Yes

7. Trustee Stefano Pascucci: Can we reach out to elections Ontario or election Canada to see if there is a date?

Associate Director Vecchiarino: They would not release the date to the school board. We will take action as soon as a date is available.

8. Trustee Brea Corbet: With the recent announcement of the revised delivery model with our chaplaincy services, we have students, families and staff who have expressed concerns. Can staff provide some clarity to the decision and what does this mean for our schools?

Superintendent Murphy: All employee groups are reviewed for efficiency and we have been reviewing pastoral plans for best practices. We have noted patterns that can elevate our students' faith formation and spiritual life. This Christ-centered teaching and support from our chaplains to our secondary students will be extended to our elementary students and to staff adult faith formation. There will be no job loss, the model of the job is being changed. Our obligation is to ensure that each student has faith-filled experiences and that the system reflects our faith. As the plan and framework are developed, we will communicate to all groups.

9. Student Trustee Raheem White: At a Student Senate meeting the question was asked, will each secondary school have a chaplaincy leader?

Associate Director Vecchiarino: Yes

10. Student Trustee Raheem White: Were students and parents/guardians involved in this conversation?

Superintendent Murphy: Due to legal issues and employee contracts there has been no consultation, however there will be consultation as we work on the framework of the position.

11. Student Trustee Raheem White: The student senators have had some very emotional conversations, teacher chaplains are devastated and the tone and environment around schools have been vastly different. The morale has dropped since the announcement due to lack of clarity. We understand that some chaplains have additional education, they can reapply for their jobs at a reduced salary and benefits and it will not be a teaching role. Chaplaincy spaces are welcoming because they understand students as educators and spiritually. Is there a plan to match their salary and benefits so that they may reapply to the new positions?
12. Superintendent Murphy: To be respectful to all groups, as we operationalize this, we would not do this publicly. I admire that as a student you have the same regard for chaplains as I have, change is very hard. This is an employee issue and details will be provided following the process.

*Trustee Shawn Xaviour passed the chair to Vice-Chair Brea Corbet.*

13. Trustee Shawn Xaviour: Are chaplain salaries funded by the Ministry?

Director Mazzorato: No, they are not. We have a group of non-teacher chaplains that do not belong to OECTA and we have teacher chaplains that are part of OECTA. There are two different pay scales. Salaries are paid through discretionary funds.

14. Trustee Shawn Xaviour: I understand we are streamlining the work that non-teaching chaplains and teacher chaplains are doing.

Director Mazzorato: The main motivating factor is that teacher chaplains have limitations through their unions. For example, in secondary school, a teacher chaplain could not be called on to prepare and facilitate an adult faith formation retreat. In other boards there are teacher chaplains that are doing chaplaincy work and teaching classes.

15. Trustee Shawn Xaviour: Can staff confirm that every high school will have a chaplain?

Director Mazzorato: The new model will have 26 chaplains that their home base will be at a secondary school and they will have flexibility with time each week to address elementary school needs and work on adult faith formation.

16. Trustee Shawn Xaviour: It is a pleasure to hear from students how effective chaplains are in their schools. We also see the appreciation at graduations when students cheer enthusiastically for chaplains. Grade 7 and 8 students will benefit by entering secondary school with a familiar chaplain.

17. Trustee Bruno Iannicca commented that chaplains have had a positive effect on student well-being and achievement. Is staff confident that we will have 26 chaplains?

Director Mazzorato: We are working on a posting to go out after March Break and have already had some interest in the position.

18. Trustee Stefano Pascucci: This is an operational issue; however, can trustees have input into the framework from the feedback we have received from parents/guardians?

Director Mazzorato: We can solicit that feedback from trustees.

19. Trustee Shawn Xaviour: When hiring new chaplains, can we ensure that they have worked with youth?

Director Mazzorato: Our Human Resources department is managing the recruitment.

*Trustee Shawn Xaviour resumed the chair.*

**J. Declared Interest Items – Nil**

**K. In Camera Session**

**Moved by** Brea Corbet

**THAT THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MOVE INTO A CLOSED MEETING AS DISCUSSIONS WILL INVOLVE THE DISCLOSURE OF INTIMATE, PERSONAL OR FINANCIAL INFORMATION IN RESPECT OF A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OR COMMITTEE, OR AN EMPLOYEE.**

**CARRIED**

**L. Report from In Camera**

Received two reports: Math Action Achievement Plan and Administrative Appointments and Transfers, and Questions Asked of an In Camera Nature by Trustees.

**M. Future Meetings**

May 13, 2025

**N. Adjournment**


**Moved by** Luz del Rosario

**THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED AT 9.39 P.M.**

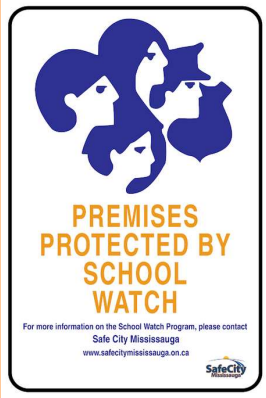
**CARRIED**



<b>B.</b>	<b>Awards and Presentations</b>	
<b>Q 2</b>	Trustee Bruno Iannicca: Can staff send this presentation to trustees to share with Catholic School Councils (CSC)?	An email was sent to all Trustees on March 5 with the PowerPoint presentation.
<b>C 1</b>	<b>Delegate – Diane Borrelli regarding EQAO, Awards and Going Against Policy</b>	
<b>Q 2 &amp; 3</b>	<b>Trustees Questions to Staff:</b>  Trustee Paula Dametto-Giovannozzi: Can staff provide a better understanding of the secondary benchmarks used for honour roll and for awards of distinction?  Trustee Mario Pascucci: There should be the same opportunities at school A and school B. Is there not supposed to be standardization for awards of distinction?	A survey is being conducted and results will be used to ensure greater standardization and community communication.
<b>I</b>	<b>Questions asked by Trustees</b>	
<b>Q 18</b>	Trustee Stefano Pascucci: Re Chaplaincy This is an operational issue; however, can trustees have input into the framework from the feedback we have received from parents/guardians?	Trustees will be consulted as appropriate.








# School Watch



**CRIME PREVENTION THROUGH LIFE SKILLS**

1

2





# What is it?

The School Watch program teaches youth how to make smart and safe choices on their path through young adulthood!

## EDUCATING

youth on crime prevention and life skills

## ENGAGING

them in community clean-up events

## ENCOURAGING

responsible and equitable reporting

When youth thrive – crime does not

3

# How it Works

Delivered in-person in high schools and community organizations across Mississauga.

## STUDENTS LEARN HOW TO...

- Protect themselves
- Avoid scams
- De-escalation Skills
- Stay safe online
- Apply safety skills in real scenarios
- Responsible and equitable reporting

## SCHOOL WATCH

A SAFE CITY MAKES YOUR LIFE BETTER AND MAKES YOU BETTER AT LIFE

### Our Workshops

<b>Personal Safety</b>	Identify risks, set boundaries, and respond to unsafe situations.
<b>Online Safety</b>	Manage your digital footprint, prevent cyberbullying, and use social media responsibly.
<b>Critical Thinking</b>	Recognize biases and their role in shaping discrimination.
<b>Communication</b>	Master conflict resolution, active listening, and building strong relationships.
<b>Healthy Living</b>	Focus on mental and physical health, stress management, and healthy habits.
<b>Jobs &amp; Careers</b>	Discover career options, workplace expectations, and avoid job scams.
<b>Personal Finance</b>	Build budgeting skills, understand credit, and avoid financial scams.
<b>Graduation 101</b>	Explore graduation requirements and discover special programs for success.
<b>Criminal Records</b>	Understand the legal impact of a criminal record and its long-term consequences.

This program is **FREE** for all participants!

For more information or to book a workshop, please contact

📧 [safecity2@safecitymississauga.on.ca](mailto:safecity2@safecitymississauga.on.ca)  
📞 905 615 4155 ext. 4479

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# OPERATION CLEAN SWEEP



## OPERATION CLEAN SWEEP

**small EFFORTS BIG IMPACT**

You bring the team, we bring the tools!



**Why Bring This Program to Your Youth?**

- Encourage civic responsibility and a sense of community pride
- Provide volunteer hours for students
- Promote teamwork and leadership development
- Create a cleaner, safer environment

This program is **FREE** for all participants!

Get in touch and let's make a difference together!

 [safecity2@safecitymississauga.on.ca](mailto:safecity2@safecitymississauga.on.ca)  
 905 615 4155 ext. 4479



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# Our School Connections Across Mississauga

<b>PDSB</b>	<b>DPCSB</b>
Peel Alternative South SS	St. Paul CSS
Cawthra Park SS	Phillip Pocock CSS
Glenforest SS	Ascension of Our Lord CSS
Lincoln Alexander SS	Father Michael Goetz CSS
The Woodlands SS	St. Marcellinus CSS
Rick Hansen SS	
TL Kennedy SS	
John Fraser SS	

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# Our Community Partnerships in the City

Dixie Bloor Neighbourhood Centre  
Peel Youth Village  
Catholic Crosscultural Services  
Peel Children's Aid Society  
Malton Youth Hub  
Creditvale Mills Hub  
The Dam Meadowvale  
Punjabi Community Health Services

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# Our Impact

SURVEY RESULTS  
FROM SOME OF OUR  
WORKSHOPS...

**89.5%**  
**Students Agreed**

I have a better  
understanding on how to  
protect myself.  
- PERSONAL SAFETY  
WORKSHOP

**86.6%**  
**Students Agreed**

I understand how to report  
cyberbullying.  
- ONLINE SAFETY  
WORKSHOP

**86.9%**  
**Students Agreed**

I learned strategies to help  
me cope with stress.  
- HEALTHY LIVING  
WORKSHOP

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# What Students Think

**A LOT of useful knowledge for my future and present. I will definitely be using this info.**

- Careers Student, TL Kennedy SS

**This was very nicely put together. Iram was a wonderful speaker and would love to have her again.**

- Careers Student, St. Francis Xavier CSS

**Was a fun and different experience that informed me more about discrimination.**

- English Student, St. Marcellinus CSS

**I feel like I developed a sense of self-care and this workshop really made me realize how to put my life together.**

- ESL Student, Glenforest SS

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## THE SCHOOL WATCH TEAM



**GERALD ADAD |  
YOUTH SERVICES  
MANAGER**

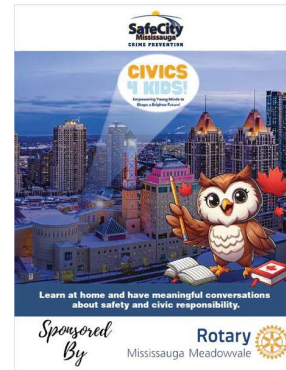


**IRAM ZAIDI |  
SCHOOL WATCH  
COORDINATOR**

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# FUTURE STEPS

- School Watch Expansion to Middle School
- Civics 4 Kids! Workbooks and Workshops



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# Contact Us

**GERALD ADAD**

[nsmesafecitymississauga.on.ca](mailto:nsmesafecitymississauga.on.ca)

**IRAM ZAIDI**

[safecity2@safecitymississauga.on.ca](mailto:safecity2@safecitymississauga.on.ca)

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<b>Faith and Program Committee Meeting</b>
<b>May 13, 2025</b>
<b><i>CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK 2025: PILGRIMS OF HOPE</i></b>
<b>Multi-Year Strategic Plan Values: Believe, Excel, Respect, Thrive, and Trust</b>

*“May the God of Hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”*

*(Romans 15:13)*

## **BACKGROUND**

Each year the Catholic community of Ontario engages in a week-long celebration of the unique identity and distinctive contributions of Catholic education. Celebrating Catholic Education Week (CEW) is a special occasion to recognize the profound impact that Catholic schools have on students, families, and communities. This week is an opportunity to reflect on the mission and values of Catholic education and to honour the hard work and dedication of educators, staff, students, families and parish communities who make it all possible.

This year’s celebration entitled, “Catholic Education: Pilgrims of Hope” was celebrated during the week of May 4 to May 9, 2025. The theme for CEW was inspired by the Jubilee Year of Hope. Pope Francis reminded us that, “*we must fan the flame of hope that has been given to us and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision.*” (Letter on the Jubilee Year of Hope, February 11, 2022)

As CEW was celebrated across the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB) community, we were reminded of the enduring power of hope—*Spes Non Confundit—Hope Does Not Disappoint*. In our schools, we are called to live out this hope every day, grounded in faith, love, and the promise of God’s presence in our lives. Despite the challenges we face, we know that true hope, rooted in Christ, is steadfast and unwavering.

Hope inspires us to reach out to one another with compassion, to strive for justice, and to create an inclusive environment where everyone is valued. Hope calls us to build communities where we are not only educated in knowledge but also in kindness, service, and humility. Through hope, we believe in the potential of every person to contribute to the world in meaningful ways, and we trust that, with God’s grace, all things are possible. This hope was celebrated joyfully in our schools, our parishes and across the communities we are privileged to serve.

## **DISCUSSION**

The themes for CEW 2025 are inspired by the following considerations:

- In February of 2022, Pope Francis announced that the theme for the upcoming 2025 holy year would be “Pilgrims of Hope.” “We must fan the flame of hope that has been given to us and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision.
- The Holy Father asked us to focus prayerfully on the bonds that unite our whole human family, to reflect on the rampant poverty in our world, and to think about the plight of the many



refugees forced to leave their homes. He also summoned us, as stewards of Creation, “to contemplate the beauty of creation and care for our common home.”

- A pilgrimage is a spiritual journey of movement toward a goal, often lived together with others – and that certainly describes Catholic education. Hope – one of the three theological virtues – is grounded in our Easter faith in Jesus’ resurrection and renewal; this is what enables us to be builders, dreamers and leaders in Jesus’ name. Pope Francis invited us to keep moving ahead in faith, in joy, and in hope, as part of a pilgrim people. Even in challenging times, our eyes are focused on the future.

The five sub themes for CEW explore ways to live out Pope Francis’ call for each one of us to be Pilgrims of Hope...

- by honouring human dignity / honorent la dignité humaine (Monday)
- by caring for creation / prennent soin de la création (Tuesday)
- by responding to the poverties in our world / luttent contre les pauvretés (Wednesday)
- by serving in solidarity / servent en solidarité (Thursday)
- by living as peacemakers / vivent en artisans de paix (Friday)

### **OCSTA CEW Resources**

The purpose of the *Comprehensive School Resource Kit*, provided through the leadership of the Ontario Catholic School Trustees’ Association (OCSTA) was to provide opportunities for students to engage in meaningful activities and reflections to deepen their awareness and understanding of both the gift and the responsibility of Catholic education. The contents of this year’s comprehensive school resource kit included: prayer services for each daily sub-theme; prayers, daily lessons, a faith play day, and living rosary resources for elementary schools; prayers, scripture, reflections and school retreat for secondary schools; prayer cards in English and French; sheet music, audio and video files for the CEW 2025 theme song “Pilgrims of Hope.”

Each elementary school also received four of the CEW book titles to inspire students’ understanding what it means to be “Pilgrims of Hope” by honouring human dignity, caring for creation and living as peacemakers. All resources and educational materials are located on the OCSTA website at [www.goodnewsforall.ca](http://www.goodnewsforall.ca) and were promoted throughout the system as foundational in the celebration of this important week.

### **CEW Celebrated in DPCDSB Schools**

As DPCDSB gathered to celebrate CEW across DPCDSB, the theme “Pilgrims of Hope” was embraced which invited us to reflect on our shared journey of faith, as we walk together in the light of Christ, guided by hope in every step we take.

To begin the week, staff and students across the board reflected on the beautiful words from Monsignor Joseph Shiels. In his reflection, Monsignor emphasized the gift of Catholic education and the path it provides to each one of us rooted in faith, love and hope. He encouraged us to journey together as “Pilgrims of Hope,” walking with purpose, joy, and trust in God’s promise for a better tomorrow.

As “Pilgrims of Hope” on a journey, we walk guided by our faith, trusting in God even when the path ahead is uncertain. Hope is what moves us forward. It gives us strength when things are difficult, and it inspires us to believe in a brighter future, for ourselves and for the world. As a Catholic school board community, we are called to carry this hope into our classrooms, our homes, and our world—through

acts of kindness, words of encouragement, and a spirit of compassion. Whether we are learning, teaching, or praying, we do so as pilgrims walking with faith, love, and hope in our hearts.

During CEW, this hope was evident across the DPCDSB community. Our Catholic identity was celebrated through daily morning prayers, reflections, and liturgies. Staff and students participated in a variety of activities, honouring our shared journey as “Pilgrims of Hope.” In our elementary schools, classes hosted special events to celebrate Catholic education, including the *Journey into Learning* evenings where schools welcomed the newest and youngest members to our Catholic school communities. Wellness retreats, walking excursions and other outdoor activities were planned to help encourage a renewed sense of faith, while rejoicing in God’s abundant blessings.

Living out our call to be “Pilgrims of Hope” by serving in solidarity, elementary students exemplified what it means to love and serve one another as they participated in various social justice initiatives including raising funds for ShareLife, collecting donations of food and clothing, and performing acts of kindness around the school and local community. During CEW, students also participated in various learning opportunities including workshops, exhibits, and shows allowing them to share, explore, and celebrate their God-given gifts and talents. Using the resource kit prepared by OCSTA, educators engaged students in learning more about their call to be people of “Pilgrims of Hope” and the importance of journeying together in faith and hope.

Secondary schools hosted a week-long celebration of Catholic education, with school communities coming together each day for reflections and prayers that brought the themes of CEW to life. Staff and students were provided with opportunities to connect with their faith through praying the Rosary, Christian Meditation, Eucharistic Adoration in the chapel and student retreats. Students shared heartfelt reflections and personal testimonies on the gift of Catholic education, while dedicated Praise and Worship sessions provided opportunities for spiritual connection and celebration for RAISE classrooms in the chapel.

We know from Pope Francis that, pilgrimages serve as a fundamental element of every Jubilee event. A pilgrimage is a journey of the heart and soul, and in Catholic education, we are all pilgrims—students, educators, families, and communities—walking together toward the ultimate goal of holiness and truth. During CEW, schools embarked on pilgrimages to their home parishes and embodied the CEW themes in action—walking in faith, showing love and unity, and building community.

Living out our call to be “Pilgrims of Hope” by caring for creation, secondary school communities participated in nature walks reflecting on themes from *Laudato Si*, organized Beautification Day with RAISE classes and planted tree saplings, naming them “Trees of Hope.” Other schools embraced their role as stewards of creation by refreshing school gardens and taking part in school ground clean-up activities. Staff and students also journeyed as “Pilgrims of Hope” by serving in solidarity as they participated in various social outreach initiatives such as Street Patrol Mission, organizing food and clothing drives, and initiatives to raise funds to support organizations such as ShareLife and Canadian Food for Children.

Reflecting on the invitation to be “Pilgrims of Hope,” guest speakers, including Fr. Matt McCarthy from the Office of Vocations, shared messages of hope, resilience and faith. The week also showcased the many gifts and talents of students through vibrant performances at Spring Arts Festivals, featuring music, dance, and drama inspired by the theme “Pilgrims of Hope.” It was clear that our students joyfully celebrated and expressed their gratitude for the gift of Catholic education during the celebrations this week.



During CEW staff, students, and families gathered in prayer, celebrating the word of God and the theme, “Pilgrims of Hope.” Many schools celebrated schoolwide Masses, warmly welcoming members of the broader community to join in worship. This year, DPCDSB hosted its first *Jubilee Year Youth Day* for secondary students. This celebration of prayer, fellowship and faith inspired young hearts to walk together and be the hope the world needs —a hope that does not disappoint, a hope rooted in the love of Christ and the promise of new life. OCSTA also hosted their annual Ontario Catholic Student Youth Day which featured Theland Kicknosway, Indigenous leader, singer and advocate from the Wolf Clan of the Potawatomi and Cree Nations. As part of this virtual gathering, the Most Rev. Douglas Crosby, Bishop of Hamilton, officiated the province-wide Eucharistic Mass which provided administrators, educators, students, parents, trustees, and all partners in Catholic Education the opportunity to come together to celebrate as a community of faith.

As in years past, CEW was celebrated alongside Mental Health Awareness Week. Schools organized events that focused on promoting our well-being – body, mind and spirit, such as Meditative Prayer for Hope and Resilience in the chapel, Health and Wellness Fairs, Wellness Campaigns and opportunities for Christian Meditation. Through love and compassion, students reached out to support one another. By living this attitude of love every moment of every day, our students will surely experience God’s peace in their lives.

Once again, the DPCDSB’s social media campaign invited everyone in our Catholic communities, to share their personal reflections on Catholic education and showcase how they are celebrating the week through photos, videos, quotes, and artwork. Using #DPCDSB\_CEW schools celebrated their faith capturing many beautiful moments in videos and photographs demonstrating how our Catholic Education forms joyful disciples. Through various expressions of faith, our students, administrators, educators, parents, and parish families have demonstrated their faithful witness and passionately expressed how they are called to be “Pilgrims of Hope.”

## CONCLUSION

As we look back on another successful CEW, we can be confident that the call to journey together as “Pilgrims of Hope” was celebrated throughout DPCDSB. Our school communities - students, staff, families and parish – actively worked together to rejoice in the blessings that our lives hold in Catholic education. The events of this week showcased the many ways our students and staff serve as beacons of hope who bring light into the world through their actions, words, and faith. May we continue to walk as “Pilgrims of Hope,” trusting in the grace of God to guide us along the way. And may our journey in Catholic education be a testament to the powerful, transformative hope that God offers to all who walk with Him.

Prepared by: Julie Webster, Academic Coordinator, Religious Education and Faith Formation  
Carmel Murphy, Superintendent, Program and Learning Services  
Max Vecchiarino, Associate Director, Instructional Services

Submitted by: Marianne Mazzorato, Ed.D., Director of Education

## Faith and Program Committee Meeting

May 13, 2025

### **SUPPORTING MATHEMATICS TEACHING AND LEARNING – MATHEMATICS ACHIEVEMENT ACTION PLAN UPDATE**

**Multi-Year Strategic Plan Values: Believe, Excel, Respect, Thrive, and Trust**

*“What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us?”*

*Romans 8:31*

## BACKGROUND

In 2023-2024, the Ministry of Education (Ministry) launched the first year of the Mathematics Action Achievement Plan (MAAP), under an iterative framework, *Taking Action in Mathematics*, to guide improvement efforts. Provincial math priorities are focused on enhancing mathematics achievement and preparing students for future success.

The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB) Math Lead, in collaboration with planning partners, identified board, school, and classroom-level priorities for mathematics achievement. Based on these priorities, DPCDSB’s MAAP was developed, continues to be implemented, and is regularly monitored.

The MAAP focuses on the following priority actions:

- **Curriculum Fidelity**
  - Ensuring fidelity of curriculum implementation and use of instructional and assessment practices, with a proven track-record of enhancing student achievement.
- **Math Content Knowledge for Teaching**
  - Engaging in ongoing learning to strengthen mathematics content knowledge for teaching.
- **Knowing Your Students**
  - Knowing the mathematics learner, and ensuring mathematical tasks, interventions, and supports are relevant and responsive.
- **Measurable Results: Improvements in Math Achievement**
  - Use and analyze various forms of data.

Progress is tracked through meaningful and measurable key performance indicators (KPIs), which align with each of the priority actions. Updates on the MAAP are reported to the Ministry at three points during the year.

## DISCUSSION

This report highlights how DPCDSB has and continue to respond to the goals and priorities of the Ministry’s MAAP and outlines how DPCDSB has leveraged a variety of strategies and resources to support educators in enhancing students’ mathematics learning experiences and responding to their strengths and needs.

**Core Resources Support:** DPCDSB-purchased core mathematics resources are fully aligned to the [2020 Elementary Math Curriculum](#) and [2021 Grade 9 MTH1W Math Curriculum](#), as applicable.

Core resources include Nelson *My Math Path Provocations* for Kindergarten; Pearson *Mathology* for SK/1 to Grades 3/4, Elementary Special Education Resource Classroom (SERC) teachers, and Special Education Resource Teachers (SERT); Rubicon *MathUP Classroom* for Grades 3/4 to 6/7, Elementary SERC and SERT; Nelson *My Math Path* for Grades 6/7 to 8 and Elementary SERC; Rubicon *MathUP Grade 9* for de-streamed MTH1W classes.

- Various ongoing professional development opportunities and resources were provided to support the use of DPCDSB-purchased core resources.
  - Resource virtual walkthrough sessions for both administrators and teachers.
  - SharePoint site resource pages support ongoing self-directed learning.

**Supplementary Resources:** Resources have been and continue to be created by the DPCDSB Mathematics Team and include:

- [Mathematics Achievement Action Plan Site](#) – Available on the DPCDSB website; provides families with an overview of the Ministry’s priority actions, available digital tools for math learning, and additional supports including Math@Home Newsletters.
- **Digital Tools** – Knowledgehook, Gizmos, and Brainiac support the effective implementation of curriculum expectations and assessment practices.
- **High-Impact Instructional Practices in Mathematics (HIIPM) HUB, Grades 1 to 12** – Video series and sub-hubs of curated and team-created resources focused on each of the Ministry’s identified nine HIIPM.
- **Suggested Grades 1 to 6 Year-Long Scope and Sequences** – Developed to focus on Ministry priority actions. The Scope and Sequences include hyperlinked math lessons, intervention mini-lessons and supports, diagnostic and summative assessments, and supplementary resources.
- **Grade 9 Sample Culminating Performance Tasks** – Shared with teachers to support assessment in the de-streamed mathematics course.
- **Problems of the Week and Games of the Week** – Weekly *Application* and *Thinking* questions and *Math Games* are sent to Primary, Junior, and SERC teachers to support their ongoing instruction.
- **DP Mathematics Team SharePoint Site** – Featured resources include: HIIPM Sub Hubs, EQAO Resources and Supports, Knowledgehook assessments of EQAO-released questions for Grades 3 (English and French), 6, and 9, “Understanding Math + Coding,” “Money Matters,” Focusing on Financial Literacy in Grade 9, “Game On!,” and Ministry math tasks.
- **DP Mathematics X Account (@DP\_math)** – Publicizes professional development opportunities and resources, as well as promotes and interacts with DPCDSB classrooms.

**Additional Professional Development Opportunities and Events:** A variety of responsive learning opportunities and events were offered over the school year and include:

- **DPCDSB Board Math Lead:** Administrator professional development through Family of Schools meetings and priority school visits; topics included EQAO updates, review of core resources, and discussions of effective instructional and assessment practices.

- **Professional Development Days:** Elementary and secondary schools engaged in learning that highlights the Ministry's Mathematics Achievement Action Plan and HIIPM.
- **EQAO Supports:** EQAO staff provided in-person and virtual sessions to update senior staff, administrators, secondary school math department heads, Grade 9 math teachers, and math facilitators on EQAO practices and resources.
- **SERT In-Person Sessions:** Core resources licenses were purchased for all elementary SERT. Resource teachers from all elementary schools were invited to participate in professional development focused on supporting student success in mathematics using core and supplementary resources, digital tools, and HIIPM.
- **Grade 9 In-Person Session:** MTH1W teachers from all secondary schools were invited to participate in professional development focused on Financial Literacy and EQAO.
- **New Teacher Induction Program In-Person Sessions:** NTIP teachers were invited to attend professional development sessions that occurred throughout the year to explore key components of and supports for the elementary mathematics curriculum.
- **Edwin Virtual Modelled Lessons:** Live lessons were provided to intermediate classrooms across schools focused on key content areas, including Financial Literacy and Algebra.
- **Gizmos Lesson Model In-Person Sessions:** Supported the use of mathematics and science simulations and forward planning in intermediate, Grade 9, and Grade 10 Academic classes.
- **Knowledgehook Livestream Gameshows:** Provided to priority school elementary classes with follow-up debriefs with teachers to discuss results and plan next steps.
- **Brainingcamp Livestream Lessons:** Delivered to Grade 4 classes to focus on fractions.
- **Math Boardwide Events:** Included *Rubber Ducky Day 2025* – Kindergarten to Grade 8 classes were invited to join in Esti-Mystery livestreams across all schools, number talks, problem-solving tasks, math games, and coding tasks and *May's Math Mission Possible Livestreams* – Kindergarten to Grade 8 classes were invited to engage in spatial reasoning.
- **Monthly Ministry Sessions:** Math Content Knowledge Learning Series for Grades 3 & 6 and Grade 9 administrators, DPCDSB teams, math facilitators, and teachers.
- **Funding for Additional Qualifications Courses in Mathematics** is available for 2024/2025.

**Supporting Priority Classes:** School-based elementary and secondary math facilitators provide direct support in classrooms at Ministry-identified priority schools.

- Model lessons in Grades 3, 6, and 9 classrooms, co-teach and co-plan, support the use of DPCDSB-purchased core resources and digital tools, and foster increased student confidence.
- Implement short learning cycles informed by Knowledgehook assessments to identify student learning needs and growth over time. Through small-group interventions that incorporate the consistent use of tools and representations to build conceptual understandings, facilitators work directly with students who require additional support to close gaps. Math team created

Knowledgehook pre and post-assessments are used to track growth over time. Cycles also utilize EQAO-released questions to support students with assessment strategies.

## **CONCLUSION**

DPCDSB will continue to support educators, students, and families to support mathematics achievement. Educators will continue to be supported in building mathematics learning environments that spark students' curiosity and foster capacity and competency. DPCDSB priorities remain responsive to System needs and priorities and focused on establishing a culture of excellence in mathematics teaching and learning.

Prepared by: Maria Rivero, Academic Coordinator, Mathematics K-12  
Caroline Hastings, Principal, Student Success, Learning to 18 and Secondary Program  
Kevin Wendling, Assistant Superintendent, Program and Learning Services: Math Lead  
Carmel Murphy, Superintendent, Program and Learning Services  
Max Vecchiarino, Associate Director, Instructional Services

Submitted by: Marianne Mazzorato, Ed. D., Director of Education

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# Supporting Mathematics Teaching and Learning

## Mathematics Achievement Action Plan Update

May 13, 2025

**Mission:** Disciples of Christ, nurturing mind, body, and soul to the fullness of life.  
**Vision:** Changing the world through Catholic education.



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DUFFERIN-PEEL CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

## Taking Action in Mathematics: *Provincial Priority Actions*



**Curriculum Fidelity:** Ensuring fidelity of curriculum implementation and use of instructional and assessment practices with a proven track record of enhancing student achievement



**Math Content Knowledge for Teaching:** Engaging in ongoing learning to strengthen mathematics content knowledge for teaching



**Knowing Your Student:** Knowing the mathematics learner and ensuring mathematical tasks, interventions, and supports are relevant and responsive



**Measurable Results:** Focusing on improvements in math achievement

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## Highlights of Key Actions: EQAO Assessment Information

### | Supports Provided Include:

EQAO staff have provided information through face-to-face engagement and interactive virtual sessions to provide updates (i.e., EQAO frameworks, supports, resources, assessment environment) on the Grade 3, 6 and 9 Mathematics Assessments to:

- Senior Staff
- Administrators
- Secondary Math Department Heads
- Grade 9 De-streamed Math Teachers
- Math Facilitators

Information has also been shared with community members on various EQAO in-services for parents and families.



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## Highlights of Key Actions: Supporting Administrators

### | Supports Provided Include:

- EQAO face-to-face interactive sessions to share updates on assessment frameworks, resources, accommodations, and research.
- Regular Board Math Lead visits to priority schools to review math programs, resources, and math facilitator support of priority classes.
- Follow up visits to secondary schools to analyze EQAO data and the delivery of the EQAO Grade 9 mathematics assessment.

**“Teachers are feeling supported in their practice with the resources provided by the Board and students are growing more confident.”**



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## Highlights of Key Actions: Supporting Teachers Examples

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS	RESOURCES	BOARD WIDE EVENTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Core Resources Orientations</li> <li>Elementary Special Education Resource Teachers Sessions</li> <li>Grade 9: Math Team + EQAO School Outreach Team Collaborative Session</li> <li>NTIP Mathematics Orientations</li> <li>Elementary and Secondary Gizmos Lesson Models</li> <li>Knowledgehook Drop-Ins</li> <li>Scope &amp; Sequences Drop-Ins</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grades 1 – 6 Year-Long Scope and Sequences</li> <li>Problem of the Week</li> <li>Game of the Week</li> <li>Grades 1 – 8 “Money Matters” Financial Literacy Tasks</li> <li>Grade 9 Sample Culminating Performance Tasks</li> <li>Ministry Math Tasks</li> <li>Knowledgehook EQAO Released Questions Assessments</li> <li>SharePoint Site</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rubber Ducky Day Livestreams, Number Talks, Problem-Solving Tasks, Math Games, and Coding Tasks</li> <li>May’s Math Mission Possible Livestreams</li> <li>Edwin Virtual Lessons</li> <li>Knowledgehook Live ‘Mega’ GameShows</li> <li>Brainingcamp Live Lessons</li> </ul> 

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## Highlights of Key Actions: Supporting Priority Classes

### Supports Provided:

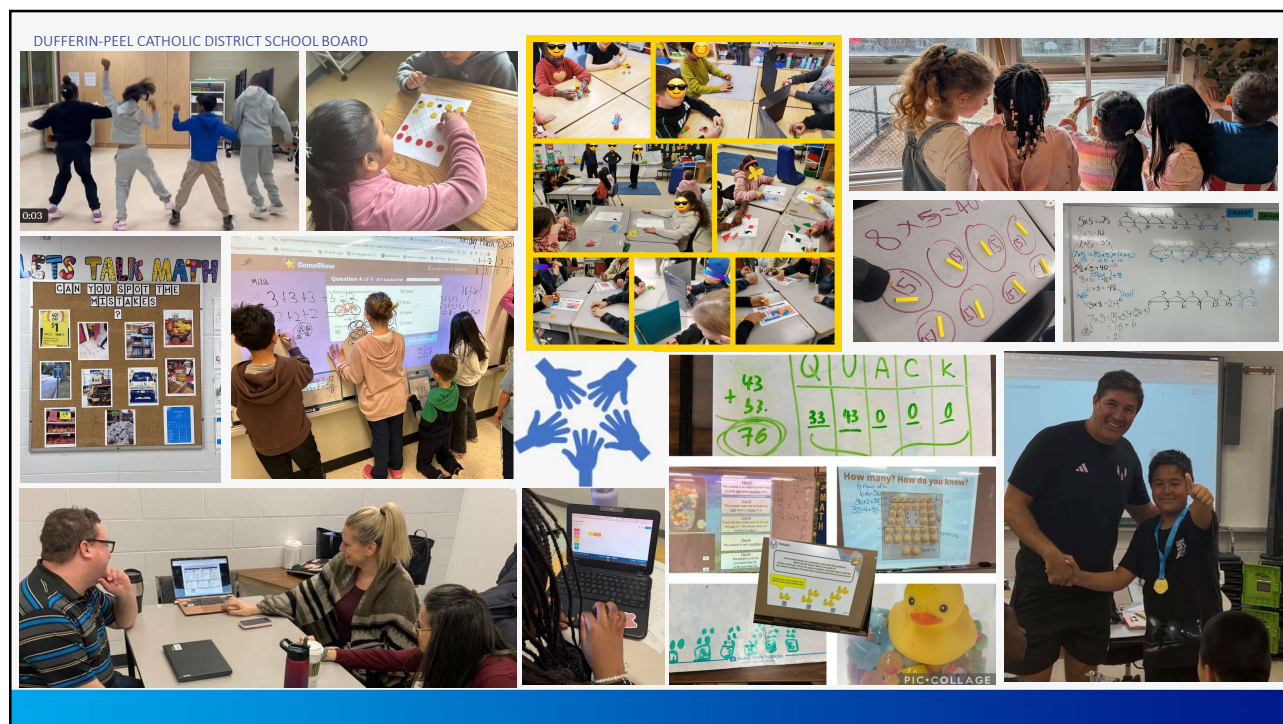
To support provincial priority actions, **school-based math facilitators:**

- Model lessons and number routines in Grades 3, 6, and 9 priority classes.
- Co-Plan and Co-Teach with colleagues, working directly with students.
- Support the use of Board-purchased core resources, digital tools, and high-impact instructional practices.
- Foster increased student confidence.
- Implement short learning cycles informed by Knowledgehook assessments to identify student learning needs and growth over time.
- Use small-group interventions that incorporate the consistent use of tools and representations to build conceptual understandings.
- Use EQAO released questions to help prepare students for provincial mathematics assessments.



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<b>Faith and Program Committee Meeting</b>
<b>May 13, 2025</b>
<b><i>BUILDING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITES FOR DPCDSB STUDENTS: THE BAKERY SCHOOL &amp; PROJECT SEARCH</i></b>
<b>Multi-Year Strategic Plan Values: Respect, Excel and Thrive</b>

*“What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us?”*  
Romans 8:31

## BACKGROUND

The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB) implements the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations into programs through experiences or opportunities that support students to develop as *discerning believers; effective communicators; reflective, creative, and holistic thinkers; self-directed, responsible citizens, lifelong learners; collaborative contributors, caring family members, and responsible citizens*. The programs shared in this report will enhance the learning experiences of some of our underserved students to nurture a sense of belonging, inclusion, and well-being, in alignment with the values *Believe, Excel, Respect, Thrive and Trust* seen in the Board Multi-Year Strategic Plan (2023-2027). Recent regional data highlights the complex socio-economic challenges in Peel Region, including youth unemployment rates higher than the provincial average and poverty disproportionately affecting children and newcomers. If our students are not transitioning into post-secondary education, they will have difficulty accessing employment that will sustain a life above the poverty line. And, if the student is neurodiverse, this impact is compounded further.

## DISCUSSION

### The Bakery School

DPCDSB has established a partnership with Puratos Canada to build a cutting-edge bakery school program within one of our secondary schools in Peel Region. This collaboration combines practical skill development with academics to offer hands-on, industry-level training that will prepare students for careers in the baking industry.

Puratos is a leading global player in the baking, patisserie, and chocolate sectors. This business approached DPCDSB through their customer network and were impressed by the exceptional programs offered to students, including those with differing abilities. The Puratos Bakery School Foundation has launched 15 bakery schools across the globe in countries such as the US, South Africa, and India, helping underserved populations develop skills and access employment opportunities. DPCDSB is honored to host Canada’s first Puratos Bakery School.

Father Michael Goetz Catholic Secondary School (CSS) will be the site for the Puratos Canada Bakery School, with facilities transformed to include accessible, state-of-the-art baking spaces and classrooms.

The first cohort will consist of 25 students from the local school community, with plans to expand the program board-wide in future years. Students will participate in cooperative education opportunities, including the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) Level 1 program, blending Puratos baking curriculum with the Ontario Hospitality and Event Planning Curriculum courses.

The program leverages partnerships with a diverse array of local bakeries and Puratos clients, offering co-op placements, apprenticeships, and employment opportunities to graduates. Alumni from global Puratos Bakery Schools, including a former Father Michael Goetz CSS student, will provide guidance to participants as they embark on this transformative learning journey.

DPCDSB is now initiating the student recruitment process, seeking engaged candidates with an interest in baking who will benefit most from this innovative program. A central committee will finalize the selection of the first cohort, in preparation for the program's grand opening in the 2025-26 school year.

To quote our late Pope Francis, "...work is fundamental to the dignity of a person. Work, to use a metaphor, anoints us with dignity." In addition to the Puratos Bakery project, the Special Education and Learning Services department has also secured partnerships to establish Project SEARCH, a transition to work program site which will commence September 2025.

### **Project SEARCH**

The Ministry of Education has encouraged school boards in Ontario to apply for grants supporting the internationally recognized Project SEARCH initiative. Originally launched in 1996 at Cincinnati Children's Hospital, Project SEARCH now operates over 700 sites across 9 countries. DPCDSB is proud to join the 19 active Ontario sites in offering this transformative program aimed at building employability skills for students transitioning directly from school to competitive employment.

Project SEARCH is a business-led, yearlong program where students (interns), a teacher, and support staff are based at a host business. The goal is to provide hands-on job training, employability/life skills curriculum, on-the-job feedback, and employment-focused planning. Students complete three carefully designed internships within the host business, building transferable skills like problem-solving, teamwork, and confidence.

Project SEARCH is open to students in their final year of secondary school, enrolled in Realize and Achieve Individualized Skills Experience (RAISE) or Academic Support Promoting Independence and Resources Exploration (ASPIRE) programs, interested in transitioning to employment following graduation, and who are able to provide their own transportation. Transportation costs, such as transit passes or taxi services, may be covered through Developmental Services Ontario (DSO) Passport Funding for eligible students.

The application process includes submitting a Project SEARCH application and participating in a Skills Assessment Day to evaluate work motivation, self-advocacy, problem-solving, and task completion. By May 30, 2025, all participants will be notified about application status and successful candidates will receive next-step details for the September 2025 start.

The host business, Ashley Oaks Retirement Residence, is located in Brampton. This state-of-the-art facility provides a welcoming environment for training. Students will gain skills through various internships and have access to a dedicated classroom space within the host business.

By participating in this program, students will receive work-related guidance from a local Employment Support Provider to align skills training with the local job market demands. Graduates will also benefit from a year of post-training employment support, including job retention and development services.

Student recruitment and the Skills Assessment Day are underway, with a program launch anticipated for September 2025. This initiative reflects DPCDSB's commitment to equipping students with essential skills and creating pathways to meaningful employment opportunities.

## **CONCLUSION**

These groundbreaking initiatives for DPCDSB honour the dignity of work, empower students, strengthen regional employment, and enrich the community while setting a new standard for inclusive and employment-focused education in Peel Region. Students and staff will also benefit from the partnerships that will highlight efforts both at home and on the world stage. Updates on all developments will continue to be provided to all stakeholders as we embark on these exciting opportunities for DPCDSB students and graduates.

Prepared by: Teresa Abbruscato, Academic Consultant, Special Education and Learning Services  
Kristie Boily, Academic Consultant, Special Education and Learning Services  
Laura Pincente, Coordinator- Transitions & Diverse Learners (7-12), Special Education and Learning Services  
Lucy Papaloni, Superintendent, Special Education and Learning Services  
Max Vecchiarino, Associate Director, Instructional Services

Submitted by: Marianne Mazzorato, Ed. D., Director of Education

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# The Bakery School & Project SEARCH



## Building Employment Opportunities for DPCDSB Students

May 13, 2025

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**Vision:** Changing the world through Catholic education.



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# The Bakery School

## DPCDSB Partnership with Puratos Canada



**Mission:** Disciples of Christ, nurturing mind, body, and soul to the fullness of life.  
**Vision:** Changing the world through Catholic education.



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## Introducing Puratos



### Quick Facts

- International group founded in 1919
- Headquarters in Belgium
- Employ 9318 people around the world
- Puratos products are available in over 100 countries
- 93 Innovation centers around the world, including Mississauga, Ontario

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## Bakery Schools Across the Globe



Philippines



South Africa



Brazil



Romania



New Jersey



India

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## Puratos- Bakery School Foundation

### Locations

- 15 bakery schools worldwide
- First one established in **Canada!**



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## What the DATA Tells Us

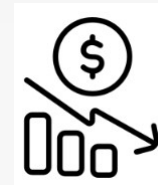


- 52% of Ontario's population is comprised of newcomers, 18% live in Peel



- 69% of Peel residents identify with a racialized group

- The Peel youth unemployment rate is 14.4%, which is higher than the provincial rate of 11.5%



- 8.6% of Peel's population live in poverty, including 9.5% of children 0-17 years

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DUFFERIN-PEEL CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

## Shared Goals



### Bakery School will:

- Address the skilled labor shortage in the baking sector
- Provide opportunities to all students who meet the criteria
- Improve the employment rate for youth in Peel Region

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DUFFERIN-PEEL CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

## Secondary School Location Selected



### Fr. Michael Goetz Catholic Secondary School

- Facility will be outfitted with state-of-the art baking facility & equipment
- A dedicated and accessible baking space and classroom
- First class of 25 will be comprised of Goetz students
- Plan to expand to other students in the Board thereafter

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DUFFERIN-PEEL CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

## Program Timeline & Pathways

### | Sample Timeline

Grade 10 (S2)	Grade 11 (S1)	Grade 11 (S2)	Grade 12 (S1)	Grade 12 (S2)
Course 1	Course 2	Course 3	Course 4	COOP/OYAP

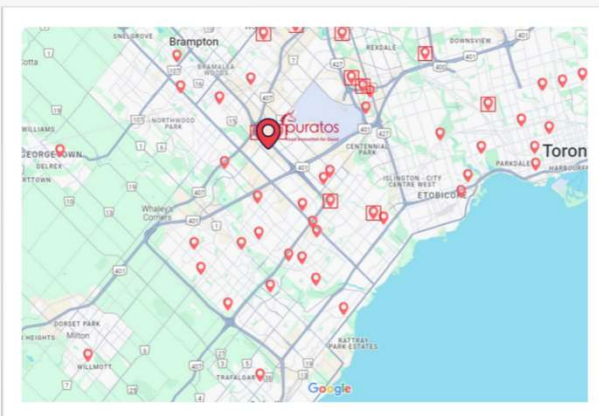
- Open to ALL pathways
- Students will complete the Baking School Curriculum over 4 semesters
- Meets Tech and STEM diploma requirements
- CO-OP, OYAP Level 1 and additional certification opportunities

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## Placement & Employment Opportunities



### | Mississauga, ON

- Wide range of bakeries in area
- Over **30** retail grocery stores with in-store bakeries
- More than **350** local bakery and cake shops
- Neighboring Toronto with almost **4x** the size and employment

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## Bakery School- New Jersey, USA



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nE0VtGMTb58>

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## Project SEARCH



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**Vision:** Changing the world through Catholic education.



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## Introducing Project SEARCH

- Began in 1996 at Cincinnati Children's Hospital
- Internationally successful transition to work program
- 22 active Project SEARCH sites in Canada



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DUFFERIN-PEEL CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

## Introducing Project SEARCH



- Unique, business led model that takes place entirely at the workplace
- Training across 3 internships
- Focus on building essential, marketable skills and promoting confidence, problem-solving and teamwork

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DUFFERIN-PEEL CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

## Project SEARCH

**| Eligibility criteria for participation in the Project SEARCH program includes the following:**

- ✓ Final year of secondary school
- ✓ Enrolled in the RAISE or ASPIRE program
- ✓ Able to provide own transportation
- ✓ Completion of an Application package
- ✓ Participation in Skills Assessment Day

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## DPCDSB Host Business



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## Project SEARCH

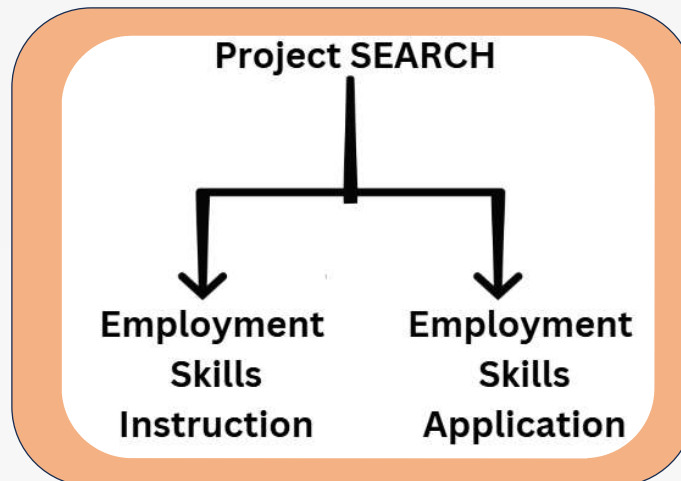


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## Learning and Applying Skills



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## Employment Support Provider

Employment Support Provider will provide some support throughout Project SEARCH.

Students enrolled in Project SEARCH will benefit from **one year of employment support post-graduation**, which will include job retention and job development support.



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## Thank you.



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**Faith and Program Committee Meeting**

**May 13, 2025**

***CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCILS - ANNUAL REPORT***

**Multi-Year Strategic Plan Values: Believe, Excel, Respect, Thrive, and Trust**

*“May the LORD give strength to his people! May the LORD bless his people with peace!”*

*Psalms 29:11*

**BACKGROUND**

The Central Committee for Catholic School Councils (CCCSC) has worked in partnership with our school communities with a primary focus of promoting effective parent involvement opportunities and enabling parents to play a stronger role in supporting student achievement in Catholic education. Members have united within a collective call to create communities that inspire and nurture a faithful response to discipleship within all learners. Our Catholic partners lead by example and faith filled commitment to our diverse student needs. The CCCSC aspire to engage parents/guardians as we work together to make learning an important part of a child’s day, support students at school and home, as well as encouraging parent/guardian participation in the life of the classroom, schools, parishes, and our communities. Through this commitment, engagement and support, the CCCSC generates a strong community spirit, which makes our schools more than just a place where students learn. It creates a learning environment where students feel the commitment and support of fellow students, staff, clergy, community and families.

**DISCUSSION**

The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB) CCCSC is committed to working together with parents/guardians in partnership to promote faith formation and student learning. The CCCSC is comprised of parents and/or guardians who present themselves in humility and solidarity, offering the precious commodity of their time and efforts to support initiatives that strengthen and improve our Catholic schools and student faith formation, and learning. The CCCSC is comprised of parent/guardian representatives representing each Family of Schools, parish representatives, community representatives, and two trustees. For the members of the CCCSC, a commitment to volunteering extends to serving the broader Catholic community of the DPCDSB and the province of Ontario.

The following report provides an overview of the many ways CCCSC, and local Catholic School Councils (CSC) are served as they support all children along their journey of faith and learning.

### **Central Committee for Catholic School Councils**

In a system the size of Dufferin-Peel, the work of empowering families to be involved in their children's education requires a concerted effort of distributed leadership. The mandate of CCCSC is to:

- Support Catholic Education in Ontario.
- Promote the board's vision and values, its sacramental life and Catholic practices, and be faithful to its mission statement.
- Support, encourage, and enhance meaningful parent/guardian engagement at the board level to improve student achievement and well-being within the context of the Catholic faith.
- Provide information and advice to the board on parent/guardian engagement in our Catholic school system.
- Communicate with and support local Catholic School Councils.
- Undertake activities to help parents/guardians support their children's learning at home and in our Catholic schools.

During the 2024-2025 school year, eight formal meetings provided an opportunity for consultation, feedback and training. The presence of trustees has provided an opportunity for discussion and a flow of information between the board and local communities, informing decisions and outcomes.

Increasingly, parent/guardian voice and perspective are sought within many departments of the Ministry of Education and the Archdiocese of Toronto. Members of CCCSC have participated in the following provincial activities and initiatives:

- Annual Conference for the Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education
- Public Budget Consultation
- Consultation regarding DPCDSB Multi Year Strategic Plan and School Year Calendar

CCCSC meetings have allowed opportunities for consultation, feedback and training in the following areas:

- Resources to support Catholic School Councils
- Parent Engagement Events
- Student Transitions
- Student Census Data
- New Board/School Website
- Well-Being
- Volunteer of the Year

### **Catholic School Councils**

Catholic School Council members perform a vital role in ensuring alignment with the strategic direction of the board of trustees, the legislative directives of the Ministry of Education and the spiritual dimension of the universal Church.

This year, CSC members were offered several venues to gather, provide input and learn, on behalf of their communities, including:



<i>October</i>	Family of Schools Chairs meetings including liturgy and general meeting
<i>November</i>	Catholic School Council Executive Training; featuring workshops for New Chairs / Co-chairs, Experienced Chairs / Co-chairs Networking, Treasurers, Secretaries, OPACE reps and Parish reps
	Parent Engagement – Children’s Aid Society Presentation and Duty to Report
<i>December</i>	Advent Celebration and recognition of members
<i>February</i>	CCCSC Discussion with Director of Education, Marianne Mazzorato, Ed.D.
<i>March</i>	Parent Engagement – BRAVE Education Understanding Bullying
<i>April</i>	Parent Engagement – Karl Subban Parent/Caregiver Engagement Event
	Parent Engagement – School Mental Health Ontario Webinar: Supporting Your Child's Well-Being
<i>May</i>	CCCSC Committee Volunteer of the Year Application Review
	Parent Engagement – FAMILY (student & parent/caregiver) workshop with Chris Bray
	Parent Engagement – Associated Youth Services Peel 3-part virtual parent workshop
<i>June</i>	CCCSC culminating meeting recognizing nominees and recipients of the Volunteer of the Year award

### **Parent Reaching Out Grants**

Through the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), CCCSC and local CSC events, speakers and workshops are offered throughout the year. Ranging from support for diverse learners to keynote speakers, these events have traditionally supported interested parents/guardians as they seek to enrich their understanding of how to support children in maximizing their potential. These events included:

- Sacramental Preparation for students with Differing Abilities
- Navigating the IEP
- Transitioning Students with Diverse Learning Needs to School
- Employment Supports Resource Fair for Students with Differing Abilities

Catholic School Councils continue to access Pro-Grant funding to support parent/guardian engagement at their local schools. Some events included:

- Parenting for resilience with Dr. Jean Clinton
- Parent Engagement Evening with Positivity Lives Here
- Paul Davis – Empowering Parents, Social Networking and Online Safety

Through the Equity and Indigenous Education Department the CCCSC have worked to further support parent engagement by providing opportunities to gather, provide resources, namely texts / resources written by Black and Indigenous authors that center Black and Indigenous main characters. Some events included:

- STEAM NIGHT (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math)
- Systems Navigation Night – Supporting Families with High School Pathways

## **CONCLUSION**

Throughout DPCDSB, parent/guardian communities are provided with a variety of opportunities for feedback and consultation for parent/guardian engagement opportunities. It is our purpose, mission and goal to ensure that face-to-face and virtual engagement with parents/guardians are enriched, where appropriate, with supports that are grounded within our Catholic faith.

Prepared by: Drago Radic, Superintendent, Mississauga South Family of Schools  
Max Vecchiarino, Associate Director, Instructional Services

Submitted by: Marianne Mazzorato, Ed.D., Director of Education

<b>Faith and Program Committee Meeting</b>
<b>May 13, 2025</b>
<b><i>DUFFERIN-PEEL CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD'S SUGAR BUSH PROGRAM</i></b>
<b>Multi-Year Strategic Plan Goals: Believe, Excel, Respect, Thrive, Trust</b>

## BACKGROUND

The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB) offered a Sugarbush Program and activities from February to early April 2025. This program included elementary and secondary opportunities for hands on learning about Indigenous cultural knowledge and traditions, particularly related to this time of year. The program also offered leadership opportunities for participating secondary students. This report highlights the program implementation and outcomes.

## DISCUSSION

From late February through to early April, the DPCDSB Indigenous Education Department ran both the Elementary Sugarbush Program as well as a Sugarbush March Break Camp. Planning for the Elementary Sugarbush Program began in September 2024 and culminated with four junior classes from various schools participating in a culturally enriching experience over the course of four weeks. The classes were identified first through seeking Indigenous students via DPCDSB's Indigenous self-identification list. Additionally, four classes were selected based on (1) their interest in participating, and (2) their proximity to Silver Creek Outdoor Centre.

Comprehensive planning was essential to the success of this program. This planning included the creation of several Sugarbush resources that participating teachers and students could use to gain some of the cultural knowledge necessary to understand what has been happening on these lands in February and March for thousands of years. The Sugarbush leader, Isaac Murdoch (Nimkii Aazhibikong) and Shannon Paul (Northwest Angle) are both Ojibwe, and travelled down from North of Lake Huron to run the Sugarbush programs alongside staff from the Indigenous Education Department. DPCDSB also welcomed a special guest from the Māori nation of Aotearoa (New Zealand) who taught wood carving during the program. Elementary students participating in the programs were taught how to tap trees, harvest the sap, boil the sap down to syrup, traditionally process hides, and, in general, experience the rewards of their hard work. The students not only learned about the beautiful traditions, songs, and history of the Sugarbush, but were an integral part of it. The connections created and the vast amount of self-worth felt by the participating students make the Sugarbush programs stand out as ones that DPCDSB hopes to continue for a long time.

In addition to the elementary Sugarbush programs, Indigenous Secondary students gathered for 5 days in the Sugarbush over the March Break. Again, led by Isaac Murdoch, Shannon Paul, and the Indigenous Education Department, the participating students worked together to prepare to host DPCDSB families on the last two days of the March Break. In conjunction with their hard work, students also gained a great amount of cultural knowledge from Isaac and Shannon, to support these students to carry on these traditions far into the future. The students also had the opportunity to spend time working with and gaining cultural knowledge from other incredible individuals such as Tehahente (Six Nations), Tim McGregor (Whitefish River), and Dale Penne (Whakatane).

On the Thursday and Friday of the March Break, over 1,000 DPCDSB parents, guardians, and students came to learn at the Sugarbush. Through their hard work and knowledge gained, the Indigenous secondary students succeeded in hosting all these families and assisting in helping them learn about the Sugarbush and its traditions that have been practiced in this region and many others for a very, very long time.

## **CONCLUSION**

From February to early April 2025, DPCDSB implemented elementary and secondary Sugarbush programs at Silver Creek Outdoor Centre. The Elementary Sugarbush Program provided four junior classes with the opportunity to engage in Indigenous learning related to the culture and traditions associated with the sugarbush and led by Isaac Murdoch, Shannon Paul, and members of DPCDSB's Indigenous Education Department. A March Break Camp was also offered. Additionally, Indigenous secondary students were provided the opportunity not only to learn from Isaac and Shannon about the sugarbush traditions, but also to prepare to share their learning with host families during March Break programming at the sugarbush. These programs were highly successful in terms of student learning and leadership opportunities.

Prepared by: Adam Thrasher, Consultant, Indigenous Education Department  
Kathy Russell-Kwan, Researcher, Policy, Strategy, Research, Safe Schools  
Wayne Brunton, Superintendent, Equity and Indigenous Education  
Max Vecchiarino, Associate Director, Instructional Services

Submitted by: Marianne Mazzorato, Ed.D., Director of Education

<b>Faith and Program Committee Meeting</b>
<b>May 13, 2025</b>
<b><i>EXTENDED EXCURSIONS SPRING 2025</i></b>
<b>Muti-Year Strategic Plan Values: Excel, Thrive</b>

*“For it is written, he will command his angels concerning you, to protect you.”*

Luke 4:10

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to summarize the presentations made by schools to the Extended Excursions Committee on April 11, 2025.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Associate Director, Instructional Services, shall establish the *Extended Excursions Committee* on an annual basis. The Committee will:

- be composed of the Associate Director, Instructional Services (or designate), two administrators, and the Risk Management and Insurance Officer;
- review annually the policies and procedures for extended excursions and make appropriate recommendations; and
- receive proposals for extended excursions and make recommendations to the Associate Director, Instructional Services, as appropriate.

The final decision with respect to extended excursions has been approved through Executive Council.

## **DISCUSSION**

The *Extended Excursions Committee* met on April 11, 2025 to receive presentations for proposed extended excursions. The principal or superintendent and the excursion leader attended the presentation from each school. The Extended Excursions Committee reviewed the following details and expectations with the presenters:

- 1) That the proposal was submitted complete with rationale, documentation, itinerary, budget, and approved Tour Operator information.
- 2) That the Catholic faith is reflected in the itinerary for the proposed trip including an expectation that all students and supervisors attend a Catholic Mass on all Sundays during the trip.

- 3) That the trip organizers are aware that they may not benefit personally from any incentives or bonuses offered by the Tour Operator.
- 4) Schools do not sign any contracts, deposit student/parent funds, or make any form of commitment to the students and families until the *Extended Excursions Committee Report* is approved by the Associate Director, Instructional Services, the Legal Department through the Chair of the Extended Excursion Committee and is presented to the Board of Trustees for receipt.
- 5) That all procedures are reviewed and adhered to at the local level and communicated with the Family of Schools Superintendent, student participants, parents/guardians, and supervisors.
- 6) That appropriate steps are in place to ensure that students have opportunities to make up any assignments and/or assessments that may occur during the missed instructional day(s) due to the extended excursion.
- 7) That the appropriate levels of supervision are in place in keeping with DPCDSB policies and outlined in system procedures. Any additional supervisors would need to be approved by the Family of Schools Superintendent on a case-by-case basis. Any changes to the submitted list of supervisors must be communicated and approved by the Family of Schools Superintendent and forwarded to the Superintendent chairing the *Extended Excursions Committee*.
- 8) That all extended excursion submissions should take place during Christmas, March break, or summer breaks, with no more than two (2) instructional days being missed. However, the Associate Director, Instructional Services, may grant permission for trips outside of this time period if special circumstances apply (e.g., a Social Justice Trip).
- 9) That teachers involved in outreach programs missing more than two instructional days would need to submit a coverage plan outlining details for their missed classes to their Principal and Family of Schools Superintendent for approval.
- 10) That a communications plan is in place for supervisors, students, and parents/guardians throughout the trip. The plan must be made available to parents.
- 11) That all participants purchase cancellation insurance and that all participants have mandatory medical coverage / insurance appropriate to the excursion.

A copy of the following information was also shared with each school administrator and excursion leader from the participating schools.

## **EXTENDED EXCURSIONS**

In addition to any other applicable requirements outlined in the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB) policy, trip organizers must take the following steps when an international extended excursion is planned:

- 1) The trip organizer must check with Foreign Affairs Canada and International Trade Canada to receive the latest reports outlining countries or areas of countries that are deemed unsafe by the Government of Canada.

If the trip organizer learns that the destination is dangerous for travelers, they must contact their Superintendent to discuss the potential delay or cancellation of the international excursion.

- 2) The trip organizer must ensure that the tour operator provides cancellation options to the families who commit to the international excursion, to reduce the financial impact of a cancellation or delay of an international excursion. Cancellation insurance is mandatory for international excursions.

The trip organizer must inform participants of the DPCDSB Policy and cancellation options, if any. The trip organizer must also inform participants of any risks associated with the international excursion and that the excursion may be cancelled or delayed at some time in the future, if there is the threat of; political unrest, war, insurrection, or terrorism, as well as if, there is a health threat or environmental disaster at the destination. In the case of cancellation of out-of-country excursions, organizers are made aware that there is no guarantee of any reimbursement of funds from DPCDSB.

**Appendix A**, attached, summarizes the school requests for Extended Excursions presented on May 13, 2025, for receipt.

## **CONCLUSION**

DPCDSB has a rich tradition of offering students the opportunity to participate in extended excursions as an enhancement to their regular program of study. Local schools offer these through educational travel, social justice, and special programs.

DPCDSB has the duty to provide Catholic conditions for the safety, well-being, learning and leading of all within our community. Staff will monitor the threats associated with international travel as we move forward for future extended excursion trips.

Prepared by: Rosina Ariganello, Principal, St. Joseph Catholic Secondary School  
Michael Freitas, Principal, St. Aloysius Gonzaga Catholic Secondary School  
Susan Domenichini, Risk Management and Insurance Officer  
Peter Cusumano, Superintendent, Mississauga West Family of Schools  
Max Vecchiarino, Ph. D., Associate Director, Instructional Services

Submitted by: Marianne Mazzorato, Ed.D., Director of Education

**APPENDIX A****Extended Excursion Presentation - April 11, 2025**

<b>School</b>	<b>Principal</b>	<b>Destination</b>	<b>Travel Dates</b>	<b># of missed school days</b>	<b>Cost of trip per student</b>	<b>Sunday Mass</b>
St. Edmund Campion CSS	Maria Locicero	Italy: Milan, Venice, Florence, Assisi, Rome	March 14-22, 2026	0	\$5488.00	St. Patrick Catholic American Parish, Rome
St. Michael CSS	Josie Lorenzon	Halifax, Nova Scotia	April 30-May 3, 2026	2	\$2207.09	St. Mary's Cathedral Basilica
Cardinal Leger CSS	Jason Pratt	Japan	March 13-21, 2027 (tentative)	0	\$6525.20	St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church