



CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL
BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

Get set for
KINDERGARTEN
A Guide for Parents



Director's message



Dear Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers,

Welcome to the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario; we are so pleased to be able to offer your child the gift of Catholic education. In CDSBEO Catholic schools, our learners have the opportunity to grow in a community that is filled with the Holy Spirit. I am sure you will be delighted to watch your child learn and grow over the next many years.

The early years are a critical time in the development of attitude, socialization and academic success. Many questions about the Kindergarten program, the school, and parish community may arise; I encourage you to contact your local Catholic school principal, who will be more than willing to answer all of your questions.

Thank you for making the decision to become part of the faith and learning community that is the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario. I wish your child all the best as they embark on their first days of school and continue on the journey of life-long learning.

Laurie Corrigan
Director of Education



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Religious Education



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Catholic schools play an important role in evangelization and the mission of the Church, which is to educate and form students in faith, in partnership with the home and parish. Catholic Education is designed to inspire every child, created in the image of God, to reach their full potential.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The Catholic classroom provides age-appropriate instruction and faith experiences. Catholic educators recognize that parents are the primary educators of their children. The school will reinforce beliefs and values introduced in the home, providing formation that meets the needs of Early Years learners. This is a primary goal of the Religious Education Curriculum Program, Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ, which is used in our schools from Kindergarten through grade 8.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION: THE JOURNEY TO GRADUATION

Catholic Education is a holistic education designed to form and inform students, mind, body, heart and soul. It is committed to excellence as it invites students to respond in the context in which they live in the light of their faith. This desire is expressed well in the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations where the vision of the learner is summarized:

The graduate of a Catholic school will be:

- A discerning believer;
- An effective communicator;
- A reflective, creative and holistic thinker;
- A self-directed, responsible, lifelong learner;
- A collaborative contributor;
- A caring family member;
- A responsible citizen.

Catholic schools provide children with the foundational knowledge and supportive learning environment that will help them grow in their relationship with God. Catholic schools transform the world, one child at a time!

Kindergarten Programs



KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS

The Kindergarten program is child-centered and developmentally appropriate, promoting play-based environments that foster the physical, social, emotional, spiritual, and cognitive development of all children. Since children are naturally curious and are constantly engaging in making meaning of their world, Kindergarten educators adopt an inquiry stance along with the children, and this culture of wondering, asking questions, problem solving, and exploring permeates the learning environment. The Kindergarten educator team is comprised of a teacher and a registered early childhood educator (RECE).

FRENCH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Students in Kindergarten have the opportunity to learn French as a second language. Students develop skills through an authentic communicative approach by using puppets, masks, and costumes as well as develop their oral skills through rich language-oriented activities such as read-a-louds, singing songs, and poems. Our FSL vision is to enable students to communicate in French by exploring self-expression. We are dedicated to ensuring our students feel confident and secure while exploring the French language in a play-based inquiry model.

EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM

Extended Day Early Learning Kindergarten Programs are offered where there is sufficient parental interest and support. This before and after school option is staffed by Registered Early Childhood Educators and includes a play-based program that is connected to the regular school day learning. The program includes a mix of guided and independent activities, exploration, outdoor play and quiet times. Parents can choose to enroll their child in just the before school, just the after school, both programs, or not at all. This integrated program provides children with a seamless day with fewer transitions.

ONTARIO EARLY YEARS

FRAMEWORK

The government of Ontario recently released the Ontario Early Years Policy Framework. This document sets out the vision and plan for the early years in all school boards, and outlines how the establishment of a system of family supports for parents/ caregivers of children aged zero to six will be accomplished. For more information visit: www.earlyyears.edu.gov.on.ca



Special Education



Special Education services take many forms such as resources, specialized support personnel, and equipment. Programs are designed to be flexible, to provide a wide range of services for children with various needs. We encourage parents to contact and work with school teams in order to ensure their child's needs are met.

Our Board views every child as unique, and aims to provide a Catholic Education which nurtures this uniqueness - enabling each pupil to maximize his or her spiritual, physical, intellectual and social potential. It is the Board's belief that the most desirable placement for children is the regular classroom - with appropriate special education services. For those students whose needs cannot be met in a regular class setting, more intensive special education services are provided.

Initiatives by the Special Education Department, in conjunction with the Curriculum Department, are fostering and sustaining achievement for all learners in elementary classrooms - including those with specific needs. A collaborative approach between the student and their family, the school team and our community partners is encouraged and transition planning is a priority.

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Transportation



FIRST TIME RIDERS PROGRAM

First Time Riders is an education and awareness program designed to promote school bus safety to young children and their parents. This fun learning experience familiarizes children who are just beginning school with school buses and provides information to children and their parents on school bus safety procedures, including how to get on and off the bus safely.

BUSTER THE BUS

CDSBEO has introduced "Buster the Bus," a robotic school bus who promotes bus safety. Buster speaks, listens and blinks, while educating on the importance of staying safe. Lovable Buster makes stops at elementary schools within the Board, delivering a consistent safety message to our students.

THE PURPLE BAND PROGRAM

The Purple Band Program helps to ensure that our JK and SK students will be met at the bus stop. The Purple Band lets bus drivers easily identify JK and SK students with just a quick glance.

TOKENS OF KINDNESS

Tokens of Kindness is a unique program to recognize acts of kindness and to help create a positive environment on the bus. Bus drivers are provided with "bus tokens" inscribed with the words "an act of kindness can change the world." These tokens may be distributed to students in recognition of acts of kindness, as a tangible tool to reinforce positive action on the bus.





VISION

Inspired by the teachings of Jesus Christ, we transform the world with justice and peace, through Catholic education.



MISSION

We proclaim our Catholic faith by nurturing and celebrating the hearts, minds, bodies and souls of our students.
Learning through faith, living with hope, loving in Christ.
Teaching wisdom, teaching love... creating a world in God's image.

Trustees & Senior Team

TRUSTEES

Sue Wilson, Chair (Prescott County and Russell County)
Karen McAllister, Vice-Chair (Dundas County and Stormont County)
Jennifer Cooney (Lanark County)
Christopher Cummings (City of Brockville, Town of Smiths Falls, and Leeds County)
Brent Laton (Elizabethtown-Kitley Township and Grenville County)
Donna Nielsen (City of Cornwall and Glengarry County)
Karen Torrie-Racine (City of Cornwall and Glengarry County)
Chloe Finner (Catholic Student Trustee)
Brooke Guindon (Associate Catholic Student Trustee)

SENIOR TEAM

Laurie Corrigan, Director of Education
Brent Bovaird, Superintendent of School Effectiveness
Dawn Finnegan, Superintendent of School Effectiveness
Heather Gerber, Superintendent of School Effectiveness
Ashley Hutchinson, Superintendent of Business
Norma McDonald, Superintendent of School Effectiveness
Tracy O'Brien, Superintendent of School Effectiveness



Tips for Helping Your Child

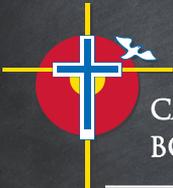


Here are some simple ways you can help your child make the most of Kindergarten:

- Make learning a regular activity in your home. Take time to read and play games with your child.
- Talk to the teacher and early childhood educators for other ways you can support your child at home every day. Ask specific questions about what your child learned or did during the day. For example: What centres did you work at today (for example, blocks, sand, water, library, dramatic play)? What did you do there?
- You had a special visitor in your class today. Who was it? What did they talk about? What did they bring with them?
- I saw the picture you did hanging on the bulletin board in your classroom. Tell me about how you made it. How did you decide what to draw?
- Show an interest in your child's learning – ask your child about his or her school day and make school and learning an important part of family conversation.
- Attend information meetings and other events organized for parents and families.
- Speak to your child's teacher or early childhood educator if you have any questions or concerns about your child's school experience.

For more information about our Board,
a list of schools, and available programs, visit:

www.cdsbeo.on.ca



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*Educating and inspiring...
heart, mind, body and soul!*

SUE WILSON CHAIR | LAURIE CORRIGAN DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

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