



CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL
BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

Get set for
KINDERGARTEN
A Guide for Parents



Director's message



Dear Parents and/or Guardians,

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.

John Cameron
Director of Education



☆ get set for ☆
KINDERGARTEN

Religious Education



THE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

The mission of the Catholic school is to educate and form students in faith, in partnership with the home and parish, so that they may become people of Christ. Catholic schools are schools of transformation, transforming not only students, but also society as a whole, into the image of Christ.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Catholic educators recognize that parents are the primary educators of their children in the areas of faith and morality. This education begins very early in a child's life through the experiences and life lessons they are taught at home and in their parish.

Catholic schools support this early faith development with Religious Education programs from Kindergarten through Grade 12. The Kindergarten Religious Education program, *In God's Image*, "...affirms the child in all areas of his or her growth, and celebrates the wonder of childhood as a trace of God."

The metaphor "a trace of God" is used to express how the activities, growth and very being of the child are gifts and reminders of God. "In God's Image" nurtures the faith of four and five year olds as they discover themselves in the traces of the goodness and beauty of God" (Catechist's Manual p. 32).

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.

Focused on excellence and student success, the Catholic school welcomes all children, with their individual gifts and talents, and creates a supportive learning environment where students have many opportunities to grow and to reach their full potential. 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

☆ Get set for ☆
KINDERGARTEN

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. Our Board is very proud to offer the following inclusive system-wide models that consolidate reading, writing and thinking skills, ensuring success for all:

FROG

Maximizing early reading strategies for each child is the goal of "Facilitating Reading for Optimum Growth" or FROG. FROG hops into action throughout primary classrooms, Grades 1 to 3. It develops reading skills through small groups, allowing the teacher to focus on the unique language development of each child.

HAWK

Developing writing strategies for all is the focus of "Higher Achievement in Writers' Know-how" or HAWK! HAWK soars to all regions of the Board's junior classrooms, Grades 4 to 6. It promotes the specific skills necessary to utilize the traits, processes, and genres of good writing. Through small flexible groupings, children interact with one another and are guided to become more effective writers and readers.

STOMP

Optimizing thinking skills for every learner is the purpose of "Success Through Optimizing My Potential" or STOMP. STOMP is a specialized program for our Grade 7 and 8 students which ensures the development of higher-order thinking and questioning skills.





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 Administration

TRUSTEES

Todd Lalonde, Chair (City of Cornwall and Glengarry County)
Sue Wilson, Vice-Chair (Prescott and Russell Counties)
Jennifer Cooney (Lanark County)
Ronald Eamer (City of Cornwall and Glengarry County)
Paula Hart (City of Brockville, Town of Smiths Falls, and Leeds County)
Brent Laton (Elizabethtown-Kitley Township and Grenville County)
Karen McAllister (Stormont and Dundas Counties)
Julia Vo (Catholic Student Trustee)
Ella Scott (Associate Catholic Student Trustee)

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

John Cameron, Director of Education
Bonnie Norton, Associate Director of Education
Brent Bovaird, Superintendent of School Effectiveness
Natalie Cameron, Superintendent of School Effectiveness
Heather Gerber, Superintendent of School Effectiveness
Norma McDonald, 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



CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL
BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

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

TODD LALONDE CHAIR | JOHN CAMERON DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

www.cdsbeo.on.ca



[facebook.com/
CDSBEO](https://facebook.com/CDSBEO)



[twitter.com/
CDSBEO](https://twitter.com/CDSBEO)



[youtube.com/
CDSBEOVideo](https://youtube.com/CDSBEOVideo)