

BREA CORBET

TRUSTEE - MISSISSAUGA, WARDS 9 AND 10



"Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God."

— Romans 15:7

September 2021

As we journey back to school with our Catholic school communities, we are guided by this year's theme for Catholic Education Week 2022 – *Rebuild, Restore, Renew Together*. Our education continues to be rooted in our Catholic doctrine and inspired by the life, mission and teachings of Jesus Christ.

This month, our virtue of **FAITH** calls us to walk together, to learn and grow, while deepening our faith. Our personal relationship with Christ helps us become more like Him. The apostles said to the Lord, "Make our faith greater." I am inspired by the reminder that our faith is so important, especially in very difficult times.

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

The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB) is one of the largest and most diverse school districts in Ontario. We serve approximately 77,000 students and employ over 11,000 staff throughout Mississauga, Brampton, Caledon and Dufferin County. DPCDSB has grown from 23 founding schools to 151 Catholic schools (125 elementary and 26 secondary) in over fifty years. We work in partnership with 46 churches and missions and are blessed to have the collaboration of our priests, clergy and Catholic church communities to enrich the Catholic education in our schools.

Welcome back

The familiarity of back-to-school routines will continue to have health and safety measures in consultation with our local Peel Public Health unit and the Ministry of Education, regarding masking, hand hygiene, symptom screening, class cohorts, etc. To this end, our Board of Trustees, administrators and staff at all levels of the organization, have been working diligently to prepare for the reopening of schools and a return to learning to support our students, both in-person and online. We are committed to providing and maintaining a safe and healthy environment to learn, play and work.

We express our gratitude to parents and guardians for your support and feedback along this journey. Through the pandemic, the Continuity of Catholic Learning has been so important. I recognize that parents/guardians will have many questions. The DPCDSB endeavors to communicate board updates and provide as much information as possible, throughout the school year. Please refer to the board website: www.dpcdsb.org. The [School Information and Updates](#) webpage contains lots of current information, including all the latest bulletins, letters, etc., that are shared with the community.

Your DPCDSB Trustee in Mississauga Wards 9 and 10

I am so pleased that you have chosen a Catholic education for your child(ren). As a mother of three school-aged children in DPCDSB schools, I know the value and importance of Catholic education. I look forward to continuing to serve our school communities alongside our families, educators, Catholic School Councils, volunteers, student monitors, custodians, bus drivers, crossing guards, etc. It is my hope that you feel welcomed at your school, whether you are new or returning, learning in class, or participating in online learning from home.

Extraordinary lives start with a great Catholic education.

As your elected DPCDSB Catholic School Trustee in Mississauga - Wards 9 and 10, I am one of eleven Trustees who serve on our board. My role is to develop and shape board policy, promote and protect Catholic education, advocate for student achievement and wellbeing, approve the corporate capital and operating budgets, as well as contribute to the development of our Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP). I also represent you and your child(ren) on the Board of Trustees, so knowing my communities is crucial to my involvement in our decision making processes. Since the school closures at the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020, the work has continued to advance our board, collaborate with staff and address the concerns from our parents/guardians, students and communities.

School Reopening 2021 – On August 3, the Ontario Ministry of Education (the Ministry) released the COVID-19: Health, Safety and Operational Guidance for Schools (2021 – 2022). The guidance document was also updated on August 11, 2021 - [COVID-19 Guidance: School Case, Contact, and Outbreak Management](#) and is available online for parents/guardians. The Government of Ontario also announced on August 17, 2021 that it will implement an immunization disclosure policy for all publicly-funded school board employees. We await further direction from the Ministry, in this regard.

Parent/Guardian Learning Mode – A survey was developed by the DPCDSB to gather feedback from families regarding their plans for their children's learning in 2021-2022. A total of 37,359 students were listed in the survey data. Calculations based on the survey responses and projected 2021-2022 enrollment show that approximately 91% of students would physically access learning at school starting September 2021. However, results differed by panel:

- Approximately 93% of elementary students plan to physically attend school, while 7% selected daily remote learning. Only 32 elementary students indicated they would leave DPCDSB.
- Approximately 88% of secondary students plan to physically attend school, while 12% selected daily remote learning. Only 16 indicated they would leave DPCDSB.

For more information on DPCDSB Reopening Plans, please visit DPCDSB website: www.dpcdsb.org

Ventilation – All DPCDSB schools and board facilities are supplied by mechanical ventilation systems of various types. In other words, there are currently no schools at DPCDSB relying on "natural ventilation" as the main source for fresh air supply. Since the start of the pandemic, DPCDSB has invested \$6.8 million at 20 schools on various mechanical projects, including air handling unit replacements, heat pump replacements, exhaust fan replacements, and provision of unit ventilators, which will improve the ventilation and air quality in those schools. Currently, DPCDSB has 58 schools (representing 36% of all schools) that are supplied with 100% fresh air and do not recirculate air. Also, all DPCDSB schools provide mechanical ventilation. In addition, a further 45 schools have had ventilation upgrades either recently completed or in the process of being completed.


DPCDSB also received additional Federal COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream (CVRIS) infrastructure funding this year to address various school retrofits, including improvements to ventilation and air quality. DPCDSB is spending \$13 million in CVRIS funding at 25 schools on new air handling equipment and exhaust fan replacements to improve ventilation. Approximately \$20 million has been spent in 2020 and 2021 on HVAC system equipment upgrades/improvements. Approximately \$3.4 million has been spent on portable HEPA air filtration units and MERV 13 filter upgrades, and recommissioning of ventilation systems to improve air quality. DPCDSB has purchased 1500 portable HEPA filters to be distributed primarily in schools/portables that do not have air-conditioning.

In addition to equipment upgrades, DPCDSB has used Federal Ventilation/Air Quality funding to invest in portable HEPA air filtration units and upgrade air filters to MERV-13 to improve air quality and increase the number of fresh air exchanges per hour. HVAC retrofits and upgrades to DPCDSB's remaining 48 schools is part of a continued long-term facilities plan that is based on the need/condition of the asset and available resources (i.e., funding). DPCDSB's maintenance team continually inspects the ventilation equipment at these schools to ensure equipment is in good operational condition.

DPCDSB follows all the current ASHRAE, Canadian Standards Association and Ontario Building Code standards, as well as using the Public Health Ontario recommendations for the operation of HVAC systems in schools during COVID-19. For new installations, DPCDSB pursues a higher capacity of fresh air intake than the minimum standard requirements. The air quality in schools is closely monitored and controlled using building automation systems. Fresh air intake is dynamically adjusted and increased when outdoor temperature permits. Air quality evaluations are based on air exchanges that all DPCDSB buildings' HVAC units can accommodate based on the type of equipment and system design. All the HVAC system types and designs are evaluated and reviewed to determine which schools to address. Operable windows in classrooms are used as a supplementary means to enhance ventilation as needed.

Standardized School Ventilation Measures Report - The Ministry of Education has mandated that all school boards communicate school-level ventilation measures centrally on their school board website using a Ministry-issued standardized template. A sample copy of this template can be found below. This report will be based on the school-by-school measures already completed over the summer, along with continuing inspection and maintenance throughout the year. The report will be posted on DPCDSB's public website in September 2021.

Three DPCDSB approved consultants are currently engaged to conduct an independent, third party ventilation inspection at all DPCDSB schools and to prepare the required Standardized School Ventilation Measures Report. An inspection checklist recommended by the Ministry of Education is being used for these inspections. This independent and objective assessment is a continued measure to further enhance our ventilation system program in addition to the ongoing inspections and maintenance already performed by DPCDSB Maintenance staff.

 DUFFERIN-PEEL CATHOLIC DSB SCHOOL BOARD VENTILATION PROFILE	
Select your school here	
School Name	Bishop Francis Allen
Ventilation System	Mechanical Ventilation
School Ventilation and Filtration Measures*	
Ventilation assessed	✓
Running ventilation systems longer	✓
Higher grade filters installed	✓
Increased frequency of filter changes	✓
Increased fresh air intake (windows and/or mechanical ventilation systems)	✓
Standalone HEPA** filter units deployed in portables, as needed	Not Applicable
Standalone HEPA filter units in place	18

*Some measures may not be feasible within the context of a school facility/site and related building systems.

**High-Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA)

Courtesy School Bus Riding – Given ongoing concerns with the transmissibility of COVID-19 and the number of reported outbreaks involving school buses during the 2020-2021 school year, Peel Public Health has recommended the continuation of the suspension of courtesy seating on school buses for the 2021-2022 school year. As a result, STOPR will not be accepting any requests for courtesy seating. Student transportation will continue to be provided to all eligible students. As with other measures that have been taken to support our cautious approach to re-opening DPCDSB schools, the board will continue to monitor the situation on the ground and follow the guidance of Peel Public Health with respect to any potential changes.

Mental Health - As a Catholic community of learners, we are committed to nurturing hope and resilience as we return to school and throughout the year. DPCDSB's mental health resources for 2021-2022 promote mentally healthy, faith-filled spaces that help all learners, especially those who have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 and other world events, to feel safe, confident, included, cared-for, heard and honoured, whether they attend class in-person or remotely. Parents/guardians can discuss any concerns with their children's teacher and/or school administrator. [Mental health resources are also available online](#)

Catholic School Councils – Catholic School Council meetings share important information about updates, issues, and changes at your local school. I love hearing from you about the great things happening in our schools. I encourage you to attend your council meetings and in fact, put your name forward to be a voting member of your council. I will continue to update you on current information that is important to you, by way of my monthly newsletters. Schools are also advised to provide updated meeting minutes and agenda items on their school websites to ensure all school communities stay informed.

It is the policy of DPCDSB that each school under its supervision have a Catholic School Council, advisory in nature, and governed by the Education Act. The primary means of achieving its' purpose is by making recommendations, in accordance with Regulation 612/00, to the Principal of the school and to the school board.

PURPOSE - The purpose of Catholic School Councils through the active participation of parents is to:

1. Promote the mission, vision and values of the board;
2. Support the sacramental life and Catholic practices of the board;
3. Promote and support co-operation and communication with the local parish and OAPCE;
4. Be faithful to its' mission;
5. Improve student well-being and achievement and;
6. Enhance the accountability of the education system to parents.

Are you TICKED? – Many Catholics are surprised to find out that they may be registered as a Public School Supporter in terms of their School Support designation.. To verify that you are an English Catholic School Supporter, please check the assessment section of your Tax Bill or Property Assessment Notice. **NOTE:** If you have moved over the summer, your English Catholic School Supporter designation DOES NOT follow you when you relocate. Every time you move or if there is a change in ownership, you must register again as an English Catholic School Supporter. Your record of school support is used to determine the number of trustees that can represent ratepayers within a jurisdiction and serves as an indicator of support for Catholic education in the province. It also allows you to vote for Catholic school trustees in the municipal elections held every four years. To register, check or change your Direction of School Support Designation, please contact our Admissions Department at 905-890-0708, ext. 24512 or email: admissions@dpcdsb.org.

Meetings of the Board of Trustees and Committees of the Board take place virtually via teleconference on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. (unless otherwise noted). All parents/guardians are invited and encouraged to call in to listen to these public meetings to stay updated and informed. [Meeting schedules, agendas and minutes are also available online](#).

I am proud to be your Dufferin-Peel Catholic School Trustee. Despite the many challenges placed before us, our schools provide exceptional quality educational opportunities in a Catholic environment for all of our students.

Yours in learning, growing and leading with Christ,

Trustee Brea Corbet