

September 1, 2022

As we complete our final preparations for return to school on Tuesday, September 6, I want to first give you a big welcome on behalf of all DPCDSB staff. We look forward to seeing your children and to meeting parents and guardians in person after two plus years of operating in a pandemic environment.

While we will still maintain many of the health and safety protocols that have been in place, we will strive to ensure that students are provided with as many opportunities as possible to experience the full educational experience, including many of the extra-curricular activities, i.e., clubs, athletics, etc., that are so essential to promoting student well-being.

This Bulletin outlines a few broad key reminders and updates. More information will come forward to you, both centrally from the Board, and locally from your child(ren)'s school(s).

May God bless you, your children, and your family throughout the upcoming school year as we all work together to provide you and your children with an extraordinary Catholic education experience!

HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS – DPCDSB continues to promote measures to enhance health and safety in schools including:

- ➔ **Daily self-screening** - It is recommended that staff, students and visitors continue to self-screen every day before attending school using the Province of Ontario's [COVID-19 school and childcare screening tool](#).
- ➔ **Vaccine clinics** – We will share information about vaccine clinics from our community health partners on an ongoing basis.
- ➔ **Masking** – Wearing a mask is optional and a personal choice of the student/staff member. We respect each person's personal choice to wear, or not wear a mask, in this regard. Masks (medical grade and N95) will be available for staff across all DPCDSB schools and non-medical cloth masks will be available for students at all DPCDSB schools.
- ➔ **Take Home Rapid Antigen Tests** - The Ministry will continue to offer access to rapid antigen tests for students and staff, in alignment with [provincial testing guidance](#). The rapid antigen tests will be provided to staff/students upon their request, and/or upon return from an unplanned absence.
- ➔ **Absence Reporting** – DPCDSB schools will continue to track absence rates and communicate information with our regional public health units when these rates increase above 30% of the school's baseline level. If the absence rates cannot be explained by a specific occurrence, such as a holiday/special event, then our regional public health units may provide a letter to inform the school community. The Ministry of Education no longer tracks and posts school absences.

Extraordinary lives start with a great Catholic education.

- **Water Fountains** - There are no longer any restrictions on the use of water fountains, however, individuals are encouraged to use fountains to fill a cup/bottle from which to drink.
- **Communication of Suspected COVID Cases** - DPCDSB will continue to be transparent as it relates to COVID-19 cases, where principals will be required to provide a notification letter to the school community.

VENTILATION IN SCHOOLS

Significant improvements have been made to ventilation and filtration through the implementation of various measures across all DPCDSB schools, including to existing ventilation systems, deployment of standalone HEPA filter units, and upgrades to school ventilation infrastructure. DPCDSB will continue to review ongoing opportunities for investments for upgrades based on available funding from the Ministry of Education.

The Ministry of Education requires all school boards to publicly post standardized ventilation measures report for the 2022-2023 school year as an update to the information originally posted in August 2021. Updated school-level information for all DPCDSB schools is available on the DPCDSB website.

CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

Students in elementary school will receive a message from the school regarding the classroom to which they should report on the first day of school. Elementary remote only students will receive an email from the classroom teacher inviting them to the Learning Management System.

COMMUNICATIONS

It is the practice of DPCDSB to share information with parents/guardians and staff in an open and transparent manner and on an ongoing basis. One of our primary communications delivery methods to parents/guardians is through the SchoolMessenger email broadcast system. We also share information with the broader community through our social media channels, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and through our YouTube channel. We encourage you to follow us on these channels, which are listed below.

- Twitter @DPCDSBSchools
- Facebook @DPCDSBSchools
- Instagram dpcdsb.schools
- YouTube DPCDSBVideos

BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

After two plus years of all meetings being conducted on the Zoom platform, we have returned to live in-person Board meetings. Commencing with the September 27 Meeting, Board meetings will be held in-person at the Catholic Education Centre, 40 Matheson Blvd. West, Mississauga.

Board and Committee Meetings, (i.e., Administration and Finance, Faith and Program, etc.,) will be streamed live on the DPCDSB YouTube channel (DPCDSBVideos). Check the DPCDSB [Board Meetings webpage](#) for meeting dates and times. We encourage you to tune in if you can. All meetings will be recorded and posted to the YouTube channel as well.

UPCOMING PA DAYS

Elementary Schools

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| 1. Thursday, September 1, 2022 | Provincial Priorities in a Catholic Context |
| 2. Monday, September 19, 2022 | Principal's Day: Reorganization/Faith Development |
| 3. Monday, October 24, 2022 | Provincial Priorities in a Catholic Context |
| 4. Friday, November 25, 2022 | Provincial Priorities in a Catholic Context |
| 5. Monday, January 23, 2023 | Term 1 Assessment and Evaluation of Pupil Progress |
| 6. Friday, February 17, 2023 | Reporting to Parents |
| 7. Monday, June 12, 2023 | Term 2 Assessment and Evaluation of Pupil Progress |

St. Sofia School ONLY

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| 1. Thursday, September 1, 2022 | Provincial Priorities in a Catholic Context |
| 2. Monday, October 24, 2022 | Provincial Priorities in a Catholic Context |
| 3. Friday, November 25, 2022 | Provincial Priorities in a Catholic Context |
| 4. Monday, January 23, 2023 | Term 1 Assessment and Evaluation of Pupil Progress |
| 5. Friday, February 17, 2023 | Reporting to Parents |
| 6. Friday, April 14, 2023 | Principal's Day: Faith Development |
| 7. Monday, June 12, 2023 | Term 2 Assessment and Evaluation of Pupil Progress |

Secondary Schools

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| 1. Thursday, September 1, 2022 | Provincial Priorities in a Catholic Context |
| 2. Monday, October 24, 2022 | Provincial Priorities in a Catholic Context |
| 3. Friday, November 25, 2022 | Provincial Priorities in a Catholic Context |
| 4. Thursday, February 2, 2023 | Principal's Day: Semester Turnaround |
| 5. Wednesday, June 28, 2023 | *Principal's Day: Year End Reporting and Activities |
| 6. Thursday, June 29, 2023 | *Principal's Day: Year End Reporting and Activities |
| 7. Friday, June 30, 2023 | *Principal's Day: Year End Reporting and Activities |

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

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| 1. Labour Day | Monday, September 5, 2022 |
| 2. Thanksgiving Day | Monday, October 10, 2022 |
| 3. Christmas Break | Friday, December 23, 2022 to Friday, January 6, 2023 (inclusive) |
| 4. Family Day | Monday, February 20, 2023 |
| 5. Mid-Winter Break | Monday, March 13, 2023 to Friday, March 17, 2023 (inclusive) |
| 6. Good Friday | Friday, April 7, 2023 |
| 7. Easter Monday | Monday, April 10, 2023 |
| 8. Victoria Day | Monday, May 22, 2023 |

Thank you for your attention to these important updates and reminders. If you have any questions, please connect with your school. As we embark on the 2022-2023 School Year, we share this prayer for a fresh start amid renewed optimism for a safe and healthy school year for all students and staff.

Marianne Mazzorato, Ed.D.
Director of Education

PRAYER FOR A NEW SCHOOL YEAR

The new school year invites us to reflect upon our personal, professional, and spiritual journey and growth.

The theme chosen by the Ontario Catholic School Trustees Association for the upcoming 2023 Catholic Education Week of April 30 to May 5, 2023 is: **Catholic Education: We are Many, We are One**

"We, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members, one of another." (Romans 12:5)

May we, as we embark into a new school year, answer the call to be united as one body in Christ throughout this entire year. And so, with the words of the Catholic Education Week prayer let us pray and allow these words to guide us each and every day.

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

We are many, we are one; we all form one body in Christ.

Lord, when we see the one before us, let us reverence your presence within;

when we listen to one another, let us hear with our hearts;

when we reflect on each encounter, may we discern to understand;

when we learn from those around us, let us respect our differences with joy;

and when we act, may we be kind and generous to all,

for each person is a member of your body, with all that they are.

We are many, we are one.

Amen.

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