

October 8, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians of Elementary Students:

We are making changes to our elementary learning model with a target date to begin November 2, 2020 to ensure that all students are aligned to their home school for assigned grades and teaching staff.

The separate virtual school will no longer exist, as all students will rejoin their peers at their home school. Students who are currently in the virtual school will continue to learn remotely but aligned to their home school.

Students who have chosen to attend school face-to-face will now be learning with their face-to-face classmates and with the students who are at home learning remotely. Students who have chosen remote learning will return to their own school community taking classes with teachers and students from their home school.

We will no longer require specific change in learning modes dates for the remainder of the school year. If parents wish to transition their child(ren) from face-to face to remote learning, they may do so at any time. Principals will accommodate parent requests for their child(ren) to move from remote to face-to-face learning where there is enough space in the classroom to maintain physical distancing and subject to the availability of transportation, if eligible.

We recognize that this is a change in learning modes. This change is necessary to ensure all students have access to the programs offered in the DPCDSB and to provide flexibility regarding learning modes in this time of uncertainty created by the COVID19 pandemic. It is important to note that a re-organization of face-to-face classes was to occur regardless of the changes being implemented. A significant number of parents continue to opt for virtual learning for their child(ren), resulting in fewer students enrolled in existing face-to-face classrooms. In order to staff the virtual school, face-to-face classes would have to be re-organized to align with overall Board staffing ratios. The re-organization of classes would have to be repeated in February to accommodate parental choice for learning modes. We do not believe the frequent reorganization of classes is in the best interest, first and foremost of our students, nor of our staff.

As Catholic communities of faith, the opportunity for all DPCDSB students and staff to rejoin their home school nurtures community, belonging and well-being in the context of who we are called to be to each other, something that is even more important given the times we are in. Rest assured, we are committed to providing a Catholic education for our students and a work environment for our dedicated employees where all *Believe, Thrive, Excel, Respect and Trust*.

As you can appreciate, this will require significant reorganization and re-staffing of schools. As such, you can anticipate that your child may be reassigned to another class and/or teacher when the

reorganization occurs. Your principal will keep you duly informed. We thank you for your patience and understanding should your child be transferred to another class.

A reminder that, if you wish to make a change, please ensure that you complete the survey sent out earlier this week, even if you are on a wait list. If you don't wish to switch learning modes there is no need to complete the survey.

As we prepare for this upcoming Thanksgiving celebration, a time of year when we are especially grateful, on behalf of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic School Board of Trustees and employees, I extend my deepest gratitude for your continued support of the Catholic Education we provide.

May God continue to bless you and your families and keep you safe.

Marianne Mazzorato, Ed.D.
Director of Education

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