

## Letter from the Director of Education Elementary Learning Mode Update

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November 9, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Effective Monday, November 16, the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board will operate under two modes of education at the elementary level:

- Hybrid mode, where students who are physically in school and students who are at home are taught at the same time by the same teacher, and;
- Remote only mode, where students will learn from home for the remainder of the school year.

### **OVERVIEW OF THE HYBRID AND REMOTE ONLY LEARNING MODES:**

We recognize the hybrid learning mode is a new model of education delivery. We remain committed to providing an excellent Catholic education for all students. During this time of pandemic, and particularly in the Region of Peel, where we are seeing high rates of positive COVID-19 cases and daily class dismissals in schools, we must acknowledge the need for a learning mode that permits the seamless transition to remote learning for all students, if required.

We endeavour to maintain safe learning environments and have established strict health and safety protocols for staff and students, yet we are keenly aware of the need for a mode of learning that permits students to continue with their education should their parents/guardians decide to keep their child(ren) home.

The hybrid mode allows parents/guardians to alternate their choice to have their child(ren) learn in-school or at home for the remainder of the school year. The remote only mode requires a commitment to the end of the school year by parents/guardians to have their child(ren) learn in the remote only option.

### **CLASS REORGANIZATION IN BOTH HYBRID AND REMOTE LEARNING MODES**

Recent survey data, regarding the change in delivery mode for each student, has been analyzed and school staff are presently undergoing the reorganization and re-staffing process. Reorganization will be extensive in each school as there are approximately 7,000 students returning to our elementary schools to learn in the hybrid mode and they must be accommodated by creating classes and moving students from one class to another. For this reason, most students will likely have a new teacher and/or new classmates by the completion of reorganization prior to November 16. Re-organization will impact current remote only and in-person classes. Furthermore, students who are presently in a straight grade class may be reorganized into a combined grade class, and vice versa. This is the reality of staffing when we are required to maintain specific class size averages across the entire system.

It is important to note that a November reorganization was scheduled to take place, regardless of the hybrid mode being offered. It was also scheduled to take place again in February. However, this will be the last reorganization for the remainder of the school year. We know that this is another change for children. However, this reorganization is required to create classes that meet physical distancing requirements and to ensure all students are afforded continuity of learning during the time of uncertainty we all continue to face.

Parents/guardians of students who will be learning in the hybrid mode will be notified of their child(ren)'s new classroom and teacher prior to Monday, November 16.

## **INFORMATION SPECIFIC TO THE HYBRID LEARNING MODE**

For the remainder of the year, each hybrid learning class has been established to ensure that space is available for student(s) who may wish to attend school in-person on any given day. Although it is hard to predict, it is expected that on some days more children will attend school in-person than on others. Regardless of the mode of attendance in the hybrid learning mode (remote or in-person), parents/guardians can be assured that their child(ren)'s access to Catholic education will continue.

While parent(s)/guardian(s) who have chosen the hybrid mode have the flexibility, on a daily basis, to choose whether your child(ren) will attend school in-person or remotely, we will have specific requirements of you to ensure compliance with our Safe Arrival program. Your school will require you to identify your preferred attendance mode for your child(ren), i.e., in-person or remote. If you choose in-person as your preferred mode, on those days that your child attends remotely, please anticipate a message from the school informing you that your child attended remotely. If you choose remote as your preferred mode, please anticipate a message from the school on days in which your child attended in-person. Please be assured that your child(ren)'s attendance will not be negatively impacted. We want to ensure parents are aware when a change from the learning mode occurs. Please note that only students that are eligible for transportation will be provided with busing in the hybrid model.

## **REMOTE ONLY LEARNING MODE**

Students who are in the remote only mode will receive an invitation to their Learning Management System or Google Classroom through email prior to Monday, November 16. Remote only classes have been aligned to physical schools from where the remote teacher will teach and the school bell times, i.e., start of day and end of day, will be the same as the hours of that particular school. Your child(ren)'s teacher will inform you of the school hours. Should you require to contact your child(ren)'s principal of the remote only class, it will be the principal of the physical school in which the remote class teacher is located. You will still receive communication from your home school.

More information regarding processes and procedures related to the remote only learning mode will be provided through your child(ren)'s teacher.

## **UPCOMING PARENT ENGAGEMENT MEETING- HYBRID LEARNING MODE**

An online parent engagement evening is planned for Thursday, November 12 regarding the hybrid learning mode.

We thank you for your patience, understanding, and support as we move forward with this reorganization.

May God bless you and your families and keep you safe and healthy.



Marianne Mazzorato, Ed.D.  
Director of Education