

September 2024

To our new and returning students and families, **WELCOME to the 2024 – 2025** school year. The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB) is rooted in Catholic doctrine and inspired by the life, gospel values, and teachings of Jesus Christ. A personal relationship with Christ calls us to become more like Him. This month, the virtue of FAITH calls us to walk together and deepen our faith. As we begin our 2024 – 2025 school year, our Catholic school communities are guided by this year's Catholic Education Week theme: *Pilgrims of Hope*. More information is available on the [Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association \(OCSTA\) website](#).

DPCDSB is one of the largest and most diverse school boards in Ontario, serving approximately 72,000 students and employing approximately 10,500 staff in Mississauga, Brampton, Caledon, and Dufferin County. DPCDSB has grown from 23 founding Catholic schools to 151 schools (125 elementary and 26 secondary) over the past fifty years. Alongside the pastoral leadership of the Archdiocese of Toronto, we work closely and in partnership with 46 Catholic churches and missions. Our DPCDSB communities are supported with an enriching Catholic education that nurtures student achievement and faith development. We are committed to ensuring safe, caring, inclusive Catholic school communities, in which every student can learn, grow, and succeed.

Role of the Catholic School Trustee – DPCDSB is overseen by a board of eleven (11) elected Catholic School Trustees. Trustees work collaboratively with staff to ensure that concerns from parents/guardians and students are addressed. Your Catholic School Trustees play a key leadership role in setting the strategic direction of our school board and support efforts to enhance academic success and well-being. Together, we develop board policies, approve the corporate capital and operating budgets, establish the Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP), as well as work to promote and protect publicly funded Catholic education.

DPCDSB 2023-2024 Ontario Scholars – Ontario Scholars are recognized for achieving an average of 80% or higher on their top six Grade 12 courses. For the 2023 – 2024 school year, DPCDSB is proud to announce 3,933 graduates earned this distinction. Congratulations to all DPCDSB graduates and we wish you God's blessings as you go forward in your journey of learning and future career goals. [Learn more.](#)



Herman Viloría

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Teach me
to do your will,
for you are
my God.

- Psalm 143:10



Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board

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Ministry of Education Curriculum Updates – The Ministry continues to work through a renewal of curriculum documents with a focus on overhauling the requirements for completion of the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). This is the first overhaul to secondary diploma requirements since 1999 and has been designed by the Ministry to ensure students are equipped to handle the demands for jobs needed in today’s global economy.

- **Financial Literacy Graduation Requirement** – has been added to the graduation requirements of the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). Students entering Grade 9 in September 2024 are required to pass a financial literacy test with a score of 70% as part of their graduation requirements. A student’s first attempt is taken during the Grade 10 mathematics course. If unsuccessful, a student will have the opportunity to rewrite the test. If still unsuccessful, credit recovery and other supports will be put into place to obtain completion of this requirement. This test is based on cumulative financial literacy learned from Grade 1 through 9.
- **Mathematics** – An additional change to mathematic course requirements takes effect for the Grade 9 course. All students entering Grade 9 in September 2024 will now have 10% of their final grade in their course derived from their EQAO assessment.
- **Technological Credit** – Changes have been made to the compulsory credit requirements for the OSSD. Students beginning secondary school in September 2024 must obtain one (1) credit in technological education in Grade 9 or 10.
- **STEM** – For the required compulsory credits, the three Group 1, 2, and 3 compulsory credits have been replaced with one science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM) related course group credit. The STEM related course group includes business studies, computer studies, cooperative education, mathematics (in addition to the three (3) required compulsory credits in this subject), science (in addition to the two (2) compulsory credits in this subject) and technological education (in addition to the one (1) compulsory credit in this subject).
- **Credits** – The number of required compulsory credits has been reduced to 17 (from the previous total of 18). Secondary students continue to be required to earn 30 credits to graduate.
- **OYAP** – The Ministry has also announced a new stream to extend the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP), which will allow students in Grade 11 and 12 to participate in more apprenticeship learning through additional co-operative education credits. This stream will be recognized by a specific seal on the student’s diploma. More details are expected to be forthcoming from the Ministry.
- **Mental Health** – Two (2) new learning modules focused on student mental health and well-being have been added to GLC20 - the Grade 10 Career Studies course.

Catholic School Councils (CSC) – Communication between home, school and parish is enhanced with active parent involvement in our schools and CSC. Council meetings are an opportunity to share important information and updates while engaging families in the local school decision-making process. It is the policy of DPCDSB that each school has a CSC, which is advisory in nature, and governed by the Ontario Education Act. CSCs are empowered to make recommendations, in accordance with Regulation 612/00 of the Education Act, to the school principal and the school board and serve to:

- Promote the mission, vision, and values of the board;
- Support the sacramental life and Catholic practices of the board;
- Promote and support co-operation and communication with the local parish and the Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education (OAPCE);
- Be faithful to its' mission;
- Improve student well-being and achievement and;
- Enhance the accountability of the education system to parents.

Parents/guardians are encouraged to attend your school's CSC meetings and to consider putting your name forward to become a voting member on your council. All schools are advised to post their updated meeting minutes and agenda items on their school websites to ensure all members of the school community can stay informed.

Direction of School Support – Show your support for the Catholic education system by ensuring you are registered as an English Separate (Catholic) School Supporter on your property tax designation.

By directing your tax support to the Separate (Catholic) School System:

- You may vote for Catholic School Trustees in Municipal elections
- Your children may attend Catholic elementary schools
- You show your support for the Catholic school system

To verify your school support designation, please check the assessment section of your Tax Bill or Property Assessment Notice.

Have you moved? – Even if you have been an English Separate (Catholic) School Supporter in the past, the designation does NOT follow you when you relocate. By default, your property taxes support the municipality's English public school board. Every time you move or if there is a change of ownership, it is essential that you register yourself as an English Separate (Catholic) school supporter. To register or change your Direction of School Support, please contact the DPCDSB Admissions Department by phone at 905-890-0708 ext. 24512 or by email at admissions@dpcdsb.org.

School Year Calendar – The DPCDSB’s [2024 - 2025 school year calendar](#) is available on the board’s website. This includes school holidays, professional activity days (PA days) and examination days for secondary schools.

Thank you for choosing a Catholic education for your child(ren).

Trustee Herman Vilorio
Mississauga - Ward 2 & 8

UPCOMING DATES

Month of September: Ukrainian Heritage Month (National)

September 3 – First Day of School (Elementary and Secondary)

September 7 – Ukrainian Heritage Day (Provincial)

September 8 – UNESCO's International Literacy Day

September 8 – Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

September 12 – Memorial of The Most Holy Name of Mary

September 13 – Memorial of St. John Chrysostom, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

September 14 – Feast of The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

September 15 – Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows

September 16 – PA Day (Elementary Schools)

September 21 – Feast of Apostle and Evangelist St. Matthew

September 23 – Memorial of St. Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)

September 25 – Franco-Ontario Day (Provincial)

September 23-27 - Truth and Reconciliation Week

September 26 – Feast of the Canadian Martyrs: St. Jean De Brebeuf and St. Isaac Jogues, Priests, and Companions, Secondary Patrons of Canada

September 27 – Memorial of St. Vincent De Paul, Priest

September 29 – Feast of the Archangels St. Michael (Patron of the Archdiocese of Toronto), St. Gabriel & St. Raphael

September 29 – World Day of Migrants and Refugees

September 30 – National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

September 30 – Orange Shirt Day