

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.

November 2023

This month's virtue of **conscience** is a reminder for us to welcome Christ into our minds and our hearts through the decisions we make and the actions we take.

Take Our Kids to Work Day – Take Our Kids to Work Day is an annual career exploration event, held every November, where Grade 9 students across Canada spend the day in the life of a working professional. This year's event takes place on Wednesday, November 1. The program supports career development by helping students connect school and the world of work and fascinating way to explore the world of work, think about career options, and make informed educational decisions.

DPCDSB Policy Review – The *Education Act* and Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board's (DPCDSB) *Policy 1.00 Overall Governance: Mission, Vision, Multi-Year Strategic Plan, By-Laws, and Policies* require periodic review and maintenance of policies and their associated General Administrative Procedures (GAPs). This process includes trustee input, followed by consultation with various internal and external community stakeholders. Additionally, policies and organizational structures must promote the goals set out in their Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP) and encourage pupils to pursue their educational goals. As a result of the review cycle and Ministry of Education requirements, DPCDSB staff has conducted an extensive analysis of policies that require review and/or development. More information at our Bylaw and Policy Review Committee Meeting Minutes on October 17, 2023.

Math Achievement Action Plan – In September 2023, the Ministry of Education (the Ministry) launched its *Math Achievement Action Plan*, a strategy to boost math confidence and competence. Provincial student math achievement priorities are focused on helping students improve math achievement, as demonstrated through Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) scores and preparing students for future success. Educators at all levels of the school system are working to establish a culture of excellence in mathematics and setting conditions for success. We strive to meet students where they are and invite them to build a deeper understanding of the math curricula through high-impact instructional practices in mathematics to support their learning and enhance their success.

The Board of Trustees' - Faith and Program Committee Meeting of October 10, 2023 includes a fulsome report that highlights how DPCDSB is responding to the goals and priorities of the *Ministry's Math Achievement Action Plan*. Specifically, it outlines how



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*"...making every effort to
maintain the unity of the
Spirit in the bond of peace."*

Ephesians 4:3

AGENDA AND MINUTES Board and Committee Meetings

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our board is leveraging a variety of resources to support students and enhance their mathematics learning experience, while responding to students' strengths and needs.

Ministry Curriculum Updates – The Ontario Ministry of Education (the Ministry) has implemented significant updates to the curriculum in both the elementary and secondary panels. The following summarizes the report presented at the Board of Trustees' - Faith and Program Committee Meeting of October 10, 2023:

Elementary Curriculum Updates

- Mathematics** – In September 2020, the Ministry released *The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1-8, Mathematics 2020* to replace the mathematics curriculum published in 2005. There is an emphasis throughout the curriculum to make connections to relevant real-life examples that connect math to everyday life, to encourage children to be confident mathematicians that see and use math in their everyday living experiences. Coding is introduced in this rewrite of the curriculum to improve problem solving and develop children's fluency with technology. Fundamental math concepts, such as learning facts, are included to enhance problem solving and mental math skills. The importance of tool use is also elevated in this curriculum to support problem solving skills.
- Science and Technology** – Effective September 2022, the Ministry implemented an updated elementary science and technology curriculum to replace the curriculum document issued in 2007. New in the update *The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1-8: Science and Technology 2022*, and of particular importance, is the emphasis on the practical application of science and technology in everyday life and the emphasis on cross curricular connections. Coding and the importance of STEM is also new to this curriculum. This addition mirrors the addition of coding in the 2020 mathematics curriculum and is designed to build children's confidence and fluency with technology.
- Language Arts** – Effective September 2023, the elementary language arts curriculum has been updated from the 2006 version with the release of the document *The Ontario Curriculum Grades 1-8: Language 2023*. Problem solving and critical thinking are prioritized in this updated curriculum. The rewrite of the language arts curriculum is informed by the recommendations in the Ontario Human Rights Commission's *Right to Read* inquiry report. Evidence based and systematic language instruction is significant in this curriculum edition. The importance of digital literacy is brought to the forefront, and the skills of printing, cursive writing and word processing are part of the changes in composition expectations. In developing knowledge about texts, students have greater access to creators with diverse identities, perspectives, and experiences, including diverse First Nations, Métis and Inuit contributors.
- Indigenous Education** – Effective September 2023, the Ministry revised and published updated curriculum documents in social studies in Grades 1-3 and in the Grade 6 curriculum. In social studies, students in the primary Grades 1-3 learn about the impact of colonization, including the residential school system and how this has impacted First Nations, Metis, and Inuit individuals and communities. Students also learn about how Indigenous peoples are reclaiming their traditions, customs, teachings, and celebrations. Connections to a person's relationship with and responsibility to the environment are introduced to help understand the interrelationship between Indigenous people and the land and learn about treaties and their impact in Grade 3.
- Holocaust Education** – In Grade 6 social studies, students learn about the experience and contributions of Jewish communities and the impact of antisemitism on these communities. Students study the response of the Canadian government to human rights violations during the Holocaust and understand our government's response to acts of hate and human rights violations.

Secondary Curriculum Updates - The Ministry's focus on destreaming courses in Grade 9 is to ensure that intermediate students have an opportunity to develop and consolidate knowledge and for schools to support their pathway choices in their high school programs.

- **Destreamed Mathematics** - MTH 1W is the Grade 9 course taught as of September 2021. The new course adds coding as a specific expectation in continuation with the new elementary curriculum. Similar to the elementary intermediate curriculum, This destreamed course also emphasizes more real-life examples and applications of mathematics, and lessons on data, financial literacy, mathematical modelling, and elements of STEM. All other secondary mathematics courses from Grade 10 to 12 continue to be based upon the 2007 mathematics curriculum document. Only Grade 9 has a destreamed program.
- **Science** – Grade 9 science was destreamed effective September 2022. As an extension of the rewrite of the elementary curriculum, STEM and technology are elevated in this curriculum. Connecting science to the economy, and the impact of science and technology on society and the environment are also areas of focus for this updated curriculum.
- **Civics** – Effective September 2022, the Grade 10 Civics course was revised as Civics and Citizenship. The original curriculum was produced in 2013. New learning on Indigenous systems, treaty relationships, Crown-Indigenous relations, digital literacy and the importance of commemorating important events, issues, people and symbols of Canada are among the updates.
- **Computer Science** – An additional update of the Grade 10 computer science course, ICD 20, Digital Technology and Innovations in A Changing World has been written to replace the 2008 course, ICS20, Introduction to Computer Studies. The new course focuses on STEM, computational thinking, and the social, cultural, economic and environmental impacts of digital technologies. Artificial intelligence and cyber security are among the topics now studied.
- **Geography** – The applied level study of geography has been decommissioned or deemed “expired” by the Ministry. CGC 1P is no longer taught and all students study geography through the academic curriculum or a locally identified course of study.
- **English** – September 2023 brought the inception of a destreamed program of study for Grade 9 English. ENL 1W emphasizes explicit instruction to develop and consolidate foundational knowledge and skills in language.

Financial Literacy - Mandatory learning in financial literacy is studied in mathematics from Grade one through nine and is also part of the Grade 10 careers curriculum.

2022 – 2023 EQAO Results Summary – The Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) released school board and provincial results from the 2022-2023 EQAO assessments and the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) on October 12, 2023.

EQAO assessments for the DPCDSB demonstrated stable performance, with highlights observed in larger increases in junior mathematics achievement and in success rates among students writing the OSSLT in the first time eligible (FTE) cohort. DPCDSB elementary students continue to outperform the provincial scores in literacy, while mathematics performance is on par with students in Ontario as a whole. Despite a slight drop in Grade 9 mathematics achievement, DPCDSB's secondary students continue to match provincial performance. Success rates on the OSSLT among DPCDSB FTE participants are slightly higher than students across the province. In contrast, a large decrease was seen in OSSLT success

among students in the previously eligible (PE) cohort, related to a return to the PE cohort consisting only of students who were deferred, absent, or unsuccessful in their first year of eligibility. [For more information.](#)

Secondary School Information Nights - DPCDSB operates 26 Catholic secondary schools in Mississauga, Brampton, Bolton, and Caledon. These schools continue to be recognized among the top performing schools in the province each year. With over 49 Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) programs, three regional Arts programs, one regional Sports program, three International Baccalaureate (IB) programs, two regional Advanced Placement (AP) programs, Extended French (EF) and French Immersion (FI) programs, and the only publicly funded All-Girls secondary school in the region, DPCDSB schools offer students a variety of learning options to meet individual education goals.

Secondary School Information sessions are offered for Grade 8 students and their parents/guardians interested in enrolling in a DPCDSB secondary school for the 2024-2025 school year. An overview of the DPCDSB programs and services offered is provided with an opportunity to tour the school and hear from current students about the transition into secondary school. A schedule of all sessions is available on the [DPCDSB website](#).

MYSP Feedback Survey – Our board is currently in the process of reviewing and revising the DPCDSB Board of Trustees’ - Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP) for 2023-2027. The MYSP informs the direction of our system operations and is fundamental to developing educational programs for students. We engaged the feedback of all parents/guardians from our school communities last month about the planning of our next MYSP. A link to the survey was sent to DPCDSB families on October 16 and was posted on the DPCDSB website until October 30. As partners in the Catholic education of your children, we are grateful to everyone who shared their valuable input to help inform the development process.

Distinguished Alumni – DPCDSB has released our 10th Annual Distinguished Alumni series featuring profiles of graduates who are making valuable and unique contributions in their respective careers, pathways, and communities. DPCDSB Distinguished Alumni also represent the image of the Catholic learner as described by the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations. [Learn more.](#)

ShareLife – Our Dufferin-Peel community once again distinguished itself within the Archdiocese of Toronto as the leading school board in the GTA in the 2022 – 2023 ShareLife campaign in both our employee and school campaigns.

The employee campaign raised \$36,226.90 while our school campaign raised \$149,230.23. One hundred percent of our schools were able to contribute, support, and participate in various ShareLife activities. A very special thank you and recognition of leadership goes out to the ShareLife representatives in all of our schools and departments throughout the board. As the 2023-2024 ShareLife campaign gets underway, we encourage our schools to continue finding innovative and creative ways to contribute to this very worthy cause. Thank you to our DPCDSB students, families, and staff for your ongoing commitment in responding to the call and for recognizing that “*we are called to love*”.

We pray that God will bring comfort to those who have been affected by recent violent events in our world. Make us an instrument of Your peace, and may peace prevail. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Thank you and God bless you always.

Sincerely,



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