



Durham Catholic District School Board

St. Josephine Bakhita Catholic School



In the Beginning

As north Ajax continued to grow over the last few years, so did the schools. With the new homes being built in the area, Brother André and Mother Teresa Catholic Schools had growing school populations. Children living in the area were being bused to school, but with a new Catholic school being built in the neighbourhood, many more students would be able to walk. The Durham Catholic District School Board broke ground on a new north Ajax school at Williamson Drive and Thackery Drive on September 20, 2011.

At the April 23, 2012, Board Meeting, the new school was officially named St. Josephine Bakhita Catholic School. St. Josephine Bakhita is a fitting patron for a beautifully diverse

school community. The school was so filled with hope for its students on September 4, 2012, when it opened its doors for the first time to 500 students.

Sitting on a picturesque corner in north Ajax, the school has 23 classrooms, six of which are Full Day Kindergarten classrooms. The school has a library with large, beautiful windows that look out into the community, a modern gym, and a wonderful stage that connects the library and the gym when the set of sliding walls is opened. Many Catholic faith symbols were incorporated into the architecture of the building. There are crosses formed on the floors within the tile pattern, as well as crosses formed by the window frames. Special coloured glass was used to give the feeling of stained glass windows throughout.

Through student-generated research projects, classes looked to find a mascot that reflected St. Josephine's Sudanese heritage. It was recently decided that the school mascot would be a cheetah. The school teams will proudly compete as the "Bakhita Cheetahs." The community is very proud of its newest Catholic school and looks forward to building traditions based on hope and a strong faith. St. Josephine Bakhita Catholic School celebrates all the virtues of their Catholic faith in its daily routines and programming.



St. Josephine Bakhita

Our Patron Saint

Born in Sudan in 1869, Josephine knew the anguish of kidnapping and slavery. She bloomed in Italy, in response to God's grace, with the Daughters of Charity, where everyone still calls her "Mother Moretta," which means "Our Black Mother." Josephine Bakhita was beatified on May 17, 1992, and canonized on October 1, 2000. Pope Benedict XVI has referred to St. Josephine Bakhita as a "model of hope for the twenty-first century."

Principal

Elizabeth Spratt (2012-present)

Contributor:

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