



**DURHAM CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**
Learning and Living in Faith

Welcome to Kindergarten at Durham Catholic District School Board





DURHAM CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Learning and Living in Faith



Welcome to the Durham Catholic District School Board

On behalf of the Durham Catholic District School Board, I am pleased to welcome your family into our Catholic learning community. Entering Kindergarten is an important milestone in the life of a child and can sometimes cause anxiety for families. Our dedicated educators will work together with you to ensure a positive transition for your little one.

In Catholic education, we believe in the fundamental trinity between home, school and the Church. By registering your child at a Durham Catholic school, you have chosen a learning environment that is rooted in the faith and supported by a caring Christian community. Our mission is to “celebrate and nurture the God-given talents of each student as we serve with excellence in the light of Christ.” We are guided in this mission by our common commitment to support our students as they strive to attain the Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations — to be:

- a discerning believer;
- an effective communicator;
- a reflective, creative and holistic thinker;
- a self-directed, responsible lifelong learner;
- a collaborative contributor;
- a caring family member; and
- a responsible citizen.

In our Catholic schools, we embrace the belief that children are curious, capable and competent and endeavor to create safe and welcoming Kindergarten classrooms where children learn through play. Our focus on teaching the curriculum through the light of the Gospel from Kindergarten through secondary school is what makes us unique. As part of this faith development, in conjunction with our parishes, your child will be invited and prepared to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist in Grade 2 and Sacrament of Confirmation in Grade 7.

Thank you for entrusting your child’s education with us — we are honoured to be a part of your family’s life. Through our new strategic plan, *Discovery 2023 — Renewing the Vision*, we have affirmed our ongoing commitment to **Excellence, Equity and Engagement**. We look forward to your child’s journey of Learning and Living in Faith.

Yours in Faith,

Tracy Barill,
Director of Education



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"The best gift we gave our three children was sending them to a Catholic elementary school. It delivered everything we expected and more." – J. Webster, Parent



Then he said to them, “Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. For it is the one who is least among you all who is the greatest.” (Luke 9:48)

We all Belong

We believe that all early learners are competent, capable and curious. This natural curiosity brings them closer to God in wondrous ways. In our Kindergarten classrooms, students are provided opportunities to wonder about their world — the world that God created. Our Kindergarten Religion program entitled, *In God’s Image* engages our early learners in discovering “traces of God” in their countless day-to-day experiences. Through their energetic play, their original drawings, their endless curiosity and zest for exploration, and their exuberant sense of wonderment, they will discover traces of God.

Registration

You can enrol a child at a Durham Catholic school across the region if:

- the child is baptized Catholic; or
- a parent/guardian is Catholic; or
- you provide proof of RCIC/RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Children/Adults) registration.

Your child must be turning 4 years of age by December 31 of the coming school year to be eligible to register.

To enrol your child through our online registration process, visit dcdsb.ca/registration.

For registration questions, please email dcdsb.ca/registration



Special Education

At the Durham Catholic District School Board, our philosophy of inclusion shapes the delivery of our Special Education Programs and Services. We make every effort to fully include all students, regardless of exceptionality, into regular, age-appropriate classrooms.

All educators share in the responsibility of providing an appropriate education for each student in their care. Teachers have access to resource staff within the school and the wider resources of the Student Services department as the need arises.

Fundamental to this process is the collaboration among educators and support staff to deliver a variety of services, programs and strategies to achieve measurable and successful outcomes.

One of the first steps in supporting a student with special education needs is a School Team Meeting. The team generally consists of parents, teacher, Program Support teacher, principal and perhaps other Board Student Services staff. This team approach is recognized as a proactive and effective way to understand a student’s needs and determine potential supports. Parents of students who have special needs are encouraged to share this information with the school as soon as possible so that a team meeting can be arranged to ensure a successful transition into the Kindergarten program.



“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” (Matthew 19:14)



Indigenous Education - We Walk the Path Together

Parents and guardians of students with First Nation, Metis and Inuit ancestry (Status, Non-Status) who are under 18 years of age can voluntarily self-identify their Indigenous ancestry. By self-identifying, we are able to offer additional programs, services and supports to assist students in achieving their potential. No proof of ancestral background is required.

You can self-identify as part of the online Kindergarten registration or simply complete the online form available on your school’s website, under Students, Indigenous Education.

For more information, visit dcdsb.ca or call our Indigenous Education consultant at 905-576-6150.

Riding the Bus

Durham Student Transportation Services (DSTS) is responsible for ensuring safe and efficient transportation to and from school for eligible students in accordance with policy. Visit dsts.on.ca/information for safety protocols that students are required to follow while riding the bus.

Parents and guardians are able to access transportation information in mid-August of each year, by using the Automated Telephone System (IVR). This is a 24-hour service which will provide you with the bus number, pick-up and drop off location and the times to support your child's bus travel. In order to access your child’s transportation information, you will require your child’s 9-digit Ontario Education Number (OEN) and your child’s date of birth. Contact your child's school for their OEN number.

My child's OEN is

Automated DSTS Information Line
1-866-908-6578 or 905-666-6979



Young Rider Program

The Young Rider program consists of a variety of sessions designed to introduce new students to riding the bus. The program is offered at many locations throughout Durham Region. For more information about this program call 1-8000-240-6943 or 905-666-6395 or visit dsts.on.ca/young-rider-program.

Information about bus safety can be viewed at vimeo.com/oecmsbrs

Please note: The Young Rider Program was cancelled for August 2020 due to COVID-19, please continue to check DSTS’ website at dsts.on.ca for updated information on the program.



"And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk to them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up." (Deuteronomy 11:19)



Our Kindergarten Program

Our Kindergarten program is a child-centred, developmentally appropriate, integrated program of learning for young children. The purpose of the program is to establish a strong foundation for learning in the early years, and to do so in a safe and caring, play-based environment that promotes the physical, social, emotional, spiritual and cognitive development of all children. The primary goals of the Kindergarten program are:

- to establish a strong foundation for learning in the early years;
- to help children make a smooth transition from home, child care, or pre-school settings to school settings;
- to allow children to benefit from learning through relationships, through play and inquiry;
- to set children on a path of lifelong learning and nurture competencies that they will need to thrive in the world of today and tomorrow.

Our program is based on four broad learning areas — Belonging and Contributing, Self-Regulation and Well-Being, Demonstrating Literacy and Mathematics Behaviours, and Problem Solving and Innovating. These areas focus on aspects of learning that are critical to your child's development. They also reflect the integrated way in which your child will learn through play and inquiry in our classrooms.

Adapted from *The Kindergarten Program 2016* (Ontario Ministry of Education, 2016, p. 8)

Supporting My Child's Transition to Kindergarten

This checklist will help you support your child's transition into Kindergarten.

- Connect** with community partners (local public library, recreational facilities, park programs);
- Arrange** your before and after school child care needs early. A complete listing of services offered at our Durham Catholic schools is available on pages 14-15;
- Participate** in Early Years Programs (Mother Goose Program, Play-to-Learn Programs, EarlyON, School Readiness Programs);
- Involve** your child in everyday learning opportunities (talk about the letters in store signs, count the number of steps on your stairs at home, discuss the changes you see in nature);
- Establish** daily routines (regular bedtimes, daily reading opportunities, personal hygiene, healthy eating habits);
- Encourage** personal independence (putting on shoes, zipping zippers, fastening buttons, washing hands, toileting);
- Schedule** regular health check-ups (physician, dentist, audiologist and optometrist); and
- Contact the principal** if you have any concerns about your child's readiness for Kindergarten, prior to September.
- Contact the principal** if you have any concerns about your child's readiness for Kindergarten, prior to September.

Community Resources

The following four community resources are available to help you prepare your child for Kindergarten.

- DCDSB Parent Resources visit <https://tinyurl.com/u7hc5fw>
- Transitioning to Kindergarten visit <https://tinyurl.com/qpthlhf>
- School Readiness Program visit <https://tinyurl.com/vklyqf4>
- Best Start Resources visit <https://tinyurl.com/w99fp8k>
- My Toilet Learning visit <https://tinyurl.com/whbkdyo>
- Learning to Play and Playing to Learn visit <https://tinyurl.com/s4kvldy>
- Kids Can visit <https://tinyurl.com/yx8bmjts>
- Building Resilience in Young Children visit <https://tinyurl.com/vgcfgp3>



The Four Areas Of Learning In The Kindergarten Program



Belonging and Contributing

This area focuses on your child's learning and development with respect his/her:

- sense of connectedness to others;
- relationships with others, and contributions as part of a group, a community, and the natural world; and
- understanding of relationships and community, and of the ways in which people contribute to the world around them.

The learning encompassed by this area relates to your child's early development of the attributes and attitudes that inform citizenship, through their sense of personal connectedness to various communities.



Demonstrating Literacy and Mathematics Behaviours

This area focuses on your child's learning and development with respect to:

- communicating thoughts and feelings — through gestures, physical movements, words, symbols, and representations, as well as through the use of a variety of materials;
- literacy behaviours, evident in the various ways they use language, images, and materials to express and think critically about ideas and emotions, as they listen and speak, view and represent, and begin to read and write;
- Mathematics behaviours, evident in the various ways he/she use concepts of numbers and patterns during play and inquiry; access, manage, create, and evaluate information; and experience an emergent understanding of Mathematical relationships, concepts, skills and processes; and
- active engagement in learning and developing a love of learning, which can instill the habit of learning for life.

What your child learns in connection with this area develops their capacity to think critically, to understand and respect many different perspectives, and to process various kinds of information.



Self-Regulation and Well-Being

This area focuses on your child's learning and development with respect to:

- his/her own thinking and feelings, and your child's recognition of and respect for differences in the thinking and feelings of others;
- regulating emotions, adapting to distractions, and assessing consequences of actions in a way that enables them to engage in learning; and
- physical and mental health and wellness.

What your child learns in connection with this area allows him/her to focus, to learn, to respect themselves and others, and to promote well-being in themselves and others.



Problem Solving and Innovating

This area focuses on your child's learning and development with respect to:

- exploring the world through natural curiosity, in ways that engage the mind, the senses, and the body;
- making meaning of his/her world by asking questions, testing theories, solving problems, and engaging in creative and analytical thinking; and
- the innovative ways of thinking about and doing things that arise naturally with an active curiosity, and applying those ideas in relationships with others, with materials, and with the environment.

The learning encompassed by this area supports collaborative problem solving and bringing innovative ideas to relationships with others.



“Communication, collaboration and creativity are the skills that will help people be globally competitive in the 21st Century.” - Education Innovation website



Stay Informed and Connected

Communication between home and school is vital to stay informed on the latest news and events happening in your school community. Our schools use a number of tools to assist with communications. Please take time to subscribe to receive school information on:

- **Edsby** – an email will be sent to you inviting you to subscribe to the teacher’s site.
- **School website** – school news will be sent to your email address if you subscribe to the news section of the school’s website.
- **School calendar** – receive weekly notifications of events, meetings and activities by subscribing to the school calendar located on the school’s website. You also have the ability of adding school events to your personal calendar.
- **Twitter** – a link is available on the school website for easy access to your school’s Twitter handle.
- **Emails or Automated phone calls** – you may receive emails or automated phone calls with updates from your school or the Board.
- **Durham Catholic District School Board’s App** – is available at the Apple App Store or Google Play. Download and receive board information and bus alerts.
- **Durham Student Transportation Services Website**– Subscribe to receive notifications of bus delays, route changes or cancellations. Visit dsts.on.ca to subscribe.



“The child is the beauty of God present in the world, that greatest gift to a family.” (Saint Teresa of Calcutta)

Volunteering

Volunteering your time and skills is one of the greatest gifts you can give. We see volunteering as an opportunity to grow in our faith life and become life-long followers of Christ in the modern world. We offer the following volunteering options:

1. Volunteer at your child's school

Parent volunteers* are one of our schools' greatest resources. Our volunteers help organize events, raise money and assist teachers in classrooms. They help our schools achieve excellence, enhance educational experiences and plan for the future.

2. Join your Catholic School Council

Joining your school's Catholic School Council is a great way to become part of the school's community and support your child. Every school within the Durham Catholic School Board has a Catholic School Council. The council is made up of parents, the principal, teaching staff and non-teaching staff.

3. Volunteer on the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee

Volunteering your time and skills is one of the greatest gifts you can give, however due to the pandemic, we can no longer allow volunteers into our schools. We look forward to welcoming volunteers back into our schools when it is safe. Please speak to your school principal to determine if any opportunities to volunteer virtually are available.

** All school volunteers are required to obtain a Criminal Background Check before beginning their activity. Speak to your school's principal for more information.*



“The school our children attend has far exceeded our expectations. The staff, students and parents are respectful and welcoming. We feel a part of the school community and enjoy attending school masses, sporting events and special celebrations.” – C. Perrier, Parent



“I am a little pencil in the hand of a writing God who is sending a love letter to the world.”
- Saint Teresa of Calcutta



French Immersion

Our French Immersion program at the Durham Catholic District School Board begins in Grade 1. The program is designed to provide non-francophone students with a high degree of proficiency in the French language. Our goal is to develop students' level of proficiency, while supporting their growing confidence in communicating effectively in French in their everyday lives.

The ability to speak two or more languages increases the capacity for creative thinking and the ability to respect and understand other cultures. Providing a strong, early foundation in literacy at home will help to enhance second language acquisition.

Many Durham Catholic elementary schools currently offer this program. Please refer to pages 14 and 15 of this document for a complete listing of schools across the system that provide the French Immersion program.

For more information, visit dcdsb.ca or call our French as a Second Language consultant at 905-576-6150.



“Faith and reason are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth.” – Saint John Paul II

English Language Learners

At the Durham Catholic District School Board, our English language learners are given educational supports that allow them to achieve their potential. English language learners may be newcomers to the country or Canadian-born students who speak another language at home.

English as Second Language (ESL)/English Literacy Development (ELD) teachers provide support to a group of elementary schools in our Board. The ESL/ELD teacher works in the classroom and with the classroom teacher to support a student’s English language development.



For more information, visit dcdsb.ca

New to Canada?

Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS) provide settlement assistance to newcomers.

For more information, visit cdcd.org/swis

Child Care and Early Year Programs

We work in partnership with a variety of qualified licensed not-for-profit child care operators and Early Years partners to provide programs that encourage play-based activities to boost a child's desire to explore while learning. The following services may be available at your child's school:

- Child Care Centres (infants, toddlers and preschool children);
- Before and After School Programs (for children 4 – 12 years of age);
- Recreation Programs;
- Nursery School Programs;
- EarlyON Child and Family Centres; and
- School Readiness Programs.

For a complete listing of the child care and early years programs available at Durham Catholic schools across the region, visit dcdsb.ca/child_care_locations

“My girls are curious creatures who naturally inquire at home after being in the play-based Kindergarten program. They love to investigate new opportunities and they have the confidence to explore new ways to solve new problems. They see that they are part of a world waiting to be discovered.” – E. DeSwert, Parent

Our Catholic Elementary Schools

Legend

FI = French Immersion Programs

C = Child Care Services or Before/After School or Recreation Programs or Ontario Early Years Programs

Ajax, Beaverton, Pickering, Uxbridge

St. Mary CSS Family of Schools

Father Fénelon CS | C

795 Eyer Drive, Pickering
Call 905-839-5409 or email
FatherFenelonCS@dcdsb.ca

Holy Family CS | C

720 Simcoe Street, Beaverton
Call 705-426-2961 or email
HolyFamilyCS@dcdsb.ca

St. Elizabeth Seton CS | C

490 Strouds Lane, Pickering
Call 905-839-0005 or email
StElizabethSetonCS@dcdsb.ca

St. Isaac Jogues CS | FI + C

1166 Finch Avenue, Pickering
Call 905-839-1844 or email
StIsaacJoguesCS@dcdsb.ca

St. Joseph CS | FI + C

25 Quaker Village Drive, Uxbridge
Call 905-852-6242 or email
StJosephUxbridgeCS@dcdsb.ca

St. Monica CS | FI + C

275 Twyn Rivers Drive, Pickering
Call 905-509-6691 or email
StMonicaCS@dcdsb.ca

St. Wilfrid CS | C

2360 Southcott Road, Pickering
Call 905-427-6225 or email
StWilfridCS@dcdsb.ca

Notre Dame CSS Family of Schools

St. André Bessette CS | C

60 Seggar Avenue, Ajax
Call 905-619-8021 or email
StAndreBessetteCS@dcdsb.ca

St. Teresa of Calcutta CS | C

15 Fishlock Street, Ajax
Call 905-426-7065 or email
StTeresaofCalcuttaCS@dcdsb.ca

St. Catherine of Siena CS | C

15 Bennett Avenue, Ajax
Call 905-427-6105 or email
StCatherineofSienaCS@dcdsb.ca

St. Josephine Bakhita CS | C

51 Williamson Drive East, Ajax
Call 905-686-5324 or email
StJosephineBakhitaCS@dcdsb.ca

St. Patrick CS | FI + C

280 Delaney Drive, Ajax
Call 905-427-2866 or email
StPatrickCS@dcdsb.ca

Archbishop Denis O'Connor Family of Schools

St. Bernadette CS | C

41 Bayly Street East, Ajax
Tel: 905-683-0571 or email
StBernadetteCS@dcdsb.ca

St. Francis de Sales CS | C

72 Church Street South, Ajax
Call 905-683-3320 or email
StFrancisdeSalesCS@dcdsb.ca

St. James CS | FI + C

10 Clover Ridge Drive West, Ajax
Call 905-427-3327 or email
StJamesCS@dcdsb.ca

St. Jude CS | C

68 Coles Avenue, Ajax
Call 905-428-9304 or email
StJudeCS@dcdsb.ca

Brooklin, Whitby

All Saints CSS Family of Schools

St. John Paul II CS | C

160 Cachet Boulevard, Brooklin
Call 905-655-2291 or email
StJohnPaulIICS@dcdsb.ca

St. Bridget CS | C

200 Carnwith Drive West, Brooklin
Call 905-655-1875 or email
StBridgetCS@dcdsb.ca

St. John the Evangelist CS | FI + C

1103 Giffard Street, Whitby
Call 905-668-4011 or email
StJohntheEvangelistCS@dcdsb.ca

St. Leo CS | FI + C

120 Watford Street, Brooklin
 Call 905-655-3852 or email
StLeoCS@dcdsb.ca

St. Luke the Evangelist CS | C

55 Twin Streams Road, Whitby
 Call 905-665-5828 or email
StLuketheEvangelistCS@dcdsb.ca

St. Marguerite d'Youville CS | C

1103 Giffard Street, Whitby
 Call 905-666-9301 or email
StMargueriteD'YouvilleCS@dcdsb.ca

**Father Leo J. Austin CSS
Family of Schools****St. Bernard CS | C**

1000 Dryden Boulevard, Whitby
 Call 905-668-3772 or email
StBernardCS@dcdsb.ca

St. Mark the Evangelist CS | FI + C

95 Waller Street, Whitby
 Call 905-721-2460 or email
StMarktheEvangelistCS@dcdsb.ca

St. Matthew the Evangelist CS | C

60 Willowbrook Drive, Whitby
 Call 905-430-8597 or email
StMatthewtheEvangelistCS@dcdsb.ca

St. Paul CS | C

200 Garrard Road, Whitby
 Call 905-728-7011 or email
StPaulCS@dcdsb.ca

St. Theresa CS | C

173 Crawford Street, Whitby
 Call 905-668-8261 or email
StTheresaCS@dcdsb.ca

Oshawa, Port Perry**Monsignor Paul Dwyer CHS
Family of Schools****Durham Catholic Virtual
Elementary School | C**

120 Glovers Road, Oshawa
 Call 905-571-9710

Good Shepherd CS | C

1650 Reach Street, Port Perry
 Call 905-985-0153 or email
GoodShepherdCS@dcdsb.ca

Sir Albert Love CS | C

425 Wilson Road North, Oshawa
 Call 905-728-3971 or email
SirAlbertLoveCS@dcdsb.ca

St. Christopher CS | FI + C

431 Annapolis Avenue, Oshawa
 Call 905-725-7672 or email
StChristopherCS@dcdsb.ca

St. John Bosco CS | C

1600 Clearbrook Drive, Oshawa
 Call 905-743-6223 or email
StJohnBoscoCS@dcdsb.ca

St. Joseph CS | C

1200 Summerwood Heights,
 Oshawa
 Call 905-725-6751 or email
StJosephOshawaCS@dcdsb.ca

St. Kateri Tekakwitha CS | FI + C

1425 Coldstream Drive, Oshawa
 Call 905-571-1969 or email
StKateriTekakwithaCS@dcdsb.ca

**Monsignor John Pereyema CSS
Family of Schools****St. John XXIII CS | C**

195 Athabasca Street, Oshawa
 Call 905-723-1991 or email
StJohnXXIIICS@dcdsb.ca

Monsignor Philip Coffey CS | C

1324 Oxford Street, Oshawa
 Call 905-723-4241 or email
MonsignorPhilipCoffeyCS@dcdsb.ca

St. Hedwig CS

421 Olive Avenue, Oshawa
 Call 905-728-5521 or email
StHedwigCS@dcdsb.ca

St. Thomas Aquinas CS | FI + C

400 Pacific Avenue, Oshawa
 Call 905-723-1921 or email
StThomasAquinasCS@dcdsb.ca

St. Anne CS | FI + C

2464 Bridle Road, Oshawa
 Call 905-723-2421 or email
StAnneOshawaCS@dcdsb.ca





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