

POLICY – PO202

Blessings, Openings and Anniversaries

Area: Governance
Source: Superintendent of Education – Policy Development

Approved: Feb. 10, 2020
Revised:

1. Introduction

The Durham Catholic District School Board recognizes the importance of celebrating significant school events with the support of the Board and the presence of members of the larger school community. Such celebrations are in keeping with our Catholic faith traditions.

2. Definitions

Anniversary – commemoration of a specific date. Within the context of this policy, it refers to the date on which the school was blessed and officially opened.

Major Addition - an increase to the school size by at least 30%, a major program or facility improvement (e.g., Learning Commons) or an addition viewed by the school's community and the Board as a significant event.

3. Purpose

The purpose of this policy and its related administrative procedures is to outline the manner in which the Durham Catholic District School Board will support the celebration of significant school events or milestones.

4. Application / Scope

This policy applies to all schools and buildings within the jurisdiction of the Board.

5. Principles

5.1 The Board believes that:

- 5.1.1 significant school milestones and anniversaries need to be celebrated;
- 5.1.2 local school communities can best determine how to celebrate milestones and anniversaries;
- 5.1.3 significant school milestones and anniversaries are cause for celebrating the heritage of Catholic education;
- 5.1.4 celebrations of significant school milestones and anniversaries must reflect our Catholic faith tradition;
- 5.1.5 celebrations are opportunities for showcasing our schools and our faith.

6. Requirements

- 6.1 The Director of Education shall issue administrative procedures to support this policy and to amend them thereafter as the need arises.
- 6.2 Schools shall celebrate anniversaries every twenty-five (25) years commencing with the twenty-fifth anniversary of the blessing and official opening of the school.
- 6.3 The blessing and official opening of a school or major addition should be held as soon as possible after the school has been occupied.
- 6.4 The Board shall provide financial support for celebrations in accordance with the administrative procedures attendant to this policy.
- 6.5 The principal should consult with the Catholic School Council while planning significant school milestones and anniversaries.
- 6.6 All significant celebrations should be planned by a committee established by the principal in conjunction with the Board of Trustees in accordance with administrative procedures attendant to this policy.
- 6.7 The principal and the committee must work with the Communication Department to determine the appropriate guest list, programme and order of speakers.

7. Sources

Nil

8. Related Policies and Administrative Procedures

- 8.1 Blessings and Official Openings Administrative Procedure (AP202-1)
- 8.2 Celebration of School Anniversaries Administrative Procedure (AP202-2)