

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.

## September 2024

A warm WELCOME to the 2024 – 2025 school year to our new and returning students and families. 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](https://www.ocsta.org/).

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.

**Your DPCDSB Trustee** – I am so pleased that you have chosen a Catholic education for your child(ren). As a mother of DPCDSB graduates, I value and understand the importance of a quality Catholic education for my family and for yours. I continue to represent you and your child(ren) on the DPCDSB Board of Trustees. Knowing and understanding the school communities I represent is crucial to my involvement in the board's decision-making process. As your elected Catholic School Trustee for Wards 6 and 11 in Mississauga, my role is to help shape a vision for the board that is inclusive of the schools I serve and reflective of the input of parents, students, stakeholders, and community members. I provide regular updates to my school communities through monthly newsletters based on current board information.



## Luz del Rosario

Chair of the Board of Trustees  
Trustee, Mississauga  
Wards 6 & 11  
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Teach me  
to do your will,  
for you are  
my God.  
- Psalm 143:10

## AGENDAS AND MINUTES [Board and Committee Meetings](#)

### Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board

40 Matheson Blvd. W.  
Mississauga, ON L5R 1C5  
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**DPCDSB Student Trustees** – Three Student Trustees are elected annually by their peers to sit on the board in a non-voting capacity. We congratulate our Indigenous Student Trustee, Bailey Clyne, who returns for a second term. We also welcome our two new Student Trustees, Jia Sharma and Raheem White for the upcoming 2024 – 2025 school year!

**Meetings of the DPCDSB Board of Trustees and Committees of the Board** – Our school communities and external stakeholders are welcome to attend the public DPCDSB Board and Committee meetings, either in-person or by viewing the meetings online, to stay engaged in important school board information and updates. Check the [DPCDSB website for a schedule of upcoming meetings](#).

**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](#).

**DPCDSB Capital and Operating Budgets** – At the June 18, 2024, Regular Board Meeting of the DPCDSB, our Board of Trustees approved a balanced 2024 – 2025 capital budget of \$76.2 million and a 2024 – 2025 deficit operating budget of \$39.8 million. These reports are publicly available and can be accessed on the DPCDSB website.

DPCDSB has an approved Multi-Year Financial Recovery Plan with the Ontario Ministry of Education (Ministry), which allows for a deficit budget submission. DPCDSB has been dealing with a 100% employer-paid Long-Term Disability (LTD) benefit entitlement with costs that have escalated to an unmanageable level for our school board. The LTD plan is a financial item, embedded within local collective agreements, which can only be negotiated centrally under the collective bargaining process. The Ministry is fully aware of the devastating impact of LTD on DPCDSB's budget.

In addition to the LTD costs, an ongoing enrolment decline across the region, and gaps in funding for statutory benefit costs and student transportation, have also impacted DPCDSB's deficit position. These components require the Ministry of Education to adjust Core Education Funding. To address the impact of enrolment decline, DPCDSB has made expenditure reductions and continues to identify efficiencies in operations.

**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 mathematics 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.

**Region of Peel School Bike Rack Program** – Peel Region's School Bicycle Parking Program provides safe and secure bicycle parking for schools to encourage students to use active forms of transportation and bike to and from school more often. Since 2015, over 300 bike racks have been installed at more than 150 schools throughout Peel Region with this program. Schools located in Peel Region can apply for a maximum of four bike racks, each with a capacity for securing eight bicycles. Funding through the Region is only available for a limited number of bike racks each year. As such, school applications are prioritized for new racks based on demand for bicycle parking and participation in programming related to health, sustainability, and/or active transportation. Peel Region covers the cost of the bike racks only, while installation on existing concrete or asphalt surfaces at schools is the responsibility of the school board.

**National School Food Program** – The significance of nutrition for student learning is well recognized within DPCDSB. Fully subsidized breakfast programs are available in a number of our schools. These programs are predominately funded by organizations such as the YMCA, President's Choice, and Loblaws. Partial subsidies are available in a limited number of schools, where a variety of snacks are provided. Some schools offer a dedicated snack or equivalent program. While a substantial proportion of schools maintain some form of breakfast initiative, more than half of DPCDSB schools have no programs at all. A total of 94 DPCDSB schools offer lunch programs that require students or their families to bear the costs, typically providing items such as pizza, sandwiches, and chicken. Fully subsidized lunch programs are rare. Our board recognizes the need for equitable access to nutritious meals. The federal government's anticipated \$1 billion investment in a new National School Food Program could potentially offer DPCDSB a significant opportunity to address the existing disparities in school nutrition programs, improving access to nutritious foods, addressing food insecurity, improving social determinants of health for marginalized communities, and improving overall student well-being.

**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](mailto: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.

**September 23-27: Truth and Reconciliation Week** – Truth and Reconciliation Week is a national program open to all schools across Canada. As we remember the children lost to the residential school system and honour the Survivors and their families, students learn and commemorate the truth of our history from First Nations, Métis, and Inuit knowledge keepers, an important part of the path to Reconciliation. The annual Orange Shirt Day on September 30 opens the door to global conversation on all aspects of Residential Schools. It is an opportunity to create meaningful discussion about the effects of Residential Schools and the legacy they have left behind. It is a discussion all Canadians can tune into and create bridges with each other for reconciliation. It is also a day for survivors to be reaffirmed that they matter, and so do those that have been affected. Every Child Matters, even if they are an adult. [More Information](#).

**Brampton Professional Firefighters' Backpack Donation** - on September 12, 2024, senior staff and trustees welcomed representatives of the Brampton Professional Fire Fighter's Association to the Catholic Education Centre. Led by Akhil Mooken, Charity and Events Coordinator, the Fire Fighter's Association made a generous donation of backpacks to help

students in need have a positive start to the school year. The colourful backpacks for primary, junior and intermediate students were filled with school supplies that were carefully selected by the association to be developmentally appropriate for the students. Mr. Mooken personally delivered the backpacks to Principal Matthew DiFiore at the St Isaac Jogues Newcomer Reception Centre, for distribution to students via the school Social Worker. These gifts will help our Catholic school communities warmly welcome newcomers to our region and put smiles on the faces of children, for which we are so appreciative.



I am proud to serve as your DPCDSB Catholic School Trustee for Mississauga in Wards 6 and 11. Parents and guardians are always welcome to contact their elected School Board Trustee regarding system-level concerns or questions about publicly funded Catholic education.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to the administrative and education teams at your child(ren)'s school should you require more information and support.

Wishing our students, families, and staff a successful 2024 - 2025 school year! Thank you for choosing a Catholic education for your child(ren). May God bless you.

Take care and God bless you always.

*Luz del Rosario*

**Luz del Rosario**

Chair of the Board of Trustees

Trustee, Mississauga Wards 6 & 11