



Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board  
*Believing, Achieving, Serving*

*Chairperson of the Board  
Mr. P.J. Daly*

January 6, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians:

At the December 15, 2020 Committee of the Whole Meeting, the Board of Trustees approved a recommendation to modify the boundaries of Bishop Ryan Catholic Secondary School, Cathedral High School and St. John Henry Newman Catholic Secondary School in an effort to help balance current and future enrolment.

Upper Stoney Creek is currently experiencing the highest amount of residential development within the City of Hamilton, and is forecasted to continue to experience significant future growth. Bishop Ryan CSS currently requires 12 portables to accommodate its current enrolment of 2192 students. The Ministry rated capacity of Bishop Ryan is only 1455 pupil places. Enrolment is projected to steadily increase as growth from new residential development continues. Bishop Ryan CSS is projected to be approximately 2564 students by 2030, which represents a net growth of 372 additional students and a facility utilization rate of 176%. A boundary change was required to deal with enrolment pressures at Bishop Ryan CSS.

The boundary review process spanned nearly two years, involved significant staff research, resulted in three (3) comprehensive reports to Board and concluded with a community consultation survey that ran between October 20, 2020 and November 13, 2020.

The boundaries of Bishop Ryan, St. John Henry Newman and Cathedral Catholic Secondary Schools were carefully analyzed, as well as the location and distribution of students within these boundaries, projected enrolment and future residential development. The following principles guided the board in our assessment of boundaries during this review;

1. Keeping grade 8 graduating classes together;
2. Minimal disruption to historical parish-school relationships;
3. A focus on improving the balance of enrolment between the seven secondary schools over time/long term;
4. A focus on the efficient use of available classroom space in all seven secondary facilities; and
5. Recommended boundary solutions will not create circumstances where students are given the option of bussing to more than one school.

Based on the research and analysis, and the findings of the community consultation survey, the following **modified** boundary adjustments have been approved, effective **September 7, 2021**;

1. Redirect new students from St. Eugene Catholic Elementary School Regular Track Program to Cathedral High School. Existing St. Eugene Regular Track Program graduates and their siblings may remain at Bishop Ryan Catholic Secondary School.
2. Redirect new students from St. David Catholic Elementary School to St. John Henry Newman Catholic Secondary School. Existing St. David CES graduates and their siblings may remain at Bishop Ryan Catholic Secondary School.
3. The current boundary for St. John the Baptist Catholic Elementary School becomes a “flex boundary”. Commencing the current school year, all students graduating from St. John the Baptist CES will be able to attend Cathedral High School or Bishop Ryan Catholic Secondary School.
  - a) Transportation will only be provided for 2020-2021 St. John the Baptist CES graduates choosing to attend Bishop Ryan CSS.
  - b) Transportation will continue to be provided for St. John the Baptist CES graduates currently attending Bishop Ryan CSS, and their siblings.

**Please note:** transportation for all other students will be in accordance with current transportation policy.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for participating in this important consultation process.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick J. Daly', with a long, sweeping underline.

Patrick J. Daly  
Chairperson of the Board