



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

## **Memorandum**

To: Board of Trustees

From: Tracy Barill, Director of Education

Date: December 19, 2022

Subject: **French Immersion Program Update**

Origin: Mike O'Neill, Superintendent of Education, Academic Services

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to provide the Board of Trustees with an update on the implementation of French Language Programs as well as provide information regarding the planned processes for registration and enrolment for French Immersion (FI) for the 2022-2023 school year.

### **Background**

#### **Elementary French Programs**

Extended French (EF) programming began in the Durham Catholic District School Board in the 1980's with a grade four entry point offered at two schools. The east site was St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School (CS) in Oshawa and the west site was Holy Redeemer CS in Pickering. These two regional programs accommodated students from across the Board.

Beginning in 2010 the board expanded FI programs to offer Early FI with a grade one entry point. The implementation and expansion of FI programs took place in phases. Phase one and two schools offered a grade four EF program entry point in addition to the grade one FI program. Phase three and four schools offered only the grade one FI entry point.

### **Phase One Programs (2010)**

St. Thomas Aquinas CS (Oshawa)  
St. Mark the Evangelist CS (Whitby)  
St. Patrick CS (Ajax)  
St. Leo CS (Brooklin)  
Holy Redeemer CS (Pickering) – now closed

### **Phase Two Programs (2012)**

St. Christopher CS (Oshawa)  
St. John the Evangelist CS (Whitby)  
St. James CS (Ajax) Mother Teresa CS (Ajax) – now St. Teresa of Calcutta  
St. Elizabeth Seton CS (Pickering)

### **Phase Three Expansion (2013)**

St. Monica CS (Pickering)  
Blessed Pope John Paul II CS (Brooklin) – now St. John Paul II CS

### **Phase Four Expansion (2015)**

St. Kateri Tekakwitha CS (Oshawa)  
St. Joseph CS (Uxbridge)

Over the years a number of program moves and changes took place as follows:

- The Board approved the Pickering Accommodation Review on February 11, 2013 and relocated the French programs at Holy Redeemer CS to St. Isaac Jogues CS and established a new FI program at St. Monica CS effective September 2013;
- Following consultation with the parent community at St. Elizabeth Seton CS, it was decided that the students in the two classes (grade 1 FI and grade 4 EF) located at that school would be permitted to continue their French studies at that school in September 2013. The grade 4 EF class completed grade 8 in June 2017, and the one remaining FI class will complete grade 8 in June 2020;
- In September 2013, Blessed Pope John Paul II CS (now St. John Paul II CS) opened in Brooklin and the Grades 1- 4 Immersion program was split between St. Leo CS and the new school. St. Leo CS retained the Extended French program;

- As a result of decisions made by the Board on November 3, 2014, a single-track French Centre was established at St. Patrick CS in Ajax to include the relocation of the French Immersion and Extended French program from Mother Teresa CS. Early French Immersion programs (grade one entry) were also opened at St. Kateri Tekakwitha CS and St. Joseph CS (Uxbridge) September 2015; and
- The Board report of November 2013 indicated that the grade four entry EF program was being phased out with the last admissions having taken place in September 2014. The phase out of the Elementary EF program was completed in June 2019.
- On January 27, 2020 the Board of Trustees received the Long Term Accommodation Plan 2020-2024 (LTAP) report and approved guiding principles and actions to be undertaken. Within the LTAP report, staff was directed to undertake a French Immersion (FI) Consolidation study involving the three Brooklin schools; St. Leo CS, St. John Paul II CS and St. Bridget CS. Due to school closures in March 2020, there was a delay in the proposed recommendations for a future location of the Brooklin FI program. The committee has reconvened during the fall of 2020. A recommendation was made after public consultation.
- In September 2020, in response to the Covid-19 Pandemic elementary and secondary virtual schools were created. DCDSB was able to maintain Core French Instruction and healthy and viable French Immersion Programs in the virtual learning environment. The virtual French Immersion program only operated in the 2020-2021 school year. The program was not offered during the 2021-2022 school year.
- In September 2021, students in French Immersion in Grade 1-6 from St. John Paul II CS moved to St. Leo.

At present, all eleven elementary FI programs have reached full maturity including all phase one and two schools. These schools will offer FI program in grades one through eight.

Appendix A indicates the grades of FI (French Immersion) and EF (Extended French) offered at each school site from 2010 to the current school year:

The FI elementary enrolment by school and grade as of September 2022 is contained in Appendix B.

The FI secondary enrolment by school and grade as of September 2022 is contained in Appendix C.

## **Secondary French Programs**

In 2012 All Saints Catholic Secondary School CSS housed the only Secondary FI/EF program in the Board. A decision was made to open an East and West Secondary site in order to better serve the increasing numbers of Secondary FI/EF French students. Grade nine students were therefore directed to St. Mary CSS or Father Leo Austin CSS for September 2013. By September 2016, All Saints CSS no longer offered any FI programs. Notre Dame CSS offered a new FI program starting in 2015.

Students who enroll in secondary FI are required to take 10 of the 30 required credits in French as part of the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD).

The FI secondary enrolment by school and grade as of September 2020 is contained in Appendix C.

### **Grade One Registration Process for 2021-2022**

Registration timelines and procedures for our grade one FI for September 2021 have been established in accordance with operational needs. These include the necessity to establish the number of classes required as early as possible in order to complete our staffing requirements effectively. Recruitment of teachers qualified to instruct a FI class begins in mid-January. Additionally, registration in FI classes means that student population in the original home school declined. Staff require timely and accurate student enrolment projections by the end of February in order to determine staffing needs for September relative to redundancy and surplus declarations as well as postings.

**French Immersion Timelines and Processes**

Timelines	Processes
Week of November 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Letters sent home to all Year 2 Kindergarten families to advertise parent information nights</li> <li>• Advertisements in local papers, on website, via social media and parish bulletins</li> </ul>
November 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2022	<p><u>Parent Information Night</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Virtual live event held centrally at board level by FSL Consultant and Superintendent of Academic Services. Recording posted on board website. Session featured information for parents and guardians to provide background to the program and information regarding the online registration process.</li> </ul>
November 29 <sup>th</sup> - January 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grade one FI online Registration opens</li> <li>• Automatic email will be sent to acknowledge receipt of application (but not approval or placement)</li> </ul>
January 23 <sup>rd</sup> – February 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of all applications received</li> <li>• FI Principal Meeting Jan. 31<sup>st</sup> PM 1pm – 3:30pm</li> <li>• Classes are formed in accordance with the following parameters: 1. Students in boundary; 2. Students with childcare; 3. Students with siblings in attendance;</li> <li>• Where there is overflow, students are redirected to another site.</li> <li>• Classes will be considered full at 20 students; Superintendent approval required to exceed 20. (no class to exceed 23)</li> </ul>

**French Immersion Timelines and Processes (cont)**

<p>February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Email communication to parents regarding acceptance and placement</li> </ul>
<p>February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deadline for parents to confirm registration. Parents request transportation, if desired</li> <li>• Parents of children new to the Board will need to go to the designated FI school and provide the required documentation (Baptismal Certificates, Immunization records etc.) in order to confirm their registration</li> <li>• Transition scheduling in student information system begins once parents have confirmed registration</li> <li>• Registrations that have not been confirmed with the school by February 14, 2023, will be considered to be withdrawn.</li> </ul>
<p>February 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Durham Student Transportation System (DSTS) to review all transportation requests and communicate eligibility to FI school Principals</li> <li>• FI schools will contact those families who have requested transportation but are not eligible</li> </ul>
<p>March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023 - forward</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Late Registrations - made through the FI school (desired location) - Secretaries will update online lists</li> <li>• Late Registrations will be processed on a first come, first serve basis while space is available.</li> <li>• When classes have been filled to capacity, a waiting list will be established.</li> </ul>
<p>April - May 2023</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Orientation Night/Day for Students/Parents</li> <li>• Additional transportation information to be shared - including student OEN and information on how to access bussing info</li> </ul>
<p>June 2023</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Principals reach out to parents on waitlist for cross-boundary kindergarten to inform them if there is space for their child.</li> </ul>

The following guidelines will be applied to the application/enrolment process:

- All applicants to the grade one FI program who submit their application through the online registration process will be offered a position in the FI program, the Board may however be required to redirect students to an alternate location in order to maximize class size and organization in accordance with primary class size requirements;
- If/when necessary, students on overflow placement will be directed to original or phase one sites;
- While every effort will be made to accommodate parent requests for cross boundary approval for reasons of childcare and/or to keep siblings together, the Board must maximize classroom organization and take into consideration accommodation issues therefore location cannot be guaranteed;
- Bussing will not be provided for students who are cross boundary by request of the parent/guardian
- Parents who wish to register their children after the online application process has been closed will do so through the desired FI school site. Late applications will be approved on a first come, first serve basis where space permits;
- If/when a program has reached capacity, late registrants will be placed on a waiting list and/or redirected to another location where space permits;
- In schools, where a threshold of 15 students is met, consideration will be given to opening a class or additional classes at an appropriate location;
- Out-of-area applications for kindergarten students may only be approved where space permits;
- Out-of-area applications for kindergarten students will not be accepted at the following schools:
  - St. Christopher CS;
  - St. James CS;
  - St. John the Evangelist CS;
  - St. Kateri Tekakwitha CS;
  - St. Mark the Evangelist CS;
  - St. Patrick CS (and a limit of 45 new kindergarten students)

- Transportation for kindergarten siblings will be provided on a non-prejudice basis for kindergarten siblings where there is room on the bus; space availability will be reviewed yearly.

FAQ documents will be shared with parents at the parent information sessions and will be posted on the Board Website for parents during the registration process.

Year Two Kindergarten students from St. Patrick Catholic School who attend the virtual elementary school will not be required to register through the online registration process. This aligns with the process currently in place for students who attend kindergarten face-to face at St. Patrick CS.

TB/MO/br

Attachment(s): (Appendix A, B & C)



**Appendix A: French Programs 2010-2023**

School Municipality	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
St. Thomas Aquinas CS (Oshawa)	1 (FI) 4-8 (EF)	1&2 (FI) 4-8 (EF)	1-3 (FI) 4-8 (EF)	1-4 (FI) 5-8 (EF)	1-5 (FI) 6-8 (EF)	1-6 (FI) 7&8 (EF)	1-7 (FI) 8 (EF)	1-8 (FI)	1-8 (FI)	1-8 (FI)	1-8 (FI)	1-8 (FI)	1-8 (FI)
St. Christopher CS (Oshawa)			1 (FI) 4 (EF)	1&2 (FI) 5 (EF)	1-3 (FI) (Gr 6 EF moved to St. Thomas CS)	1-4 (FI)	1-5 (FI)	1-6 (FI)	1-7 (FI)	1-8 (FI)	1-8 (FI)	1-8 (FI)	1-8 (FI)
St. Kateri Tekakwitha CS (Oshawa)						1 (FI)	1&2 (FI)	1-3 (FI)	1-4 (FI)	1-5 (FI)	1-6 (FI)	1-7 (Fi)	1-8 (FI)
St. John the Evangelist CS (Whitby)			1 (FI) 4 (EF)	1&2 (FI) 5 (EF)	1-3 (FI) 6 (EF)	1-4 (FI) 7 (EF)	1-5 (FI) 8 (EF)	1-6 (FI)	1-7 (FI)	1-8 (FI)	1-8 (FI)	1-8 (FI)	1-8 (FI)
St. Mark the Evangelist CS (Whitby)	1 (FI) 4 (EF)	1&2 (FI) 4&5 (EF)	1-3 (FI) 4-6 (EF)	1-4 (FI) 4-7 (EF)	1-5 (FI) 4-8 (EF)	1-6 (FI) 5-8 (EF)	1-7 (FI) 6-8 (EF)	1-8 (FI) 7&8(EF)	1-8 (FI) 8 (EF)	1-8 (FI)	1-8 (FI)	1-8 (FI)	1-8 (FI)
St. Leo CS (Whitby)	1 (FI) 4 (EF)	1&2 (FI) 4&5 (EF)	1-3 (FI) 4-6 (EF)	1-4 (FI) 5-8 (EF)	1-5 (FI) 6-8 (EF)	1-6 (FI) 7&8(EF)	1-7 (FI) 8 (EF)	1-8 (FI)	1-8 (FI)	1-8 (FI)	1-8 (FI)	1-8 (FI)	1-8 (FI)
St. John Paul II CS (Brooklin)				1-4 (FI)	1-5 (FI)	1-6 (FI)	1-7 (FI)	1-8 (FI)	1-8 (FI)	1-8 (FI)	1-8 (FI)	1-8 (FI)	1-8 (FI)
St. James CS (Ajax)			1 (FI)	1&2 (FI)	1-3 (FI)	1-4 (FI)	1-5 (FI)	1-6 (FI)	1-7 (FI)	1-8 (FI)	1-8 (FI)	1-8 (FI)	1-8 (FI)
St. Teresa of Calcutta CS (Ajax)			1 (FI) 4 (EF)	1&2 (FI) 5 (EF)	1-3 (FI) 6 (EF)	Program moved to St. Patrick CS							1-8 (FI)
St. Patrick CS (Ajax)	1 (FI) 4 (EF)	1&2 (FI) 4&5 (EF)	1-3 (FI) 4-6 (EF)	1-4 (FI) 5-7 (EF)	1-5 (FI) 6-8 (EF)	1-6 (FI) 7&8 (EF)	1-7 (FI) 8 (EF)	1-8 (FI)	1-8 (FI)	1-8 (FI)	1-8 (FI)	1-8 (FI)	1-8 (FI)
St. Elizabeth CS (Pickering)			1 (FI) 4 (EF)	2 (FI) 5 (EF)	3 (FI) 6 (EF)	4 (FI) 7 (EF)	5 (FI) 8 (EF)	6 (FI)	7 (FI)	1-8 (FI)			1-8 (FI)

**Appendix A: French Programs 2010-2023 (cont.)**

Holy Redeemer CS (Pickering)	1 (FI) 4-8 (EF)	1&2 (FI) 4-8 (EF)	1-3 (FI) 4-8 (EF)	Program moved to St. Isaac Jogues CS									1-8 (FI)
St. Isaac Jogues CS (Pickering)				1-4 (FI) 4-8 (EF)	1-5 (FI) 4-8 (EF)	1-6 (FI) 5-8 (EF)	1-7 (FI) 6-8 (EF)	1-8 (FI) 7&8(EF)	1-8 (FI) 8 (EF)	1-8 (FI)	1-8 (FI)	1-8 (FI)	1-8 (FI)
St. Monica CS (Pickering)				1 (FI)	1&2 (FI)	1-3 (FI)	1-4 (FI)	1-5 (FI)	1-6 (FI)	1-7 (FI)	1-8 (FI)	1-8 (FI)	1-8 (FI)
St. Joseph CS (Uxbridge)						1 (FI)	1&2 (FI)	1-3(FI)	1-4 (FI)	1-5 (FI)	1-6 (FI)	1-7 (Fi)	1-8 (FI)

## Appendix B: Elementary enrolment summary by grade

SCHOOL	Gr01	Gr02	Gr03	Gr04	Gr05	Gr06	Gr07	Gr08	TOTAL
St. Christopher C.S.	21	30	21	22	15	13	13	25	160
St. Isaac Jogues C.S.	33	34	26	27	23	30	26	29	228
St. James C.S.	28	40	26	20	28	18	15	20	195
St. John Paul II C.S.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21	21
St. John the Evangelist C.S.	21	32	26	23	20	19	28	18	187
St. Joseph C.S. (Uxbridge)	15	27	9	20	7	8	16	4	106
St. Kateri Tekakwitha C.S.	31	39	37	30	39	23	21	26	246
St. Leo C.S.	24	17	21	19	12	15	16	8	132
St. Mark the Evangelist C.S.	41	44	36	41	36	40	42	33	313
St. Monica C.S.	36	39	46	33	34	23	33	33	277
St. Patrick C.S.	57	58	71	59	55	60	55	48	463
St. Thomas Aquinas C.S.	19	23	19	17	12	16	12	13	131
<b>Total</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>383</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>2459</b>

**Appendix C: Secondary enrolment summary by grade**

SCHOOL	Gr09	Gr10	Gr11	Gr12	TOTAL
FATHER LEO J. AUSTIN C.S.S.	107	103	77	53	340
NOTRE DAME C.S.S.	57	71	51	51	230
ST. MARY C.S.S.	42	53	63	34	192
TOTAL	206	227	191	138	762