

Parent Engagement Policy for Ontario Schools



Parent engagement matters. Study after study has shown us that student achievement improves when parents play an active role in their children's education, and that good schools become even better schools when parents are involved. It is recognized that parent engagement is a key factor in the enhancement of student achievement and well-being.

We believe that good schools are even better when parents are involved and engaged. By engaging more parents in their children's education, their children will achieve more and we will boost confidence and pride in public education in Ontario.

For more information on Parent Engagement, please read the brochure [Parents in Partnership: Parent Engagement Policy](#) for Ontario Schools. If you are interested in providing input on ways to increase parental involvement at Blessed Trinity, or volunteering for the sub-committee of the Catholic School Council examining parental engagement, please email the [Principal](#).

Catholic School Council

The Catholic School Council is an advisory body. The advice provided by the Council shall be in keeping with the mission statement of the Board and the School. This advice shall be supportive and in concurrence with the distinctive character, philosophy and goals of Catholic Education and respective of the Faith and Traditions of the Catholic Church.

Parents/guardians form the majority of the council. Other members include a community representative, parish priest, a student representative, a teacher who has been elected by teachers, a non-teaching staff member who has been elected by non-teaching staff, and the Principal. Any parent who wishes to be a member of the Catholic School Council is encouraged to self-nominate for a position.

Communication

Communication of student progress to both the student and their parents is essential in ensuring academic success. One of the ways that this can be accomplished is through the use of regular markbook printouts which are supplied to the student at various dates throughout the semester. The printouts are to be brought home to parents. Teachers may request that the printouts be returned, signed by a parent, so that the teacher is sure that parents have received, and are aware of their child's academic progress.

Teachers will initiate contact with parents for a variety of academic/behavioural reasons. Parents should feel free to initiate contact with the teacher at any point during the semester either via phone or email.

The sign out in front of the school is also used to communicate important dates throughout the semester.

The school website, you are viewing is another vehicle that we will use to keep you up-to-date.

Parent teacher interviews, are held twice a year, so parents can meet teachers, with their child to obtain feedback about their child's progress.

Concerns

Parents should address concerns at the lowest common denominator, as soon as possible, prior to contacting administration. If the concern is within a classroom context, please contact the teacher. If the concern is within a team context, please contact the coach. Blessed Trinity truly believes in the partnership between the home, school and the church. For concerns to be addressed we need to know of them so that we can respond.

If parents are not satisfied after speaking with the teacher/coach involved they are encouraged to then contact the Principal. Should this fail to resolve the matter parents are free to then contact the area Family of Schools Superintendent, Mrs. Yolanda Baldasaro.

Encouraging Your Teenager To Attend Mass*

The teenage years can be a challenging time. It is a time when parental guidelines, family traditions and values are questioned. While it may be a time of turmoil for both the adolescent and the parent, it is a normal part of human development and of growing into adulthood. During a time when going to Mass may be challenged, you might find these suggestions helpful:

- Encourage your teenager to attend Mass and be confident that attendance at Mass will continue.
- If you feel challenged, recognize that questioning is frequently caused by a desire for greater understanding. Affirm your teenager's right to reflect critically and responsibly.
- Encourage your parish to welcome young people into its communal life. Invite your son or daughter to become involved.
- Show your commitment to the Eucharistic celebration and to your parish community by regular participation. Your example of prayer, involvement and faith is a model for your teenager.
- Finally, trust that God is with you and your teenager. So be patient, and support your son/daughter in your prayer as he/she journeys through these challenging teen years. *Reprinted with permission from OECTA (Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association).