



Waterloo Catholic
District School Board

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News Release

December 15, 2014
For immediate release

Catholic Board Introduces French Immersion Program

Three sites to open in September, 2015

Waterloo Region, ON – The Waterloo Catholic District School Board tonight announced plans to begin offering **French Immersion** programs in the fall of 2015. The board is one of few in Ontario not currently offering a French Immersion program for students. The application period runs from January 5, 2015 to January 31, 2015.

QuickFacts

- ✓ In 2012 board staff examined the feasibility of offering a French Immersion program in elementary schools for September 2013. At that time both a parent survey and business case were examined and the decision was taken not to proceed. On November 24, 2014 Board staff announced plans to revisit providing French Immersion in Waterloo Region's Catholic elementary schools. Program details were announced at the December 15, 2014 board meeting.
- ✓ Revisiting the idea of French Immersion was prompted by a desire to offer programming for families who are currently forced to choose between a Catholic education for their children and moving them to other school systems in order to participate in French Immersion.
- ✓ In the 2015/16 school year French Immersion will be offered in Grade 1 at the following pilot locations: **Sir Edgar Bauer CES** in Waterloo; **St Anne CES** in Kitchener; and, **St Peter CES** in Cambridge. Up to two classes will be offered at each site. Attendance boundaries for the program are based on the student's home address.
- ✓ Students will be chosen by lottery with no preferential treatment given to students currently attending the pilot schools. The board's current policies on admissions and transportation remain in effect for French Immersion students. (see Related links).
- ✓ Parent Information Meetings will be held in January at the pilot schools as follows:

St Anne CES Tuesday January 6, 2015 6:00-7:00pm 250 East Ave., Kitchener	Sir Edgar Bauer CES Monday January 12, 2015 6:00-7:00pm 660 Glen Forrest Blvd., Waterloo	St Peter CES Thursday January 15, 2015 6:00-7:00pm 92 Avenue Rd., Cambridge
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Quotes

"Waterloo Region's Catholic schools have for decades provided outstanding French as a Second Language (FSL) programming and services – but what we've lacked is a robust and expandable French Immersion (FI) component. As one of the few remaining Ontario school boards not currently offering an FI program we believe the time has come to step forward and add FI to the extensive list of quality, inclusive, faith-based educational experiences for which we are already well known across Ontario. We look forward to the start of French Immersion in September, 2015".

-- **Michael Schmitt, Director of Education**

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Related Links

[WCDSB Admissions Policy – APA001](#)

[WCDSB Transportation Policy – APO012](#)

[Ontario Curriculum – French as a Second Language \(FSL\)](#)

The Waterloo Catholic District School Board, representing more than 100,000 Catholic school supporters, operates 52 schools and five adult education facilities serving more than 40,000 elementary, secondary and continuing education students in Waterloo Region – continuing a 178-year tradition of quality, inclusive, faith-based education. Follow us on Twitter: [@WCDSBNewsWire](#) - [#WCDSBAwesome](#).

- 30 -

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