



Waterloo Catholic
District School Board

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News Release

January 30, 2012
For immediate release

Extended Day Program Availability Great News for Region's Catholic Families

Board meets parent requests for open, inclusive, faith-based program

Waterloo Region, ON – Extended day learning programs (before school and/or after school) will be offered in September in a total of 22 local Catholic elementary schools as part of the Waterloo Catholic District School Board's *Full Day Early Learning Kindergarten Program*.

About the Full Day Early Learning Kindergarten Program

According to the Ontario government:

"The Full-Day Early Learning–Kindergarten program for four- and five-year-old children consists of a core day program and an extended-day program. The extended day program is complementary to the core program and aligned with it in order to provide a seamless and consistent experience for the children.

The core day program is delivered by Early Learning–Kindergarten teams consisting of teachers and registered early childhood educators. The extended-day program is an integral part of the Full-Day Early Learning–Kindergarten program; it is offered before the core day program begins and continues at the end of the day, and is delivered by teams of registered early childhood educators.

The extended-day program offers an approach to pedagogy and planning that is consistent with the approach taken in the core day program, and makes use of shared resources and shared common spaces to create a seamless system of care and education for children and families".

-- www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/elementary/kinderProgram2010.pdf

About the Extended Day Program

Legislation requires school boards to offer an extended day program in all schools where a *Full Day Early Learning Kindergarten Program* exists -- and where there is sufficient demand to run a viable program.

To ensure consistency of program content and equity of access for Catholic students across Waterloo Region, the extended day program offered in Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools is:

- ✓ Open to all JK to grade two students in *Full Day Early Learning Kindergarten* schools where parents request a program and where sufficient demand exists (no waiting lists);

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- ✓ Available for flexible program registration to meet individual family needs for care (number of days per week and before or after school attendance determined by parents);
- ✓ Operated from 7:00 am to 6:00 pm on all school days, PA days and at Christmas & March break;
- ✓ Delivered from a “faith” perspective “*consistent with the approach taken in the core day program*”;
- ✓ Offered with a companion program available to students in grades three to eight in schools where parents request a program and where sufficient demand exists (no waiting lists).

Based on the preliminary results of ongoing consultations with parents through Catholic school councils in the Board’s 45 elementary schools, board staff will formally announce the program roll out at the monthly public board meeting on Monday, January 30, 2012.

The school-by-school consultation sessions have been well attended and the positive feedback provided by parents has endorsed the open, inclusive, faith-based approach the Board has already taken regarding delivery of extended day programs in schools.

The Waterloo Catholic District School Board values its long and positive relationship with local child care operators in serving the needs of Waterloo Region’s Catholic elementary school students.

However, after a number of discussions with the operators it is clear the Board must take the lead to ensure the extended day learning needs of **all** WCDSB students across the Region are addressed fairly and equitably.

The WCDSB has responded to parent requests for choice in selecting the type of extended day program they want for their children.

Therefore, as per current practice, the Waterloo Catholic District School Board will continue to offer a board-run extended day learning program in all schools where the *Full Day Early Learning Kindergarten Program* exists.

Private child care operators may elect to respond to parents’ desire for choice by continuing to provide their current programs at their existing sites.

This approach is not a “hybrid” model of program delivery.

By definition, a “hybrid” model of program delivery necessarily constitutes a combination of content and resources from two partners to form a new entity.

The WCDSB’s approach will ensure Catholic families in **all** WCDSB schools where an extended day program is offered have **equal access** to a program consistent with the core day curriculum -- delivered by qualified Board staff from the Catholic faith perspective, with no waiting lists.

The daily fee will be announced at tonight’s public board meeting. Pro-rated fees for before school or after school programs and for full day programs on PA Days and holidays will vary from school to school and will be published on the Board’s website.

Families are invited to register for the extended day program at their school in February during the normal Kindergarten registration process.

The schools eligible to host an extended day program in September, 2012 are listed below:

- Blessed Sacrament** Catholic Elementary School, Kitchener
- Canadian Martyrs** Catholic Elementary School, Kitchener
- Christ the King** Catholic Elementary School, Cambridge
- Holy Family** Catholic Elementary School, New Hamburg
- Holy Rosary** Catholic Elementary School, Waterloo
- John Sweeney** Catholic Elementary School, Kitchener

- Monsignor Haller** Catholic Elementary School, Kitchener
 - Pope John Paul II** Catholic Elementary School, Kitchener
 - Sir Edgar Bauer** Catholic Elementary School, Waterloo +
 - St Ambrose** Catholic Elementary School, Cambridge
 - St Anne** Catholic Elementary School, Cambridge
 - St Anne** Catholic Elementary School, Kitchener ++
 - St Bernadette** Catholic Elementary School, Kitchener
 - St. Brigid** Catholic Elementary School, Ayr
 - St Gregory** Catholic Elementary School, Cambridge
 - St John** Catholic Elementary School, Kitchener
 - St. Luke** Catholic Elementary School, Waterloo
 - St Michael** Catholic Elementary School, Cambridge
 - St. Paul** Catholic Elementary School, Kitchener
 - St Peter** Catholic Elementary School, Cambridge
 - St Teresa** Catholic Elementary School, Kitchener +
 - St. Teresa** Catholic Elementary School, Elmira
- + = program currently provided after school only
++ = program currently provided before school and after school

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 176-year tradition of quality, inclusive, faith-based education. Follow us on Twitter: [@WCDSBNewswire](https://twitter.com/WCDSBNewswire).

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