



Waterloo Catholic
District School Board

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News Release

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For immediate release

Catholic Board Wants Feedback on Potential French Immersion or Extended French Program

Waterloo Region, ON – The Waterloo Catholic District School Board is seeking feedback from stakeholders on the potential start of a **French Immersion** or **Extended French** program in Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools.

A brief on-line survey (open until April 27, 2012) is available on the WCDSB website at:

<http://survey.wcdsb.ca/Surveys/TakeSurvey.aspx?s=8B75EEFA60BC4B1FA3410386F0EA497D>

The survey is also available on each school's website and hard copy surveys are available at each school as well as the Waterloo Region Catholic Education Centre.

The WCDSB currently offers the following French programs:

CORE FRENCH: A second language program intended to enable students to communicate purposefully in French and develop openness to cultural diversity. Students receive a minimum of 600 hours of instruction in French by the end of grade 8. This program is currently offered in the WCDSB from grades 4-12.

INTENSIVE FRENCH: A five month language acquisition program involving a period of intensive exposure to French. Its goal is to improve the fluency of Core French students. Students receive a minimum of 345 hours of French in their Intensive year (a total of 840 hours of instruction in French by the end of grade 8). This program is currently offered at six sites in the WCDSB in either grade 5 or 6.

The WCDSB is currently considering the future implementation of one of the following programs:

FRENCH IMMERSION: A French language acquisition program with the goal of developing functionally bilingual students through teaching most of the curriculum with French as the language of instruction. Students receive a minimum of 3800 hours of instruction in French by the end of grade 8. The program is not currently offered in the WCDSB.

EXTENDED FRENCH: A French language acquisition program with the goal of developing functionally bilingual students through teaching most of the curriculum with French as the language of instruction. Students receive a minimum of 1260 hours of instruction in French by the end of grade 8. The program is not currently offered in the WCDSB.

The Waterloo Catholic District School Board, representing more than 100,000 Catholic school supporters, operates 51 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.

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