

# Investigating the Catholic School Option

## Steps for Non-Catholic Families Requesting Admission to A Catholic School within the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board

Prior to contacting schools you are encouraged to do some research by visiting the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board website at [www.hwcdsb.edu.on.ca](http://www.hwcdsb.edu.on.ca) .

- 1) **Phone and request an appointment with the principal** of the school you wish to have your child attend.
- 2) **Meet with the principal** and communicate the reason you wish to have your child attend a Catholic school. The Principal will book a meeting with the School Admissions Committee (Principal, Superintendent, and pastor of the parish).
- 3) **Meet with the Admissions Committee** and your child may be admitted if:
  - parents understand the Catholic nature of the school,
  - agree to be a supportive parent, and
  - space is available.
- 4) **If you experience difficulty**, you are invited to **contact Pat Daly, Chairman of the Board**, at **905 525 2930**. Please leave a message and he will get back to you. Please inform PEACE when you have registered your child.

Mr. Pat Daly  
90 Mulberry Street  
P.O. Box 2012  
Hamilton ON L8N 3R9  
T (905) 525-2930

P.E.A.C.E. Hamilton Project  
2621 Hwy 56  
P.O. Box 306  
Binbrook, On L0R 1C0  
c(905) 869 6334

**IMPORTANT:** Once you have registered with the Catholic School Board:

- 1) Please complete the triplicate form explaining why you are leaving the public school system.
- 2) Keep the pink copy for yourself, and send the white copy to the principal of the school.
- 3) Please send the Yellow copy to PEACE. PEACE will take a photocopy of it for our files and then forward the yellow copy on to the appropriate school board trustee so that they are aware of why families are leaving.

## Summary of the Admissions Policy - Non Catholic Student Admission to Catholic Schools

1. The Admission Policy of the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board is based on the school support status of the parents or guardians, their acceptance of the special characteristics of Catholic education and desire for their children to grow in a sense of values and faith, as well as their commitment to uphold the Catholic Character of the school.
2. The Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic School Board will admit, to its schools, students who are eligible under the Acts and Regulations of the Province of Ontario and live in a residence assessed for Catholic support within the jurisdiction of the Board. Students who are not eligible to attend schools within the jurisdiction of the Board may be admitted under certain conditions and circumstances as outlined in this policy.
3. Admission to a Catholic school within the jurisdiction of the Board will be granted subject to an understanding and acceptance by the applicant of the Catholic character of the school. The applicant must understand that the school, by its very nature, is Christi centred, that all the programs are taught in the context of the Gospel values and the teachings of the Catholic church, and that Catholicity permeates the entire curriculum and climate and is not confined to Religious Education classes. The Board emphasizes that the transmission of the school's Catholic culture is integral into everything that the school does, and therefore expects that the students will participate in all prayer/liturgical activities.
4. The participation on the liturgical activities by non-catholic students is subject to church regulations governing the reception and celebration of sacraments.

## 5. Catholic Child/Parent/Guardian Non-Catholic School Supporters

The Board may admit the child who is not baptized Catholic if:

- a) The parent/guardian is eligible and agrees to become a Catholic School supporter; or
- b) If unable to change school support the application for admission will be subject to the review process and decision of the School Admissions Committee
- c) The parent/guardian is not a Catholic School supporter following a review of the application for admission be the School Admissions Committee as per policy statement #6 The Parent/guardian will be required to complete the Admission Expectations for students form acknowledging acceptance of the admission requirements.

## 5. Admissions Committee School

- a) The School Admissions Committee shall consist of the designated Superintendent and Principal of the school. An invitation to attend shall be extended to the pastor of the parish.
- b) The School Admission Committee, in making its decision, shall, subject to the availability of space in the school and the class to which the child would be admitted, ascertain that:
  - i. The parent/guardian desires a Catholic education for the child in keeping with the desired outcomes of a Catholic education as outlined in this policy;
  - ii. Evidence that exists that the request is based neither on family convenience nor with friction with public school authorities; and
  - iii. The parent/guardian agrees to complete the necessary admission requirements including the Admissions Expectations for Students form acknowledging acceptance of the admission requirements.

## Secondary Schools

Admission to a secondary school operated by the Board shall be admitted subject to the following circumstances, documentation and other requirements

- a) All students within the jurisdiction of the school board have a right to attend a secondary school operated by the school board subject to the conditions outlined in policy statement number 8b and c
- b) B) there is a list of priority

## Secondary School Admission Registration Requirements

- i. When a student applies for admission to one of the Board's secondary schools, he/she does so on the understanding of policy statement 3., and 4., availability of space and provision of necessary documentation. It shall be explained to the applicant at registration that he/she has selected a school with an excellent academic reputation, full co-instructional program excellent facilities and most importantly, a deep commitment to the school's role as a Catholic institution.
- ii. The applicant shall also be advised that when enrolling at the school, he/she accepts the entire program including enrolment in the religious education course each year, wearing the school uniform, acceptance of the school's Code of Students Behaviour, Safe School policy and most importantly respect and recognition of the Catholic nature of the school.
- iii. Upon the acceptance of the Board's Secondary School Admission Registration Requirements, both the student applicant and parent will be required to sign an Agreement of Understanding form acknowledging acceptance of the admissions requirements.

Also, all Public Health and Immigration requirements are upheld.