



# NEWS NEWS NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## New School Year Set to Begin at Halton Catholic Board

The Halton Catholic District School Board is set to welcome back its students and staff for a new school year. Classes at all of the Halton Catholic District School Board's schools begin on **Tuesday, September 8, 2009**.

"As the new school year begins, our Board will continue in its commitment to provide a wide range of quality programs and services to the students attending our Catholic schools," says Michael W. Pautler, Director of Education, Halton Catholic District School Board. "We will continue to focus our efforts to ensure that our Catholic learning communities maintain their culture of high learning expectations rooted in faith."

Some of the new and ongoing initiatives for the 2009-2010 school year will include:

- The further implementation of the Board's *Focus on Faith* initiative, with a new theme for 2009-2011, "Hear the Word of the Lord, Learn to Do Good, Seek Justice". This initiative promotes the Board's Catholic learning communities as a culture of high learning expectations rooted in faith. *Focus on Faith* provides staff with a common language and framework that emphasizes the whole educational process as a religious activity where faith infuses every aspect of the curriculum.
- The addition of 8 new Itinerant Teacher of the Arts positions, which will provide all elementary schools access to focused instruction in areas such as Drama, Visual Arts and Dance. These teachers will visit 3 or 4 schools a week to provide this programming from Grades 1-8. This increased focus on the Arts has been funded by the Ministry of Education at all schools in Ontario.
- The expansion of the Board's elementary instrumental music program to incorporate both Our Lady of Fatima and St. Peter Catholic Elementary Schools in Milton.

The construction of two new elementary schools in Milton began in the fall of 2008. Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary School, 709 Bolingbroke Drive, and a new replacement school for St. Peter Catholic Elementary School, 137 Dixon Drive, will be ready for students on opening day. The new schools in Milton both have large double gyms, dedicated science, art and music rooms and a large, expandable stage. In addition, each school has energy efficient mechanical and electrical systems and are fully air conditioned, and feature two separate parking lots and a dedicated bus loop.

Construction has also started for a new secondary replacement school at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School in Oakville. The new school is being constructed on the south portion of the existing school site and is expected to open for the second semester of the 2010-2011 school year. Planning is underway for an addition and interior renovations to St. Ignatius of Loyola Catholic Secondary School in Oakville. The addition and renovations will take place during the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 school years.

In addition, the Board approved the replacements of the running tracks and sports fields at Bishop Reding Catholic Secondary School in Milton, Assumption and Notre Dame Catholic Secondary Schools in Burlington and St. Ignatius of Loyola Catholic Secondary School in Oakville, in the Spring, 2009. Construction of these Premier Track and Field Facilities at the aforementioned schools is now underway. The sports fields will be completed this fall, and the running tracks next spring.

All student bus information, including bus stop times, stop location and route numbers are available online at: [www.haltonbus.ca](http://www.haltonbus.ca) - the *Halton Student Transportation Services (HSTS)* website. Parents should note that in order to access student transportation information either online or by telephone (1-888-803-8660), it is necessary to know their child's Ontario Education Number (OEN). In addition, student bus information will be available at each school during the week of August 31, 2009. The Board reminds all motorists that with the start of the new school year, children will be travelling on our streets during the morning and afternoon rush hours. Please exercise caution when driving near school zones, crosswalks and school buses with flashing lights.

At its April 13, 2009 Regular Board Meeting, the Halton Catholic District School Board approved a School Year Calendar for  
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2009-2010 consisting of 188 instructional days and six professional activity days. For further information on the School Year Calendar, please visit the Board's website at [www.hcdsb.org](http://www.hcdsb.org) and click on **School Year Calendar**.

The following schools will celebrate anniversaries during the 2009-2010 school year:

- 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary* of Holy Rosary School, Milton;
- 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary* of St. Gabriel School, Burlington;
- 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary* of St. Michael School, Oakville and Ascension School, Burlington;
- 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary* of the Halton Catholic District School Board and St. John School, Oakville;
- 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary* of St. Mark School, Burlington;
- 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary* of Our Lady of Victory School, Milton
- 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary* of St. Bernadette School, Oakville, St. Timothy School and Notre Dame Secondary School, both in Burlington;
- 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary* of St. Andrew School and Mother Teresa School, both in Oakville and Sacred Heart of Jesus School, Burlington; and
- 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary* of Guardian Angels School, Milton.

As Halton Catholic students return to school for the new 2009-2010 school year, the Board anticipates an overall growth in enrolment. The projected enrolment figures indicate that 29,191 students (19,323 elementary and 9,868 secondary) will be attending the Board's 40 elementary and 9 secondary schools, as well as the Board's Continuing Education facilities in Burlington and Oakville on opening day, compared to 28,993 in September, 2008.

The Board employs approximately 3,600 staff, with the total number of new teachers hired to date for this school year now at 36 (18 elementary and 18 secondary).

Trustees of the Board meet twice a month, typically on the **first and third Tuesday of each month** at 8:00 p.m., in the Board Room of the Catholic Education Centre (802 Drury Lane in Burlington). The Board's website - [www.hcdsb.org](http://www.hcdsb.org) - provides relevant information on Board issues and links to individual school pages.

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#### **About the Halton Catholic District School Board**

The Halton Catholic District School Board, a provincial leader in student achievement in literacy and numeracy, as well as in Special Education, provides the best of Catholic education to almost 29,000 students of all ages at 50 faith-centred learning communities in Burlington, Halton Hills, Milton and Oakville. Committed to servant leadership, continuous school improvement planning and the preservation of the enduring gift of Catholic education, the Board is an exciting and dynamic system in which to learn, grow and work.

Believing In You . . . Believing In Us

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