

BACKGROUND

During the 2016-2017 school year, the Halton Catholic District School Board undertook a Pupil Accommodation (School Consolidation/Closure) Review Process to address declining student enrolment in the area of Northeast Oakville.

Following a five-month review and community consultation process, at the Regular Board Meeting held on March 7, 2017, the Board of Trustees approved to **consolidate the St. John and the St. Michael school communities on the St. Michael school site**. This option will also involve **boundary changes** that will redirect some St. John students **to Our Lady of Peace Catholic Elementary School**.

These changes will take effect for the 2018-2019 school year.

The following are a list of frequently asked questions and concerns received from members of the St. John, St. Michael and Our Lady of Peace school communities.

Staffing

What will happen to teachers and school staff when the two schools consolidate into one?

We know that consistency in staffing will be important in ensuring a smooth transition for students and families.

As much as possible, and in accordance with collective agreements, we will make **every effort to maintain the current staff of St. John and St. Michael schools**. Our Lady of Peace staff will not be affected.

Who will be the Principal of the new school community?

At the Regular Board Meeting on December 19, 2017, it was announced that effective September, 2018, **Mr. Brian Melanson** will be the Principal of the Oakville Northeast Catholic Elementary School. Mr. Melanson is currently the Principal of St. John Catholic Elementary School in Oakville.

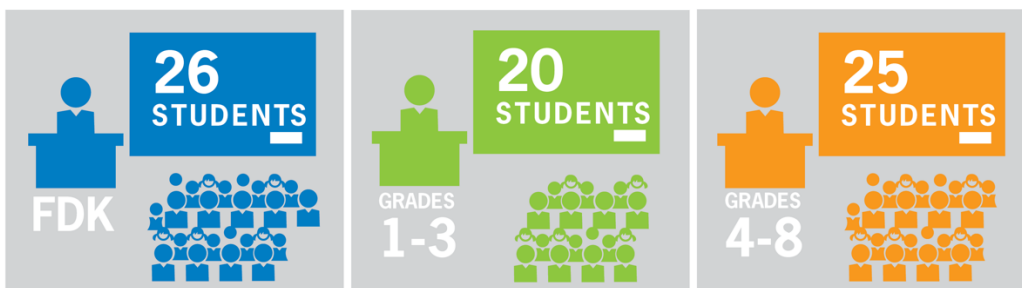


Class Composition

I am worried about bigger class sizes in a larger school.

All elementary schools are staffed according to Ministry mandated ratios and class maximums.

SMALL SCHOOL ≠ SMALLER CLASSROOMS



- **Kindergarten classes** are staffed based on a **26:1** average ratio across the board. Which means one (1) teacher and one (1) Designated Early Childhood Educator (DECE) is assigned for every 26 students.
- **Primary (Grade 1 – 3) classes** are staffed at **20:1**. It is possible that classes could reach a maximum of 23, but only 10% of the primary classes in the entire school board can exceed 20.
- **Junior and Intermediate (Grade 4 – 8)** is staffed on an average ratio of **25:1**.

Generally speaking, students will not see a significant change in class size.

How will classes be created?

All schools will work together to create the class composition, keeping in mind important factors such as friendships, gender balance, and individual student learning needs.



Physical Space/Building

What will the physical space look like (classrooms, teacher workrooms, etc.)?

Our Facility Management staff are currently working on the plans to accommodate St. John and St. Michael students on the St. Michael site. Once these plans are finalized, they will be shared with the St. John and St. Michael school communities.

There will also be an opportunity for students and parents to visit their new school.

Community Building and Transition

How will my child's learning and emotional needs be met?

We know that change can create anxiety for some students. We will have a number of initiatives and staff in place to support a successful transition for all students.

I am concerned that our school's identity will be lost.

It is important that we find ways to honour the history of the school communities that will be closing. A Transition Committee - comprised of parents, students, staff and parish representatives - has been established for your school community. One of the sub-committees on the Transition Committee is responsible for school closing events. This sub-committee is gathering artifacts and memorabilia, and exploring ways to commemorate the rich communities of St. John and St. Michael.

What can be done to avoid an "us vs them" environment?

A Transition Committee - comprised of parents, students, staff and parish representatives - has been established for your school community. There are sub-committees on the Transition Committee responsible for community building and student integration. A number of events and initiatives have taken place or are planned to take place over the next year to help forge bonds between students, families and staff.



Will there be a school uniform dress code in place in the new school community?

Decisions around a school uniform dress code will be determined in accordance with [Policy II-41](#).

How will the school name be determined?

The process for school name selection is outlined in [Policy I-15](#).

School Programming

What programs and resources will be at our new school?

No optional French programming will be provided at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Elementary School or at the consolidated Oakville Northeast Catholic Elementary School during the 2018-2019 school year. However, staff are exploring the possibility of future offerings beyond 2019.

Transportation and Safety

Will there be transportation for my child?

[Halton Student Transportation Services \(HSTS\)](#) has created draft transportation eligibility maps. Please note that **these maps are subject to change**. While not yet finalized, these maps provide an early indication of bus routes.

- [View the DRAFT Oakville Northeast Catholic Elementary School Transportation Eligibility Map](#)
- [View the DRAFT Our Lady of Peace Catholic Elementary School Transportation Eligibility Map](#)

Will there be crossing guards for students crossing Sixth Line?

The safety of our students is a high priority for us. That said, crossing guards are allocated by municipalities, and the Town of Oakville will ultimately determine the need for a crossing guard based on their criteria, which may involve a traffic study or other requirements of the municipality.

