

<b>Blessing and Rededication of a Major Addition to a School</b>	
<b>Adopted:</b> February 25, 1997	<b>Last Reviewed/Revised:</b> October 15, 2024
<b>Next Scheduled Review:</b> 2027-2028	
<b>Associated Policies &amp; Procedures:</b> <a href="#">V-12 Blessing and Official Opening of a New School</a> <a href="#">VI-61 Recognition and Acknowledgement of Dignitaries, Board Officials at Board and School Events</a>	

## Purpose

The Halton Catholic District School Board (HCDSB) recognizes the importance of celebrating our Catholic faith and acknowledging the construction of a major school addition through an official school-based blessing and rededication ceremony of any school having undergone major additions/renovations.

## Application and Scope

This policy applies to all schools in the HCDSB having undergone major additions/renovations:

- Increase the school size by at least 30%;
- Provide some major program facility improvement such as a gym, library resource centre, Kindergarten room(s), computer lab, etc.;
- Are viewed by the school's community, and the HCDSB, as a very significant event for that community.

## Principles

- Our school community exists to foster and exemplify Catholic values.
- The Catholic school is recognised as an integral component of the home-school-parish partnership in the development of each student's faith.
- The Catholic school is a community of faith and is centred on the person of Jesus Christ
- Additions/renovations to Catholic schools are important to the educational facility and will be blessed by the Bishop of Hamilton or designate.



## Requirements

- The Blessing and Rededication Ceremony shall be held as soon as possible after the addition has been occupied and/or a renovation has been completed.
- In accordance with Diocesan protocol, the Director's Office will contact the Office of the Bishop of Hamilton to determine the date of the ceremony, based on the availability of the Bishop or designate to preside over the ceremony.
- Once the Bishop or designate has confirmed attendance, the Principal shall establish a Committee to organize the ceremony. The Principal shall act as the Chair of the Committee. The details of the Blessing and Rededication will be shared by the school with all members of the school community.
- An invitation to attend the ceremony will be sent from the Director's Office to all HCDSB Trustees, senior staff, and school administrators. (Appendix A)
- Strategic Communications will issue an invitation for the ceremony to the Minister of Education or designate, the local Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP), the Mayor, and Municipal Councillors.
- Strategic Communications will invite the media and issue a news release to the community.
- A local trustee of the Board shall act as Events Host for the occasion.
- The Chair of the Board or designate, the Director of Education or designate, and the Principal of the school shall be invited to address the gathering. The Committee may invite other dignitaries to address the gathering.
- HCDSB funds up to \$300 that shall be allocated to defray the costs of the ceremony.
- The final accounting of expenditures shall be submitted to Business Services.

APPROVED: Regular Meeting of the Board

AUTHORIZED BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Chair of the Board*

APPENDIX A

**List of Guests**

- Bishop of the Diocese
- Catholic School Council members
- Current Trustees
- Local Clergy
- Local MP
- Local MPP
- Local and Regional Councillors
- Mayor
- President(s) of Bargaining Units
- Regional Ministry of Education official
- Senior Staff
- Staff – school and/or support services for that school
- Others, as determined by the Committee