



Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board  
*Believing, Achieving, Serving*

June 2, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Earlier today Premier Doug Ford announced that schools will **not reopen for in-person learning** for the remainder of the school year. While understanding the need for caution, our Board of Trustees, like many medical experts and public health officials, had strongly advocated for a regional reopening of schools. We did so out of our belief that subject to consultation with local public health officials, in-school learning is most beneficial to our students.

In light of the provincial announcement, our system and school staff are in the process of developing plans for the final weeks of school. Parents/guardians can expect to receive information from their schools in the coming weeks outlining specifics on these plans as well as instructions for the return of school textbooks, materials and technology, and the pick-up of any personal belongings that were left in the school.

With summer fast approaching, we are working with our instructional and planning teams to finalize our summer programming. This year, we will once again be providing [eLearning opportunities](#) through our St. Charles Adult and Continuing Education Centres as well as some in-person summer learning opportunities for our younger students and students with special education needs. We will also be using these next couple months of summer to complete school retrofits, repairs and upgrades through [Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program \(ICIP\)](#) funding. Education-related infrastructure projects include WiFi upgrades as well as COVID-19 resilience projects, such as water refilling stations and enhanced ventilation systems to ensure safe school environments as we go forward. We are also working closely with Hamilton Public Health Services to disseminate information on [youth vaccine programs](#) as well as family-friendly clinics that are being set up for students and their families throughout the weeks of June 14 and June 21.

While this school year ending is not what we would have wished for our students, we recognize that the safety and wellbeing of our students and staff must remain the priority concern as we move toward the safe reopening of our communities. We cannot state enough that the patience and understanding of our parents has been crucial to our ability to support the continuity of student learning over this past year. We also want to add our deep appreciation to staff throughout our Catholic school system for their outstanding service. During this month of June, which we dedicate to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, we pray that you and your families experience the peace and joy of Christ's healing love.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick J. Daly'.

Patrick J. Daly  
Chairperson of the Board

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Hansen'.

David Hansen  
Director of Education