



York Catholic District School Board

Catholic Education Centre, 320 Bloomington Road West, Aurora, Ontario L4G 0M1
Tel: 905-713-2711, 416-221-5050, 1-800-363-2711, Automated Lines: 905-713-1211, 416-221-5051
Fax: 905-713-1272 • www.ycdsb.ca

February 26, 2015

Dear Parents and Guardians,

RE: Revisions to the Health & Physical Education Curriculum

We are writing to you today regarding the recent release of the Ministry of Education's revised Health and Physical Education (HPE) Curriculum.

As Catholics, we understand that parents and guardians are the primary educators of their children. Your role in the teaching of family life issues is pivotal and vital. As a Catholic school system, we work with our parents and our parishes to provide for our students an education that is founded in the Gospel of Jesus, and reflects a Catholic world view.

While we have a responsibility to teach the curriculum set out by the Ministry of Education in education policy, we have always done so in a manner that conveys, respects and models our Catholic values to our students. As has always been the case, parents retain the right to withdraw their child from any lesson.

For more than 30 years, our schools, and all Catholic schools in Ontario, have successfully provided a family life curriculum within a Catholic framework under the guidance of the Catholic Bishops of Ontario through the *Fully Alive* program.

The vast majority of the revised curriculum is already covered within the *Fully Alive* program. Although some of the content has been reassigned, with the expectation that it be delivered in earlier grades, we are confident that we will be able to deliver the revised curriculum within the context of our Family Life program, in a way that is consistent with Church teachings, and our faith tradition.

Although the revised curriculum has been released, it will not be introduced to students until September 2015. The Catholic education community of Ontario will work together to produce resources that support our Catholic teachers and ensure that the curriculum delivered in our classrooms is consistent with our Catholic teachings, and appropriate within the context of a Catholic classroom. The Institute for Catholic Education will coordinate this work.

For more information about the Fully Alive program, visit <http://acbo.on.ca/englishweb/fullyalive.htm>. Additional information, including a Q&A document is available on our Board website at www.ycdsb.ca.

I want to assure you that as a Catholic school district, we will continue to offer a holistic curriculum that is shaped by a Catholic world view, and is faithful to the tradition and teachings of the Church.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Elizabeth Crowe in cursive.

Elizabeth Crowe
Chair of the Board

Handwritten signature of Patricia Preston in cursive.

Patricia Preston
Director of Education