

Board to hold information meetings on French immersion

The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board will hold a series of public information meetings in Mississauga and Brampton for parents and guardians interested in enrolling their children in the board's French Immersion Program for the 2017-2018 school year.

The information sessions are intended to provide an overview of the program, the criteria for admittance and changes that can be expected from the regular program.

The Brampton session will be Nov. 24 at St. Joachim Elementary School at 435 Rutherford Rd. North. Other meetings will be Nov. 22 at St. Gregory Elementary School, 1075 Swinbourne Dr. in Mississauga and Nov. 23 at St. Elizabeth Seton School, 6133 Glen Erin Dr. in Mississauga. All three meetings will start at 7 p.m.

The Board offers French immersion starting in Grade 1 at eight school sites. Students registered in this program will spend 90 per cent of their day learning in French. All subjects and activities in the French immersion classroom, except for religion and family life, will be delivered in French. In Grades 2 and 3, 70 per cent of the instruction will be in French, with the proportion of English increasing to 50 per cent in later years.

Students in French immersion usually attain a mid-range level of competency in the language. This means that after at least 4,510 hours of French instruction during his/her school career, the student should be able to read newspapers and books, with the occasional help of a dictionary, as well as watch and understand radio and television news and other programs. The student should also be able to participate adequately in conversation, demonstrate knowledge of the culture, society, customs, economy, government, institutions of a French-speaking community and, after a few months' residence, and function quite well in a French-speaking community.

Online registration will begin following the information sessions with the deadline for submissions to be announced. Should the number of applications exceed the number of spaces available, a centralized, computer-generated, random selection process will be held following the deadline.