



Office of the Director of Education

November 5, 2020

Dear Families of Elementary Students:

This is an important update for families about a new start date and what you can expect for elementary students.

Following the completion of progress reports, elementary students enrolled in-person will begin on November 23rd and students enrolled in virtual learning will begin their selected learning model with asynchronous activities on November 23rd and synchronous lessons starting on November 24th. These dates have been adjusted to allow parent-teacher interviews to be conducted.

The Toronto Catholic District School Board is currently serving approximately 18,200 elementary students virtually through St. Anne's Catholic Academy, School of Virtual Learning and based on responses from families, an additional 1,300 elementary students have enrolled in virtual learning.

The Board estimates that this increase of virtual students will create the need for 50 additional teachers at St. Anne's Catholic Academy, School of Virtual Learning. The need to increase staff for virtual learning will result in shifting of staffing levels in our in-person schools.

We anticipate 78 elementary schools will see a reduction of 1-2 teachers which will result in an increase of class size averages in some schools as these teachers will be needed to support the additional students in the virtual school. Over the next few weeks, some in-person classes will be reorganized while maintaining class size averages and caps as prescribed by the Ministry of Education and collective agreements with our teachers' federations.

We would also like to reaffirm that the 36 high risk schools will maintain the lower class caps as motioned by the Board of Trustees. As you know, the maximum number for primary is 15 students and for junior and intermediate classes is 20 students. A few schools have space issues and these caps are adjusted to accommodate those situations

In order to balance the competing needs of both in-person and the virtual school, adjustments are necessary. The Board will make every effort to minimize disruption, and to ensure an equitable distribution of supports and staff for all students, whether they are attending in-person or virtually. Please be assured, TCDSB health and safety protocols and enhanced cleaning procedures will continue.

All of us remain committed to providing your child(ren) with the best possible education and look forward to a successful term of learning together.

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we work through this together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brendan Browne".

Brendan Browne
Director of Education