



ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
Lighting the Way ~ Rejoicing in Our Journey

MEDIA RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC TO INSTITUTE NEW PRACTICE OF LOCKING ALL EXTERIOR DOORS AT ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

The St. Clair Catholic District School Board will receive \$80,000 from the Ontario Ministry of Education, which will be used to help make Catholic elementary schools more secure.

“By taking these new security measures, we are being proactive,” says Paul Wubben, Director of Education. “We want to do everything we can to help make our schools as safe as possible.”

Beginning this spring, locking mechanisms which can be operated remotely will be installed at the main entrances to all Catholic elementary schools, along with cameras. Visitors to the school will be required to buzz the office and identify themselves before being admitted to the building.

“I know there will be many who believe their child’s school is already very safe; and that these changes might in some way detract from the school’s ability to be welcoming to visitors,” says Mr. Wubben. “It may also cause some inconvenience for parents, delivery personnel and service providers; however inconvenience does not outweigh the added safety and security these new measures will provide.”

When the initiative is fully implemented by the end of September 2013, the front doors of all schools will be locked fifteen minutes after the bell rings in the morning and they will remain locked until 10 minutes before the end of the day. Individual schools will determine protocols for locking doors during recess, lunch and/or nutrition breaks, which best meet the needs of the school community.

Parents will be notified by their school principal about the date that these changes will take effect at their child’s school.

“I want our parents to know that the safety of their children and our staff is always our number one priority at the St. Clair Catholic District School Board,” says Mr. Wubben. “We believe these changes to be in the best interests of our school communities.”