



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

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PRINCIPALS, VICE PRINCIPALS AND VP LEADERSHIP CANDIDATES TO COMPLETE SPECIAL EDUCATION AQ COURSE

St. Clair Catholic is the first school board in Ontario to offer a Special Education Additional Qualifications course to every administrator across the board.

“We believe this is important learning for every administrator in every school,” says Deb Crawford, Director of Education. “That’s why we’re offering it through the Catholic Principals’ Council of Ontario (CPCO) to all of our principals, vice principals and vice principal leadership candidates.”

The Special Education for Administrators Additional Qualifications course has been designed by CPCO administrators across the province. It consists of 125 hours of course work, including face-to-face instruction, online learning and a job-embedded professional inquiry practicum.

The Board has embedded the course into its Catholic Leadership meetings, to ensure that all administrators and leadership candidates receive the SEA AQ accreditation.

“This course celebrates our distinct Catholic identity and is grounded in the works and philosophy of Jean Vanier,” says Mrs. Crawford. “In his book, *Becoming Human*, Vanier embraces a society in which we work toward the common good when we seek to understand and accept responsibility for others. It is a book which has inspired many to rethink their perceptions and attitudes towards persons with disabilities.”

The course also reflects of the Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations and the Ontario Catholic Leadership Framework. Principals will also explore case studies from books about inclusion and special education.

Another key component of the course is the practical application of relating this learning to school improvement planning and determining the most pressing student learning needs in our schools. Administrators are looking through the lens of the learner, as schoolwide numeracy and literacy goals are developed.

The course is being led at St. Clair Catholic by Superintendent of Education Lisa Demers, Sacred Heart Catholic School (Port Lambton) Principal Jen Morrow and St. Joseph Catholic School (Corunna) Principal Colleen Cogghe.