



Lindsay Liske  
Chairperson

Rose Burton Spohn  
Director of Education

October 6, 2020

Dear Parents / Guardians:

We hope this finds you and your family as well as can be at this turbulent time. This letter is intended to provide some additional information about the 2020-21 school year.

In early August, a letter was sent to all families, providing key details about the upcoming school year and requesting that all families complete an online survey about their preferences for their children's learning for the fall. The board remains grateful to the many families who conveyed their children's learning preferences by the August 12, 2020 deadline. We recognize that choosing between in-person and remote learning was a very difficult decision.

Equally, we acknowledge that, over the past several weeks, families might have received additional information and/or encountered circumstances that are prompting them to rethink their initial decision. As was conveyed in our August 5, 2020 letter, transition points have been established throughout the school year for families who wish to have their elementary and secondary students transition between in-person and remote learning.

In late August, the Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board learned that the Ministry of Education required all school boards to have one fall transition date; this date is in addition to the date the board had communicated for January.

### First Transition Point in the 2020-21 School Year

This letter is to advise you that, on **Monday, November 16, 2020**:

- A new quadmester will begin for all secondary students taking credit courses. This means that all current student cohorts will change and secondary students will begin taking two new courses. These courses will end on Thursday, February 4, 2021.
- The board will implement some new elementary classroom organizations. Not all elementary schools or classrooms will be affected by this transition; however, it is anticipated that multiple schools and classrooms will need to be reorganized so that there are sufficient staff members in place at each location. The number of classrooms and schools impacted will depend upon several factors, including the number of families who choose to transition between in-person and remote learning. Please note that **these reorganizations may result in a change to your child(ren)'s classroom teacher, classroom location, and/or classmates.**

The board recognizes how disruptive reorganizations can be for students, families, and employees and will do its best to minimize the changes. However, the board must comply with ministry expectations, including those related to class sizes and transition dates.

**Catholic Education Centre**

90 Ontario Avenue  
Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6B 6G7  
Tel: 705.945.5400  
Fax: 705.945.5575  
website: [www.hscdsb.on.ca](http://www.hscdsb.on.ca)



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**Preparing for the First Transition Point**

In order to ensure that all logistics are in place for the fall transition date, it is critical that the following occurs by no later than **Friday, October 30, 2020**:

- Families who wish to have their children remain with either in-person and remote learning do not need to do anything. These children will simply continue to attend the school selected in August or September.
- Families who wish to have their children move to remote learning must contact their local school principal or vice-principal.
- Families who wish to have their children move to in-person learning must contact the principal or vice-principal of the virtual school they are attending.

Reorganizing classes requires significant time and effort. Unfortunately, families who do not meet the October 30, 2020 deadline will be placed on a wait list, which may or may not move before the November transition date. Those families who do not move off the wait list will be offered an opportunity to **transition in January or early February**. Information about this transition time will be sent in December.

Should you require additional specifics related to in-person or remote learning, we encourage you to re-read the accompanying letter that was sent home on Wednesday, August 5, 2020 and/or to consult with your school administrative team.

With gratitude and best wishes for a safe and happy Thanksgiving,

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