



July 16, 2021

Dear TCDSB Families,

As we plan for the 2021-2022 school year, the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) looks forward to welcoming staff and students back to our schools in September. We have seen more access to vaccines and anticipate a continued rollout throughout the summer and fall. Currently, 80% of Ontarians have received their first vaccination, and 60% have received their second dose, with those rates increasing on a daily basis. With the opportunity for every staff member and student in secondary schools to be fully vaccinated before the start of school, we are preparing for a return to in-person learning for most, if not all students.

We heard from our school leaders, staff and students about their experiences with the quadmester model this past year, and the advocacy for a return to a four-course semester. Recognizing the importance of moving closer to a return to a “normal” semester, we have planned for **a modified semester model in TCDSB secondary schools for the 2021-2022 school year**. This means that students will carry four courses during alternating weeks from September to February as they would in a normal school year. Students will carry two courses per day for a week with one in the morning, one in the afternoon (Week A), and then switch to their two other courses the next week (Week B).

Students will continue to be cohorted but will now be part of four cohorts (one for each class). This model has been developed in response to student and parent/guardian feedback on the 2020-2021 academic year, in order to provide more time for students to learn course concepts, and the opportunity to receive the supports and intervention as required. This model also enables Toronto Public Health (TPH) and Ministry of Education requirements of a 48-hour window between the changing of cohorts over each weekend.

The information below has been prepared to assist you with making the decision that is best for your child(ren). Please review the information below and the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) before completing the learning model registration for your child(ren).

For secondary students for the 2021-2022 school year, this means that:

- Learning will occur in-person at school or virtually (while remaining connected to their in-person classes) for two periods each day.
- Teachers will maintain a virtual learning environment (such as Google Classroom or Brightspace).
- Schedules will be finalized before September and shared with students.
- Secondary specialty programs such as Specialist High Skills Majors (SHSM), Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP), and Co-op will continue to be offered in those secondary schools that have such specialty programs.
- All current health and safety protocols such as screening, hand hygiene, etc. will remain in place and updated as needed with guidance from TPH.
- The use of non-medical or cloth masks indoors on school property, including in hallways and in classrooms remains mandatory for all students and staff at this time, subject to evolving Ministry directions over the summer.



- **Please note that St. Anne School of Virtual Learning will no longer be offered for secondary students.**

We are preparing for and looking forward to the majority of our secondary students attending in-person classes in September, while also recognizing that some families may require the option for their child to learn entirely remotely. **For those secondary students who choose not to attend in-person learning, they will be connected virtually to their in-person courses.**

As was [communicated on May 27, 2021](#), families will receive a registration link today **July 16, 2021** with the option to select a learning model for your child(ren). **You will receive individual emails with a unique link for each of your child(ren) and will have until midnight on August 6 to respond.**

**Changing your registration choice:** Families will receive a confirmation email once they submit their child's registration. The confirmation email will include a link giving families the ability to change their registration preference **prior to the August 6 deadline.**

Together, we have learned so much from this past year and hope to provide our students with a learning experience that will support their successful achievement of the Catholic Graduate Expectations. We appreciate your continued understanding, patience, and partnership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Browne", written in a cursive style.

Dr. Brendan Browne  
Director of Education