



*Office of the Director of Education*

January 7, 2014

Dear Parents/Guardians:

This letter is to remind you of the Toronto Catholic District School Board approved policy ***S.M.09 Fees for Learning Materials and Activities Rationale***, which was passed in 2012 in accordance with provincial regulations around student fees.

All secondary schools in the TCDSB collect a student activity fee as part of the registration process. These fees supplement the school experience for students by providing for materials and activities such as student agendas, student recognition programs, yearbooks, retreats, theme days, etc.

The payment of the activity fee is voluntary. Should a family not wish to pay the fee, a student would not automatically receive the items covered by the fee such as the yearbook and student agenda. Students who are unable to pay the activity fee due to financial hardship are encouraged to speak with the school administration.

Enhanced programming and material fees provide for enrichments or upgrades to curriculum activities beyond what is necessary to meet the learning expectations for a particular grade or course. They represent alternative products or consumables not offered by the school, and may be chosen by the student at their own expense.

Optional programming fees relate to voluntary courses or activities that students may choose to attend through an application process such as Advanced Placement courses or a Hockey Canada Skills Academy program.

It is the policy of the Board to also allow schools to charge fees to enhance a student's school and faith experience. These fees are voluntary, will reflect the actual costs, and the total charge will be itemized where possible.

Where students choose not to purchase Enhanced Programming and Materials, alternatives must be made available for essential course materials required to meet the learning expectations of the course or grade at no additional cost to the student. Non-payment of these fees will in no way interfere with a student's registration, course selections or graduation from a course or program. Mandatory charges are not allowed for any curriculum requirements used to earn an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) or a Secondary School Certificate (OSSC).

The privacy and dignity of every student and parent will be honoured in the school fee collection process, and our schools will ensure that no child is left out due to financial hardship or special needs. Principals will consult annually with their local Catholic School Advisory Council regarding student fees, and the process will reflect the Board's vision of Christian values, community spirit, inclusiveness, wellness and academic excellence.

To read the policy in its entirety, please visit the Board's website at:

<http://www.tcdsb.org/Board/Policies/Pages/SM09.aspx>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angela Gauthier".

Angela Gauthier  
Director of Education

Cc: Trustees & Superintendents of Education