



*Office of the Director of Education*

January 2013

Dear Parents/Guardians:

In June 2012, the Toronto Catholic District School Board approved policy S.M.09 Fees for Learning Materials and Activities Rationale in accordance with provincial regulations around student fees.

The Ministry of Education defines student activity fees as voluntary amounts used to supplement a student's school experience through materials and activities such as student agendas, student recognition programs, yearbooks, extracurricular activities, school dances, theme days, etc. Enhanced programming and materials are voluntary enrichments or upgrades to the curriculum activities beyond what is necessary to meet the learning expectations for a particular grade or course. They represent superior products or consumables to that offered by the school and may be chosen by the student at their own expense. Optional programming refers to voluntary courses or activities that students normally choose to attend through an application process. Examples would be an Advanced Placement or a Hockey Canada Skills Academy program.

It is the policy of the Board to allow schools to charge a Student Activity Fee to enhance a student's school and faith experience. All requests for student activity fees will be on a voluntary basis, will reflect actual cost 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 course selection 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.

To read the policy in its entirety, please visit the board's website at <http://www.tcdsb.org/Board/Policies/Pages/SM09.aspx>.

Principals will consult annually with their local Catholic School Advisory Councils regarding student fees, and that the process will reflect the Board's vision of Christian values, community spirit, inclusiveness, wellness and academic excellence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bruce Rodrigues".

Bruce Rodrigues  
Director of Education

cc. All Trustees  
All Superintendents of Education  
All Principals, Vice Principals