



**Waterloo Catholic  
District School Board**  
Quality, Inclusive, Faith Based Education

October 17, 2022

Re: St. Mary's Catholic Secondary School Ventilation Report

Dear Parents, Students and Staff,

The Waterloo Catholic District School Board is committed to providing safe, modern, and efficient spaces for our students to learn and thrive. As part of this commitment, and with additional funding from the Ministry of Education, we were able to invest over \$19,000,000 board-wide in improving the ventilation and air quality systems in our classrooms. Our team has installed upgraded filters to increase fresh air supply, added HEPA and/or UV air cleaners to all learning spaces and upgraded key HVAC systems to support healthy learning environments. These critical enhancements will help to protect our teachers, students, and support staff by reducing airborne pollutants and greatly improving indoor air quality. For more information regarding upgrades carried out at your school, please see the below WCDSB Ventilation Report.

Sincerely,

Facility Services  
Waterloo Catholic District School Board



## WATERLOO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD SCHOOL BOARD VENTILATION PROFILE

School boards are optimizing air quality in schools through improved ventilation and filtration. Implemented measures are dependent on the type of ventilation and feasibility within the context of school facilities and related building systems.

This is a key element in the multiple protective strategies being employed to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission and support healthier and safe learning environments for students and staff.

### MEASURES TO HELP REDUCE TRANSMISSION RISK IN INDOOR SETTINGS



Ventilation: Increasing the flow of outdoor/fresh air for diluting the concentration of any infectious particles.



Filtration: Involves the use of different types of fibrous media designed to remove particles from the airstream.

### SCHOOL BOARD VENTILATION STRATEGY

- Ventilation - Replacement and/or upgrades of roof top units, unit ventilators, heat pumps, exhaust systems, boilers and BAS systems in several schools.
- Place stand alone HEPA filtration units in all elementary school classrooms, portables, libraries, and special education classrooms as well as stand alone UV units in all high school classrooms
- Filtration - upgrade filters to MERV13 rating where possible. Develop a preventative maintenance program to regularly inspect and replace filters to maintain overall performance.
- Increase fresh air exchanges in all classrooms by running systems 2 hours prior to student entry and 2 hours after end of school day wherever possible.



WATERLOO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
School Board Ventilation PROFILE

SCHOOL BOARD WIDE INVESTMENTS

2020-21/2021-22

Ventilation Funding\* | \$19M

2022-23

Planned Ventilation Projects | \$6M

32

Ventilation projects completed

10

Ventilation projects in progress / planned

30

Schools receiving an investment, which is 58% of total schools in the board.

10

Schools to receive an investment, which is 19% of total schools in the board.

Note: \*This includes spending from dedicated ventilation programs, federal-provincial funding, provincial renewal funding and supplemental funding from other board sources.

STANDALONE HEPA FILTER UNITS DEPLOYED | 1316



**WATERLOO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
SCHOOL BOARD VENTILATION PROFILE**

Select your school here

**School Name** St. Mary's Catholic Secondary School

**Ventilation System** Mechanical Ventilation

**School Ventilation and Filtration Measures\***

Ventilation assessed	✓
Running ventilation systems longer	✓
Higher grade filters installed	✓
Increased frequency of filter changes	
Increased fresh air intake (windows and/or mechanical ventilation systems)	✓
Standalone HEPA** filter units deployed in portables, as needed	✓
Standalone HEPA filter units in place	30 plus 68 UV stand alone units

\*Some measures may not be feasible within the context of a school facility/site and related building systems.

\*\*High-Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA)