



October 31, 2025

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are thrilled to share some wonderful news with you! In September 2026, we will be opening the doors to Notre Dame Catholic Secondary School – a brand-new Grade 7–12 school in East Kitchener. This may be the first time you're hearing about this exciting development, and we want you to know that your child has the incredible opportunity to be part of something truly special.

WELCOME TO NOTRE DAME CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL

Located at 20 Woolner Trail in Kitchener, steps from the Grand River, Notre Dame CSS will offer a dynamic Grade 7–12 school model. By bringing intermediate and secondary education together under one roof, we will create a unique seamless journey; all within one supportive community.

The name Notre Dame was chosen to honour the School Sisters of Notre Dame, who have been instrumental in shaping Catholic education in our region since the 1800s. Their legacy of love, faith, and hope continues to inspire us as we build this new chapter together.

At Notre Dame CSS, we will live out the mission of the Waterloo Catholic District School Board: *"As disciples of Christ, we educate and nurture hope in all learners to realize their full potential to transform God's world."* This mission will be at the heart of everything we do – from our academic programs to our extracurricular activities, from our pastoral care to our daily interactions.

The school will welcome Grades 7–10 in 2026, with Grades 11 and 12 joining in the years that follow. We invite you to [click here](#) to discover more about what makes Notre Dame CSS unique.

BOUNDARY INFORMATION

Students currently in Grade 9 who reside within the boundaries designated for Notre Dame CSS will be automatically enrolled at Notre Dame for Grade 10 in the 2026–2027 school year. Please [click here](#) to view a map of the boundaries for Notre Dame CSS to see if your family is part of this exciting transition.

To learn more about how the school boundaries were established, please visit the [WCDSB 7–12 Boundary Review website](#) where you can review the [Notice of Decision Letter](#) from November 7, 2022.

We understand that hearing about a change like this, especially for the first time, can bring up questions and concerns. We want to assure you that this is an extraordinary opportunity for your child. At Notre Dame CSS, students will have access to exceptional academic programming, a rich variety of extracurricular activities, and meaningful opportunities to lead and grow.

Here's what makes this so exciting: your child won't just be attending a new school—they will be founding it. They will be the ones who set the tone, create traditions, and build a legacy that will last for generations.

Your child will have the opportunity to:



- Join a diverse range of sports teams, arts programs, and clubs that reflect their interests and passions
- Take on leadership roles through groups like Link Crew and Student Activities Council
- Shape the school's Catholic culture and establish traditions that will define Notre Dame CSS for years to come
- Participate in retreats, liturgies, social justice initiatives, and community outreach programs that bring our Catholic mission to life

The heart and soul of Notre Dame CSS will be its students. We're excited to welcome your child as a founding member of this vibrant new community—and we can't wait to see the incredible impact they'll have.

OPEN HOUSE INVITATION

We warmly invite you to attend our **Student and Parent Open House:**

Date: Monday, November 17, 2025 (PD Day)

Time: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Location: Stanley Park Community Centre, 505 Franklin St. N, Kitchener

Drop in at any time that works for your family! You'll have the chance to meet Principal Mark Modolo and Student Success Consultant Darryn Stere, ask all your questions, and learn more about the exciting opportunities at Notre Dame CSS.

SAVE THE DATE: DECEMBER 16 INFORMATION SESSION

We're also hosting a special information session designed specifically for current Grade 9 students and their families:

Date: December 16, 2025

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: St. Mary's High School Alumni Hall, 1500 Block Line Rd, Kitchener

By December, we'll have hired key members of our teaching team, including our Head of Guidance and Academic Program Area Leaders. You'll get to meet the people who will be guiding your child's academic journey and shaping the school's programs. We're so excited for you to connect with them!

More details will be shared closer to the event, but please mark your calendar now.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Between now and September 2026, we have an exciting journey ahead, and we want you to be part of it every step of the way.

If you'd like to receive regular updates about Notre Dame CSS, or if you have questions you'd like to ask before our November 17 open house or December 16 information session, please take a moment to complete the [Grade 9 Parent and Student Questionnaire](#).



Your input matters to us, and we are here to support your family through this transition.

We are genuinely excited about the future of Notre Dame Catholic Secondary School, and we hope you are too! This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for your child to be part of building something remarkable from the ground up.

As we embark on this journey together, we are guided by our vision: *"Our Catholic Schools: heart of the community ~ success for each, a place for all."* Notre Dame CSS will be a place where your child can achieve their full potential, believe in their God-given gifts, and belong to a caring community rooted in Christ.

If you have further questions about this transition, I invite you to reach out to Mark Modolo, Principal of Notre Dame, (mark.modolo@wcdsb.ca), David Jaeger, Principal of St. Mary's, (david.jaeger@wcdsb.ca), or Heather Papp, Principal of St. David, (heather.papp@wcdsb.ca).

We look forward to partnering with you as we create a vibrant, inclusive, and inspiring school community together.

With warm regards and excitement for what's ahead,



Annalisa Varano
Director of Education
Waterloo Catholic District School Board

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Summary of links within this letter:

1. [More detailed information about Notre Dame](#)
2. [Boundary Map for Notre Dame](#)
3. [WCDSB 7-12 Boundary Review Website](#)
4. WCDSB Trustees [Notice of Decision Letter](#) for Boundary Review
5. [Grade 9 Parent and Student Questionnaire](#)
6. Contact for school principals
 - a. Mark Modolo, Notre Dame CSS: mark.modolo@wcdsb.ca
 - b. David Jaeger, St. Mary's HS: david.jaeger@wcdsb.ca
 - c. Heather Papp, St. David CSS: heather.papp@wcdsb.ca

