



Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board

MEDIA RELEASE



1325 California Ave, Windsor, Ontario N9B 3Y6 ph: (519) 253-2481 fax: (519) 253-0620

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

An IB first for Windsor

Christ the King applies for International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program

(Windsor, Ontario, Thursday, April 26, 2018) – For the first time, students in Windsor will soon be able to participate in the International Baccalaureate program as early as junior kindergarten if an application for an IB Primary Years Program is successful, the board announced today.

An established leader in the area of IB education, the board has applied to the Switzerland-based international education foundation to establish Christ the King Catholic Elementary School as a Primary Years Program candidate school beginning in September of 2018.

“By focusing on the development of the whole child, the Primary Years Program prepares students to become active, caring, lifelong learners who demonstrate respect for themselves and others, and have the capacity to fully participate in the world around them,” said Director of Education Terry Lyons. “Based on our previous track record as a provider of IB programs, we are very hopeful that Christ the King will be approved very soon as an IB candidate school.”

Established in 1968, International Baccalaureate programs aim to develop inquiring, knowledgeable, and caring young people who are motivated to succeed by offering specific programs that are geared to students in certain stages of their development. Schools must be authorized to deliver IB programs and currently, more than 4,000 schools around the world are established as IB schools.

The WECD SB has already been providing a Diploma Program at Assumption College Catholic High School for almost 15 years, and has recently established candidacy Middle Years Programs at Assumption College Catholic Middle School and Cardinal Carter Catholic Middle School in Leamington. Cardinal Carter Catholic Secondary School is also a Diploma Program candidacy school.

“Our teachers and administrators already have a wealth of experience in delivering IB education, so as Trustees, we’re very confident that we can deliver a program at Christ the King that will exceed the educational expectations of parents there,” said Board Chair Barb Holland.

Christ the King is currently a dual-track English and French Immersion school, although it will become completely French Immersion in 2024 when the English track is phased out.

"Learning together in faith and service"

If successful, Christ the King will become the only IB Primary Years Program candidate school in Windsor-Essex. During the candidacy phase, the school will begin by offering IB programming to students in JK to Grade 3 while working towards fulfilling all the requirements of becoming recognized as an IB World School. All teachers in the PYP section will be given access to IB curriculum materials and the school will be assigned an IB consultant who ensures that it is meeting all the necessary criteria.

Principal Marta Marazita has already travelled to Seattle, Washington to begin her initial IB training.

“This is a very rigorous program with very precise standards that have to be met,” she said. “We have an outstanding staff here and they are very eager and excited to embrace the challenge. If our application is successful, I’m certain they will work very hard towards ensuring that they are providing our students with the best IB experience possible.”

In addition to the IB program, kindergarten students will also be in newly renovated classrooms when they start school in September. The Board has invested \$350,000 to completely renovate the kindergarten classrooms, including new washrooms inside the kindergarten space, and new lighting.

“Christ the King has a long tradition of being a top quality school for students in South Windsor,” said Fulvio Valentinis, the Wards 1 & 10 Trustee who represents the school. “I’m extremely pleased to see the board making strategic investments in the school, both in the facility and in innovative new programming. This will secure Christ the King as the academic school of choice for families in this neighbourhood for years to come.”

Having an elementary school that offers IB programs will create for a seamless continuum for those who wish to remain in the program until they graduate from high school. The WECDSB is currently offering a pilot program which will see transportation offered to IB students from South Windsor to Assumption. Those buses will be in addition to the ones that are currently offered for IB students travelling from Lakeshore and LaSalle to Assumption.

For further information contact:

Stephen Fields, Communications Coordinator
Office: 519-253-2481 ext. 1246
E-Mail: Stephen_fields@wecdsb.on.ca