



ESL
IN THE HAMILTON-WENTWORTH CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
(ELEMENTARY)

CONTACT PERSON:

Mrs. S. Pizzuti
Assistant
Superintendent:
Student Success

pizzutis@hwcdsb.ca

ABOUT OUR BOARD:

**COMMITTED TO OUR
FAITH IN JESUS
CHRIST**

**COMMITTED TO
EQUITY AND
INCLUSION**

**COMMITTED TO
EXCELLENCE IN
ACADEMICS**

**COMMITTED TO
DEVELOPING THE
WHOLE CHILD BY
PROVIDING
OPPORTUNITIES TO
PARTICIPATE IN THE
DIVERSE
EXTRACURRICULAR
LIFE OF THE SCHOOL**

Visit us at:

www.hwcdsb.ca

What to expect when you come to an elementary school in the Catholic board

Finding Your Neighbourhood Catholic School

As a newcomer family, from any country we welcome you into the Catholic school system with open arms. The first thing to do when you settle in Hamilton is to find the location of your local Catholic school. If you are unsure, you can access our board web page at www.hwcdsb.ca and then go to "School Finder and Transport." You can also call the board at 905.525.2930 for direction.

Initial STEP Assessment

Once you have registered, your child, you will be contacted by an ESL Teacher. The ESL Teacher will arrange a time to meet with you and your child (from Grade 1 and up) to conduct an initial assessment of your child's English language abilities. This information will be shared with your child's classroom teacher to inform programming. Your child will also receive direct instruction of the English language from the ESL Teacher.

How to Register at one of our Catholic Elementary Schools

You should register your school-aged children as soon as you settle in Hamilton, and as soon as you have the correct paperwork. Children can attend elementary school in their 4th year of age.

Required Documents for Registration:

- Birth Certificate
- Catholic Baptismal Certificate*
- Proof of Residency
- Ontario Health Card
- Immunization Record
- Immigration Status (where applicable)
- Health Information
- Court Order (where applicable)

* Our board does permit non-Catholics to attend our schools. Please contact the school Principal to discuss the process.

When you go to a school, you will likely first meet with the school secretary and Principal. School information will be given to you at that point and you will be asked to fill out some papers. You may wish to bring a friend who can interpret for you if necessary.

ESL Programming in the School

In our schools, we believe the classroom teacher is the key to success for your child. The teacher will provide the necessary accommodations and modifications required to the Ontario Curriculum to help your child achieve. Also, if your child is just learning the English language, he/she will receive support from one of our ESL Teachers. In our schools, all staff members support the teacher to help all newcomer students succeed.