



St. Paul's Catholic Schools

Putting faith in education.

News Release

Holy Family English Language program moving to neighbouring school

SASKATOON – March 21, 2006

The English language program at Holy Family School in Sutherland is moving to a neighbouring Catholic school in fall 2006. The St. Paul's Catholic Board of Education made the decision today at its regular board meeting.

The new home of this Kindergarten to Grade 8 program will be determined after consulting with its parent community. The division will provide transportation for the affected students.

The St. Nicholas Ukrainian-English Bilingual Program, which is also located in the Holy Family facility, will not move. The program has approximately 150 students who are drawn from all over the city.

Consultations about the English program at Holy Family began last fall when meetings were held with parents and staff to discuss enrolment trends at the school and options for the future.

In addition to two parent meetings, senior division staff did personal telephone surveys with almost all of the families in the English program to gain their insights on choices facing their school community.

“Discussing the options for the English language program, in light of the lower number of students, was a difficult but necessary process,” said board Chair Jim Carriere. “It was crucial for trustees to listen to these parents and families and carefully consider what they told us.”

Holy Family, which had 137 students in September 2001, had 87 students enrolled in September 2005. The school is located in the Sutherland neighbourhood, where the population of school-age children is not expected increase in the coming years.

More . . .

Initial projections for fall 2006 indicated approximately 80 students would enroll in the English language program at the school. As a result, students would have been grouped in triple-grade classrooms.

Some parents indicated their children would continue to attend the school if this occurred, however, other parents said they would choose another school. Many parents said they were uncertain about whether their children could do their best in a triple-grade environment.

Maintaining excellence in programming is one of the key principles the board of education considers when considering the location of a school or program. Carriere said that principle figured strongly in today's decision for the English language program.

"Our board has made a commitment to see that all students are in a setting that is the best we can provide for them. Today's decision means these children will continue to receive a first-rate Catholic education," Carriere said.

The six teachers from the English program at the school will be reassigned within the division.

St. Paul's Roman Catholic Separate School Division #20 has 44 schools and approximately 15,500 students in Saskatoon, Humboldt, Biggar and Viscount. The mission of the school division is to assist parents and the local Church community in the formation of students in heart, mind, body and spirit.

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