



Date: **November 8, 2022**
Prepared by: **Chris Kehoe, Superintendent of Education**
Subject: **Experiential Learning – Grade 8 Leadership**

Background

Experiential learning is hands-on learning that provides developmentally appropriate opportunities for students of all ages to:

- **participate** in rich experiences connected to the world outside the school;
- **reflect** on the experiences to derive meaning; and
- **apply** the learning to their decisions and actions.

Planned learning experiences in the community may include outdoor education. These experiences provide opportunities for students to see the relevance of their classroom learning and its connection to the broader world. They also help them develop transferable and interpersonal skills and work habits that prepare them for their future

Details

All grade 8 students with the St. Clair Catholic District School Board have been offered the opportunity to participate in an Outdoor education experiential learning leadership curriculum offered through Adventureworks School and Youth Programs. The aim of this experience is to develop outstanding community members and global citizens, and encourage this growth in all of our students. Through follow-up activities, learning is connected to the classroom and school experience and students are provided opportunities to consider how they might become a leader in their community, embodying the Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations.

Students were immersed in a series of problem-solving activities, large group initiative tasks, and vertical climbing challenges that provided opportunities to practice current and new leadership skills. Students also engaged in structured reflection sessions designed to help transfer and apply their insights and observations from the day to their current settings and future paths.

Supported by Outdoor Education, Student Success and previously fundraised Muskoka Woods funds, this Outdoor Experiential Learning opportunity was accessible to families at a cost of \$20 per child with additional supports in place for those in need.

If students were not able to pay, schools were able to access the Good Samaritan fund to ensure the every Grade 8 who wanted to go had the opportunity to go.



Participants

The following attendees from St. Clair Catholic were able to take part in or observe the Grade 8 Leadership experience:

- 658 Grade 8 Students (~98% of student population)
- Most Grade 8 Teachers
- Educational Assistants
- Principals & Senior Administration
- CEC Staff (Gr. 7/8 Pathways Teachers, Secondary Curriculum Consultant, Board Chaplaincy Lead, EL Lead)
- Parents

Recommendation

That the St. Clair Catholic District School Board receive the report: *Experiential Learning – Grade 8 Leadership* for information.