



Date: **November 14, 2023**  
Prepared by: **Chris Kehoe, Superintendent of Education**  
Subject: **Secondary Retention Update**

## **Background**

The St. Clair Catholic District School Board has a goal to maximize retention: "Our Catholic elementary and secondary schools are first choice for all Catholic families in our region." The practice of student retention encompasses all the things the system does to influence this rate, working to build a commitment from our families to Catholic Education from K-12. To support this goal, the SCCDSB Strategic Plan allows for a well-planned and coordinated formulation and implementation of a cohesive and adaptable Retention Strategy going beyond the current status quo.

Over the past school year, a number of retention opportunities targeted at our feeder schools were created and implemented. These opportunities included, but were not limited to:

- Grade 8 Secondary School Visits during Grade 9 Take Our Kids to Work Day
- ThinkAG Days included participation by Grade 7 students
- Cross-panel Youth Vision Event
- School Admin and Guidance Department visits to feeder schools
- Feeder schools attending Secondary Theater Productions
- UCC French Department organized French Immersion Event for grade 7/8 FI students
- Leadership Classes offering school tours to intermediate classes
- A variety of initiatives related to skilled trades involving a cross panel approach
- Continuous work conducted by our Transition Teachers
- Film In a Day Festival targeted at grade 5 to 7 students and parents provided to schools with typically low retention rates. Program delivered in collaboration with LCFAFF and Plowmen's Association at St. Patrick's High School
- Secondary student presence during KinderStart Open House Campaign

Planning services has provided the following retention data from grade 8 to grade 9 for this current 2023-2024 school year.

| St. Patrick's               | Current Year<br>2023-2024 |                      |                | Previous<br>Year<br>2022-2023 | % Change       |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|----------------|
|                             | # of<br>Students          | Possible<br>Students | Retention<br>% | Retention %                   | Retention<br>% |
| <b>Elementary Partner</b>   |                           |                      |                |                               |                |
| Gregory A Hogan             | 44                        | 49                   | 89.80%         | 84.09%                        | 5.7%           |
| Holy Rosary                 | 6                         | 10                   | 60.00%         | 87.50%                        | -27.5%         |
| Holy Trinity                | 38                        | 43                   | 88.37%         | 93.33%                        | -5.0%          |
| Sacred Heart, PL            | 1                         | 11                   | 9.09%          | 22.22%                        | -13.1%         |
| Sacred Heart, Sarnia        | 43                        | 46                   | 93.48%         | 95.56%                        | -2.1%          |
| St. Anne, Sarnia            | 33                        | 35                   | 94.29%         | 91.11%                        | 3.2%           |
| St. John Fisher             | 1                         | 24                   | 4.17%          | 9.09%                         | -4.9%          |
| St. Joseph, Corunna         | 41                        | 44                   | 93.18%         | 85.42%                        | 7.8%           |
| St. Matthew                 | 40                        | 41                   | 97.56%         | 74.36%                        | 23.2%          |
| St. Michael, BG             | 12                        | 12                   | 100.00%        | 95.83%                        | 13.3%          |
| St. Peter Canisius          | 9                         | 28                   | 32.14%         | 8.33%                         | 23.8%          |
| St. Philip                  | 6                         | 28                   | 21.43%         | 52.38%                        | -31.0%         |
| <b>Partner School Total</b> | 274                       | 370                  | 74.05%         | 74.87%                        | -0.82%         |

| UCC                         | Current Year<br>2023-2024 |                      |                | Previous Year<br>2022-2023 | % Change       |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|----------------|----------------------------|----------------|
|                             | # of<br>Students          | Possible<br>Students | Retention<br>% | Retention %                | Retention<br>% |
| <b>Elementary Partner</b>   |                           |                      |                |                            |                |
| Christ the King             | 12                        | 16                   | 75.00%         | 26.67%                     | 48.3%          |
| Georges P Vanier            | 32                        | 34                   | 94.12%         | 84.85%                     | 9.3%           |
| Good Shepherd               | 4                         | 5                    | 80.00%         | 61.54%                     | 18.5%          |
| Holy Family                 | 12                        | 20                   | 60.00%         | 44.44%                     | 15.6%          |
| Monsignor Uyen              | 19                        | 21                   | 90.48%         | 100.00%                    | -9.5%          |
| St. Angela Merici           | 65                        | 74                   | 87.84%         | 82.76%                     | 5.1%           |
| St. Anne Blenheim           | 33                        | 40                   | 82.50%         | 97.06%                     | -14.6%         |
| St. Elizabeth               | 8                         | 18                   | 44.44%         | 36.00%                     | 8.4%           |
| St. Joseph Tilbury          | 13                        | 19                   | 68.42%         | 52.38%                     | 16.0%          |
| St. Michael                 |                           |                      |                |                            |                |
| Ridgetown                   | 15                        | 16                   | 93.75%         | 50.00%                     | 43.8%          |
| St. Ursula                  | 29                        | 35                   | 82.86%         | 92.38%                     | -9.5%          |
| <b>Partner School Total</b> | 242                       | 298                  | 81.21%         | 74.00%                     | 7.21%          |

## Recommendation

**That the St. Clair Catholic District School Board receive the report: *Secondary Retention Update*, for information.**