



HURON-PERTH CATHOLIC

District School Board

Guest Speakers at School

Adopted:	September 23, 2024	Policy #:	P 2.2.12.
Revised:		Policy Category:	School Programs

BELIEF STATEMENT:

The Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board (the Board) believes that guest speakers in Catholic schools are used to enhance Catholic formation and academic programming. The Board believes that guest speakers can provide a valuable extension to our programs. The Board believes strongly in maintaining and reflecting its denominational rights.

POLICY STATEMENT:

It is a policy of the Board that guest speakers in Catholic schools follow the mission and vision of the Board and respect Catholic teaching. It is the policy of the Board that the use of guest speakers are connected to the Ontario Curriculum. It is the policy of the Board that parents/caregivers be informed about events and activities, with guest speakers that involve multiple classes or the whole school, in advance of the event.

PROCEDURE:

1.0 GENERAL

- 1.1 All events or activities supported or facilitated by a guest speaker shall be directly connected to the Ontario Curriculum and/or the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations.
- 1.2 All events or activities supported or facilitated by a guest speaker shall be consistent with Catholic Church teaching.

2.0 MULTIPLE CLASSES OR WHOLE SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS

- 2.1 Parents and caregivers should receive 14 days notice regarding any event or activity with guest speakers that involve multiple classes (or the whole school). Parents and caregivers shall receive the following information:
 - Date, time and location
 - Title, topic or focus
 - Connections to the Ontario Curriculum and purpose
 - Names of presenters, performers or guest speakers and the organization(s) they represent; and
 - Details of any handout materials, giveaways or literature to be provided

- 2.2 If the school needs to arrange for an event in less than 14 days, the school shall provide the parent/caregiver with the details as soon as they are confirmed.
- 2.3 Parents/caregivers may exempt their child from events and activities with guest speakers or performances; parents seeking exemption shall make the request for exemption in writing at least three school days prior to the event/activity so that arrangements may be made for the supervision of the student.

DEFINITIONS:

- **Guest Speaker:** A person(s) who has been invited, approved and speaks to or performs for students. For Catholic schools - Catholic clergy and lay parish/diocesan ministers are not considered guest speakers. Board staff who are authorized to work in Catholic schools and provide instruction or support for students are not considered guest speakers.
- **Events/Activities Excluded:** Assemblies (not facilitated by guest speakers) and liturgies/Eucharistic celebrations are not eligible for exemption except where permitted by law.

REFERENCES:

- Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act, 2023
- The Ontario Curriculum
- The Education Act
- The Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations

RESOURCES, APPENDICES AND FORMS:

- N/A