



EDMONTON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
LUMEN CHRISTI CATHOLIC EDUCATION CENTRE
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November 28, 2025

Dear Our Lady of the Prairies Families,

Thank you to everyone who joined us for last night's meeting. We appreciate your time and questions. This letter summarizes the changes discussed and what they mean for students and families.

Starting in September 2026, the French Immersion program at Our Lady of the Prairies Catholic Elementary School will move to Holy Cross Catholic Elementary/Junior High School. Our Lady of the Prairies will continue to offer strong English programming for students in Kindergarten to Grade 6.

Why We're Making This Change

This was not an easy decision. It was made after careful consideration and a focus on improving student retention in French Immersion. Currently, more than 3,700 students are enrolled in French Immersion programming across ECSD, but only 20% of students who start in Kindergarten continue through to graduation in Grade 12. We need to create conditions that encourage students to stay in the program.

In 2023–2024, French Immersion families shared valuable insights during a [series of engagement sessions](#). You told us what matters most: transportation, program experience, cultural opportunities, and clear programming pathways for continued learning.

Relocating the French Immersion program from Our Lady of the Prairies to Holy Cross will:

- Create a cohesive single-track K–9 site in West Edmonton, reducing transition points and improving transportation.
- Provide richer, more immersive language experiences and enhanced cultural programming in a larger school setting.
- Strengthen language development with more opportunities to read, speak, and engage in French every day.

Elementary students who currently receive transportation to Our Lady of the Prairies will continue to be eligible for transportation to Holy Cross. Students who previously walked to Our Lady of the Prairies will be eligible for yellow bus service to Holy Cross.

English Programming at Our Lady of the Prairies

Our Lady of the Prairies will remain a vibrant school. This change helps address space challenges, as the school has been operating at or above capacity for several years. With the relocation of the French Immersion program, we anticipate serving more than 300 students, an enrolment level that supports strong programming

and effective use of school space. This adjustment allows Our Lady of the Prairies to focus fully on English programming while continuing its mission to provide a joyful Catholic education that inspires students to grow in faith, hope, and love.

Learn More and Take the Questionnaire

We have prepared a presentation that explains how we reached this decision, what these changes mean for French Immersion students, and the benefits we believe this move will provide. You can find more information about transportation and pre-enrolment on our website, ecsd.net/french-immersion-program-changes-at-our-lady-of-the-prairies, along with a list of frequently asked questions.

We know this change may be challenging for families. We value the feedback you shared at our information session on Thursday, November 27, 2025 and will continue to gather input through an online questionnaire until Friday, December 5. [Click here](#) to complete the online questionnaire. Our commitment is to address your needs as we support you through this transition. You can also email us at engagement@ecsd.net.

Every year, Edmonton Catholic Schools reviews programs to ensure they are sustainable, effective, and meet the needs of students and families. Please know that this decision reflects that commitment and was made in the best interest of the students we serve.

Sincerely,

Edmonton Catholic Schools

