



October 26, 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians and Community Members:

I am writing you to share the final recommendations of the Program Area Review Team (PART) that was established this fall regarding Armour Heights PS, Broadlands PS, Denlow PS, Don Valley MS, Dunlace PS, Harrison PS, Owen PS, Rippleton PS, St Andrews JHS, Windfields JHS and York Mills CI. The PART has completed its work and has developed the following recommendations.

These recommendations result in improved utilization rates, efficient use of space, program choice, equity and fair access to specialized programs. They also achieve a decrease in the number of portables needed at the schools.

1. Grade Changes:

- a. The junior elementary schools (Denlow PS, Dunlace PS, Harrison PS, Owen PS, Rippleton PS) with the exception of Armour Heights PS, become JK to Grade 5 schools.
- b. Broadlands PS become a SK to Grade 5 school.
- c. That St Andrews JHS and Windfields JHS become Grade 6 to 8 schools.
 - **Because of the Grade change to become Grade 6 to 8 schools, the schools' names** change to St Andrews Middle School and Windfields Middle School.
- d. York Mills CI becomes a Grade 9 to 12 school.

2. Shift in Special Education Programs:

- a. That the Gifted program at St Andrews MS expand from Grades 7 to 8, to Grades 6 to 8 as a result of the Grade range change.
- b. That the Grade 6 pupils in the Gifted program move from Denlow PS to St Andrews MS as a result of the Grade range change at Denlow PS.

3. Shift in French Programs:

- a. The Extended French Program at Dunlace PS be relocated to Denlow PS, and implemented by phasing out so that children already at Dunlace PS will finish Grade 5 at Dunlace PS before moving to the middle school program at Milne Valley MS for Grade 6.
 - The first French Extended class at Denlow PS should be Grade 4 and should be started as soon as September 2018.
 - The last Grade 6 French Extended class at Dunlace PS will graduate June 2018.
- b. French Immersion programs at Dunlace PS and Owen PS change from Grades SK to 6, to Grades SK to 5 as a result of the Grade range change with a pathway to Windfields MS.
- c. The French Immersion program at Windfields MS changes from Grades 7 to 9, to Grades 6 to 8 as a result of the Grade range change.
- d. The pathway for the graduates of the Don Valley MS and Windfields MS French Immersion Programs be to York Mills CI for Grade 9.

4. Changes to Shared Attendance Boundaries

- a. The shared Armour Heights PS – Owen PS attendance areas change so that they become entirely the Owen PS attendance area with the pathway to St Andrews MS and York Mills CI.

- b. The shared Denlow PS – Rippleton PS attendance area change so that it becomes entirely the Denlow PS attendance area. A corresponding change to the intermediate boundary from St Andrew MS to Windfields MS to keep the cohort together with the pathway to York Mills CI.
- c. The shared St Andrews MS – Windfields MS attendance area encompassing the whole of the Rippleton PS Junior attendance area be left intact.
- d. The shared Ledbury Park E & MS – St Andrews MS attendance area change so that it becomes entirely the St Andrews MS attendance area while keeping the Secondary pathways intact
- a. Grandparenting: All students who currently reside in the attendance areas for these schools and attend these schools as of the end of the 2017-2018 school year and their siblings be allowed to remain at the current schools until they graduate.

5. Implementation:

- a. That Grade 6 and 9 shifts happen at the same time for September 2018.
- b. That program changes be phased in starting 2018, with phasing meaning new program sites have their first grade of intake.
- c. That each school have a transition team, involving teachers, parents, principal, and when appropriate students, to identify and mitigate issues in student readiness, including such matters as student safety.
- d. That boundary changes occur in 2018 with the grandparenting of existing pupils and their siblings

Staff will be reviewing the recommendations made by the Program Area Review team and preparing their own report.

If you have any questions about the process, please feel free to contact me.

I would like to thank all members of the PART and those who attended the public meetings for their valuable contribution. A great deal of time was spent analyzing different options to develop recommendations that will benefit area students.

Regards,



Kathleen Garner
Superintendent of Education

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Vicky Branco, SOE
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