



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Academy expands to include new sports**

### ***Soccer and baseball to launch at F.J. Brennan Centre of Excellence & Innovation***

(Windsor, Ontario, January 27, 2015) – Student athletes who play soccer, baseball and fastball will be able to earn academic credits while focusing on the sport they love when the F.J. Brennan Centre of Excellence and Innovation expands to include two new academies.

“We’ve had tremendous success in the first year with our Hockey Canada Skills Academy, so we’re broadening our scope to include soccer, baseball and fastball,” said Kevin Hamlin, Principal of the Centre. “Soccer is one of the fastest growing sports in the world and this area has always had a strong core of baseball enthusiasts, so we’re confident there will be a lot of student interest in these new course offerings.”

Open to students from Grades 7-12, the open boundary programs are offered at Corpus Christi Catholic Middle School and F.J. Brennan Catholic High School. Students spend roughly half the day at their school, and the other half at the F.J. Brennan Centre of Excellence and Innovation, located at the recently renovated Central Park Athletics facility. In addition to developing skills in the sport of their choice, students spend an equal amount of time in the classroom at the facility.

“Students meet all of the curriculum requirements mandated by the Ministry of Education, but in this program, they’re able to do that while focused on improving in a sport they’re really passionate about,” explained John Ulicny, the Superintendent who oversees the academies. “When students are more engaged, they’re more likely to succeed academically.”

The Hockey Canada Skills Academy was launched last September with more than 90 students in the program. The Central Park Athletics facility is currently being expanded to include an indoor soccer pitch and baseball training facility in addition to the two ice pads presently located there.

The Board, meanwhile, is currently seeking expressions of interest from baseball and soccer technical experts who will work as consultants at the centre overseeing the students’ skills development.

“There’s a wealth of soccer and baseball expertise in this area so we’re certain there will be some highly qualified people who will be able to work closely with our academic staff while leading the on-field portion of the program,” said Ulicny.

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Board Chair Barb Holland said she's delighted that the academies are expanding.

"Because of excellent fiscal management, we're able to strategically spend on developing new programming that offers innovative ways for our students to meet their academic goals," she said. "As a board, we're continually looking for new ways to help our students succeed."

Students who are interested in enrolling in the academies should visit [catholicboard.ca](http://catholicboard.ca) or call Kevin Hamlin at 519-945-2351 ext. 2304.



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**For further information contact:**

Stephen Fields, Communications Coordinator  
Cell: 226-347-0113, E-Mail: [Stephen\\_fields@wecdsb.on.ca](mailto:Stephen_fields@wecdsb.on.ca)



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