



Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board

MEDIA RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Full STEAM ahead in Leamington

Academies of Cardinal Carter to offer agri-business, the arts, and hockey school programs

(Windsor, Ontario, Wednesday, Feb. 17) – New academies that place increased emphasis on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) subjects and will allow students to focus their scholastic efforts on agri-business, the arts, and hockey will be available at Cardinal Carter Catholic Secondary School by early 2017, the WECDSB announced today.

Beginning in the second semester of the 2016-17 school year, the Academies of Cardinal Carter will offer:

- Courses which focus on the agri-business sector that will expose students to a variety of its facets, possibly including: agri-economics; logistic and supply chain management; international business and trade; energy and resource management and conservation; computer coding and app development; viticulture; marketing and graphic design.
- Expanded programming in the arts including dance, music, and digital and graphic arts.
- A Hockey Canada Skills Academy, which will follow the open-access model currently run by the F.J. Brennan Centre of Excellence & Innovation for students of Corpus Christi Middle School and F.J. Brennan High School at the Central Parks Athletics Facility.
- The Board will also begin the application process towards the creation of an International Baccalaureate middle years program.

“With the massive growth we’ve seen in the greenhouse industries in Leamington it makes perfect sense to provide area students scholastic programs that will help lead them towards the multitude of employment opportunities that sector has to offer,” said Director of Education Paul Picard.

“The huge success of the dance program at Cardinal Carter convinced us that we need to expand our arts and cultural programs in the area too,” added Board Chair Barbara Holland. “And the rapid growth of our sports academies in Windsor prompted us to replicate the same model at Carter. We’re confident the Academies of Cardinal Carter will offer students with outstanding experiential learning opportunities that will empower them with the skills they need to fulfill their aspirations.”

A town hall meeting at a soon-to-be determined date and location will be held with local businesses, industry

"Learning together in faith and service"

representatives, and other stakeholders who wish to provide input into program development, Picard said.

“It’s incumbent upon us to reach out to partners who can provide us with a better sense of what skills they would like to see in the students we’re graduating,” he said. “Especially in the agri-business sector, we need to impress upon our students that there are plenty of highly skilled and creative employment opportunities right here in their own region.”

Picard pointed to the success of the masonry program – developed in conjunction with the Canada Masonry Centre and available to students at F.J. Brennan and Corpus Christi Middle Schools – as a perfect example of how educators can work with industry partners to develop curriculum and programming that addresses regional skills gaps while providing fulfilling career opportunities for students.

Part of the Board’s plan for Leamington includes establishing a middle school for Grades 7 and 8 students at Cardinal Carter, which will provide them with earlier exposure to some of the programming the new academies will offer.

“Students in Grade 7 are much different than they were as recently as 10 years ago,” said Holland. “Communications technology has opened their eyes to a whole new world of opportunity, and they’re realizing that they don’t need to be limited in their career options. They understand that their vocations can be consistent with their talents and personal ambitions, so as a Board, we need to bring those opportunities to them, to help them succeed on their own terms. Our experience at Corpus Christi Middle School has taught us that this model really works. It really makes the learning experience dramatically better for our students.”

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