



Holy Cross Junior High (HHM and PWC System) Feedback

Feedback School As of Mar 4, 2016	For Potential Closure	Against Potential Closure	Undetermined
Holy Cross JH		33	
Brother Rice JH		1	

Themes:

- Community school
- Closure will uproot students who now walk, making for an earlier start to the day
- Potential impacts for French Immersion students
- Loss of play/exercise/sports areas

Alternate Suggestions:

- Review catchment areas for all St. John's schools
- Holy Cross closes and students go to Waterford Valley
- Delay closure until 2017-18, when there will no longer be a late immersion program at Holy Cross
- Keep Holy Cross open; smaller schools more nurturing and give a child a stronger sense of self
- Close Brother Rice and bring everyone to Holy Cross (less traffic, more open space, more area to expand, etc)



Representative Sample Comments (1/5)

- The Junior High years are the most difficult of a child's development and school career. I find that Holy Cross has a caring community that helps a student through those years. It is small enough that the students don't fall through the cracks and allows them to develop relationships among students and with the caring and loving faculty. It helps to prepare them for the rigors of High school. Changes are difficult and to throw them into the mix of a bigger school will be harmful not just academically but also socially and mentally.



Representative Sample Comments (2/5)

- My son is currently in Grade 8 at HCJH and is fortunate (as most other kids of that school) to have the luxury of walking to and from school daily. How sad it will be to uproot him and all his friends, drag them out of bed 1 hour earlier every morning to catch the bus like a herd of cattle to make it for the 8:20am school day.... All I can say as a parent is that you are not thinking of what is best for these children...transporting them to a much bigger school when they have been fortunate to reap the benefits of a smaller base school with immaculate one on one attention.



Representative Sample Comments (3/5)

- I do not think Holy Cross Junior High should be closed down. Some of my friends are far away from other schools and do not have cars. I also think that because it is a small school it can help students with anxiety be more calm. I also like how I have gotten to know the teachers and can trust them with my problems. It is only my first year at HCJH but I love the school.
- The staff at holy cross go above and beyond to ensure every students needs are met at the school.... i feel to close it down and move them to a bigger , must higher populated school they will NOT be accomodated with there specific needs at there level of education. i feel it simply will not work. i do not agree at all with this motion to move these kids. why fix whats not broken.



Representative Sample Comments (4/5)

- Holy Cross is a neighbourhood school with many of the children walking to school. The teachers are wonderful and there are numerous after school activities for a wide range of interests. . . I think that HC has a lot to offer and I think that many of the children feel at home at the school.. . Please do not close our school.
- I am concerned that the current division of grade nine students graduating from Brother Rice is not under review - it is a socially disruption practice to divide the students between Holy Heart and PWC, and I believe that all of the grade nine students should have the option to continue on to grade ten with their friends and peer.



Representative Sample Comments (5/5)

Dear Trustees,

- 1) Brother Rice has a dangerous drop off zone, inadequate parking, and must be the only school with the exception of Holy Heart with no outdoor playing or sports field. The Macpherson parking lot and playing field behind the school needs to be secured for the use of the 1500 students adjacent to it.
- 2) The catchment area needs to be reviewed. Children next door to Brother Rice are bussed to Macdonald Drive junior High and the transition to high school is made unnecessarily painful by the re-splitting of children between PWC and Holy Heart.
- 3) Your report said Brother Rice has 11 empty classrooms. This is not accurate. There are no empty classrooms to my knowledge unless you are including spaces like the classroom that my special needs son occupies. The annex is rundown and occupied by the distance learning staff.
- 4) The enrollment may not be declining. Bishop Feild has a growing enrollment and we have an increasing LEARN population.
- 5) Although there are also advantages to having an increase in students at Brother Rice, this needs to have a more thorough review process than a letter to Brother Rice and one meeting at Holy Cross parents..