

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

CRESTWOOD SECONDARY SCHOOL FAMILY OF SCHOOLS ACCOMMODATION PLANNING – SEPTEMBER 2024

Q. What are the accommodation pressures facing Crestwood Secondary and Intermediate schools?

A. Crestwood SS (Grades 9-12) and Crestwood IS (Grades 7-8) are situated within the same building and are both experiencing significant accommodation pressure, which is projected to continue over the long term.

For September 2024, the Intermediate School is forecasted to be at 174% of its capacity, with 320 expected students and only space for 184. Crestwood SS is anticipated to be at 101% of its capacity, with 769 expected students.

Q. What changes are planned for September 2024?

A. School board administration is recommending that, beginning in September 2024, Grade 7 students from Kawartha Heights Public School, and Grade 7 students from Westmount Public School (English Stream) would attend James Strath Public School for Grades 7 and 8. Grade 7 students currently attending Crestwood Intermediate would remain at the school.

Q. What about students currently attending Crestwood Intermediate School? Will they have to move?

A. No. Students currently in Grade 7 at Crestwood Intermediate School will continue to attend Crestwood Intermediate School and then Crestwood Secondary School.

Q. Can we add portables to the Crestwood Secondary school site?

A. The logistics and location for any possible portables onsite at Crestwood Secondary School represent a number of challenges and significant costs as a result of the electrical upgrades needed for their installation. Costs for the minimum of two needed portables for September would be approximately \$540,000.00.

Q. Will more changes be planned?

A. The school board is beginning a broader review of Peterborough secondary school boundaries and family of school groupings in the spring to identify long-term accommodation strategies to manage growth in all areas. More information on this process will be shared soon, but this may result in further adjustments to schools within the community.

Q. How can I learn more about the plans?

- A. We invited parents/caregivers to join us at meetings at the impacted schools. Families could learn more about the changes and provide feedback on the recommendations and how we can support students through these transitions.

The meetings were held at:

**Westmount PS – Thursday, November 30, 6:30 p.m. and
Kawartha Heights PS – Monday, December 4, 6:30 p.m.**

Q. What happens after the meetings?

School board administration will gather community feedback and provide a summary report, along with a recommendation for the Board of Trustees to consider at the February 27, 2024, Board meeting.

Q. What if I can't attend these meetings but still want to share my input?

- A. All meeting information packages will be available at the dedicated **Peterborough City and County Accommodation Planning** section of the KPR website, and there will be an online opportunity for parents to share their thoughts and comments.

Q. Whom can I contact if I have further questions about these changes?

- A. We encourage all interested families to attend the school meetings we have planned, and if you would like to learn more about these related issues, please contact your school Principal or local Superintendent of Education at the contacts below:

Jodi Sepkowski, Superintendent of Education: Student Achievement, 705-742-9773 Toll free: 1-877-741-4577, Extension 2061.

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS POSED BY SCHOOL COMMUNITY:
IN-PERSON MEETING AND THOUGHT EXCHANGE –
JANUARY 2024**

Q. Can portables be placed at Westmount PS and Kawartha Heights PS to allow Grade 7 students to remain at these schools?

- A. Due to the limited availability of portable classrooms to manage enrolment pressures across the board, this is not a viable option. In addition, only having part of an intermediate program within a school building (Grade 7 students with no Grade 8 students) does provide the same opportunities that a full intermediate program can offer.

Q. Can the Grade 7 students from Millbrook/South Cavan PS be relocated to James Strath PS instead?

A. In an effort to keep communities together, (e.g., Millbrook/South Cavan PS with North Cavan PS; Westmount PS with Kawartha Heights PS) and balance enrolment numbers, the most supportive solution is to have Westmount PS and Kawartha Heights PS students attend James Strath PS.

Q. Can a new school be built instead of moving students around in Peterborough?

A. The school board has requested funding from the Ministry of Education for a new school in the Towerhill North subdivision; however, we do not know if or when that will be approved. We do know that solutions are needed very soon, and a new school takes several years to build.

Q. Will any of the teachers from Westmount PS or Kawartha Heights PS move to James Strath PS as part of the transition plan?

A. School staffing is informed by a number of factors, including student enrolment, staff retirements, leaves of absence, etc. School staff have the opportunity to apply for open positions at schools, based on the pre-established processes.

Q. As part of the broader accommodation plan for Peterborough City and County, will consideration be given to re-opening closed schools? What is the enrolment information for other schools?

A. Information about the school board's broader review of Peterborough secondary school boundaries and family of school groupings will be shared in the coming weeks, which will include enrolment information for all schools in the area.

Q. As part of transition planning, will consideration be given to allow siblings to stay together at the same schools?

A. Students will move to the same school as the rest of their classmates and cohort. Requests for students to attend a different school would be handled as an out-of-boundary request and would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Q. How will students with special needs to be supported at James Strath PS?

A. James Strath PS staff, along with Westmount PS and Kawartha Heights PS staff will participate in transition planning for students with special needs, as part of the Individual Education Plan (IEP) process, to ensure all students are supported.

Q. How will the proposed changes affect busing, or student safety walking to James Strath PS, particularly in light of planned construction?

A. Students will either be bused or walk to school, based on eligibility from their home address. School zones are busy places and safety is a shared

responsibility. We appreciate the efforts of city crossing guards for their support of student safety.