



October 26, 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians/Caregivers and Staff:

We are writing to you to share an important update regarding the timing for the reopening of Bannockburn Public School as a French Immersion Centre. **The reopening date for the school is being changed from September 2023 to September 2024.**

On June 30, 2021, the Board of Trustees approved a series of recommendations from a program area review. This review included the reopening of Bannockburn Public School as a French Immersion Centre, effective September 1, 2023.

Bannockburn Public School was planned to initially open as a Junior Kindergarten to Grade 3 French Immersion Centre and expand by one grade per year up to and including Grade 6 in September 2026.

Several issues have emerged that are impacting the scheduled reopening of Bannockburn Public School. The school had been leased to a long-term tenant and TDSB staff were only able to undertake a deeper investigation of the building and site conditions with consultants once the lease expired. Unfortunately, this revealed new deficiencies that need to be addressed. Staff and consultants determined that a full replacement of all building systems, including heating, ventilation, lighting, fire safety, and communication is required. To accommodate the new systems, the existing hydro and water services must also be upgraded. In addition, delays in the delivery of construction materials and equipment due to global supply chain issues are anticipated as we are currently experiencing these delays in other construction projects.

Due to the increase in the scope of the renovations and the delayed supply timelines, staff investigated phasing of the construction to allow the school to open in September 2023. However, due to health and safety concerns of students being onsite during construction, staff determined the date to reopen Bannockburn Public School will be delayed by one year. The new anticipated reopening date for the school is September 1, 2024.

We recognize that this news is coming with short notice. However, with the Early French Immersion application process opening on Monday, October 31st, a decision had to be made as soon as possible.

With the health and safety of students and staff a top priority, the change in date will allow the TDSB to complete all the necessary work required prior to the reopening with no interruptions to school operations and no temporary measures required while students are in the building.

Staff have confirmed that John Fisher Junior Public School has the space available to accommodate students who would have otherwise been relocated to Bannockburn Public School in September 2023 for one more year. Below is a table that shows the grades that will now be impacted by the move to Bannockburn Public School with the revised timelines.

School Year	Grade							
	JK	SK	1	2	3	4	5	6
2022/23	JF	JF	JF	JF	JF	JF	JF	JF
2023/24	JF	JF	JF	JF	JF	JF	JF	JF
2024/25	B	B	B	B	B	JF*	JF	JF

*Current Grade 2 students at John Fisher Jr PS would stay at John Fisher Jr PS for Grade 4 in September 2024.

Legend:

JF – John Fisher Junior Public School **B** – Bannockburn Public School

As per the Board-approved recommendations from June 2021, only French Immersion students in Senior Kindergarten to Grade 3 residing in the Bedford Park Public School attendance area, the John Wanless Junior Public School attendance area, and the Bedford Park Public School/Blythwood Junior Public School shared attendance area will be impacted. Those students with an older sibling in Grades 4 to 6 attending John Fisher Junior Public School in September 2024 will be allowed to remain at John Fisher Junior Public School until they graduate.

We want to thank you in advance for your understanding. The TDSB is committed to keeping the school community engaged throughout this process. A web page has been set up to provide information about the [Bannockburn reopening](https://www.tdsb.on.ca/AccommodationReviews/Bannockburn) (<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/AccommodationReviews/Bannockburn>). A Questions and Answers document can also be found on the [web page](#) under ‘Helpful Information’.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Sarah Libera, Educational Planning Officer, at sarah.libera@tdsb.on.ca (or at 647-460-1552).

Sincerely,



Maia Puccetti
Executive Officer, Facility Services and Planning

Cc. Trustee Shelley Laskin, Ward 8, Eglinton-Lawrence and Toronto-St Paul's
Trustee Rachel Chernos Lin, Ward 11, Don Valley West