



ST. PATRICK'S HIGH SCHOOL

September 26, 2025

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We hope this letter finds you well as we embark on the final stages of your child's journey at St. Patrick's High School. As we prepare for the upcoming months and graduation ceremony in June 2026, we wish to inform you of an important policy regarding attendance and punctuality for all Secondary 5 students. The policy was implemented in 2025 and renewed by the Governing Board for the current school year.

Graduation Ceremony Eligibility: In preparation for post-secondary expectations and in alignment with the expectations of local post-secondary institutions where many of our students register, **students in Secondary 5 must maintain a strong commitment to attendance and punctuality.** Therefore, the following criteria will determine eligibility to participate in the St. Patrick's High School Graduation Ceremony:

- **Students must not exceed 10% combined lates and absences** for the school year.
- Being late to class will be accounted for one period toward the 10% limit.
- Students who exceed the 10% threshold but meet the academic criteria will receive their official diploma certified by the Ministry of Education; however, they **will not be eligible to participate** in the graduation ceremony.

Regarding detentions

Students assigned detentions are expected to attend as scheduled. Taking responsibility for one's actions is a vital aspect of personal growth. To support this principle, a limit of five unattended detentions has been implemented in addition to the existing 10% rule. Secondary 5 students who fail to attend more than five detentions, whether during lunch or after school, will lose their eligibility to participate in the graduation ceremony. (Starting in October 2025)

Important Notes:

- Justification of an absence or tardiness is a parental responsibility. We expect parental support in ensuring that only justifiable reasons are used.
 - Valid absences: Medical conditions/appointments, death of a close relative/mourning, issues with a school bus route, etc. These reasons will not count towards the total
 - Invalid absences (When justifying an absence, please use the right motive): Family vacation, late night, missed public transportation or school bus, etc. Will count towards the 10% limit.
- Any misuse of Parent Portal access will be addressed directly with families.
- The graduation ceremony deposit **will not be reimbursed** if a student becomes ineligible to attend the ceremony due to exceeding the absence/lateness limit.
- Regular attendance is critical for academic success and preparation for future endeavors, and we encourage your collaboration in ensuring your child is punctual and actively engaged in their learning.

We understand the significance of the graduation ceremony for both students and families. This policy has been implemented to instill the values of responsibility, commitment, and preparation for the expectations students will face beyond high school.

Together, we can ensure that all students complete their school year successfully and are celebrated for their hard work and accomplishments.

The administration reserves the right to evaluate individual circumstances based on official documentation. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Simon Taillefer
Principal

Marc-André Daigle
Vice-Principal Senior level

Jason Kilganan
Governing Board Chairperson

