



# York Catholic District School Board

Catholic Education Centre, 320 Bloomington Road West, Aurora, Ontario L4G 0M1

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

Further to my message yesterday, here is an important update regarding a possible strike by CUPE members at schools across the province.

The health and safety of students and staff is the Board's primary concern and responsibility. As a result, **in consultation with our Board of Trustees, the decision has been made to close our schools to students if there is a strike by CUPE members on Monday, October 7.** This closure would be for the duration of the strike action.

If schools are closed to students, this also means that Before and After School programs, Early ON centres, and other programs such as OAK, Jerrico and StemLabs, will not operate. However, all Child Care Centres located in our schools will remain open with the exception of St. Rene Goupil/St. Luke CES and St. Joseph (Richmond Hill) CES.

At the York Catholic District School Board (YCDSB), CUPE members provide a number of important services. Not having these employees at work in our schools would mean the following:

- No front office staff (e.g. School Secretaries, etc.) to manage Safe School protocols such as confirming student attendance
- No Educational Assistants (EAs)/Educational Interveners (EIs) to ensure the care and safety of students with special needs
- No Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) in Kindergarten classrooms
- No Custodians to keep washrooms and fountains clean and sanitary, and manage facility safety protocols such as fire alarms
- No Lunchtime Supervisors to oversee elementary students

If we are notified that a negotiated settlement was not reached on Sunday and students cannot go to school on Monday, you will be notified via School Messenger (both phone and email messages) on Sunday, October 6 or early Monday morning should bargaining go late into Sunday night. Updates will also be posted to the [Board website](http://www.ycdsb.ca) and Twitter account ([@ycdsb](https://twitter.com/ycdsb)).

As a Catholic school board, YCDSB respects collective bargaining and is hopeful that a freely negotiated agreement will be reached by the Sunday deadline. While we are not involved in central bargaining, we are confident the parties involved are working hard to achieve an agreement.

Along with School Messenger, updates are available via:

- Twitter (follow [@ycdsb](https://twitter.com/ycdsb))
- Website [www.ycdsb.ca](http://www.ycdsb.ca) (link under What's New)

Yours in Catholic Education,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ab Falconi".

Ab Falconi  
Director of Education