

Good evening Trustees,

My name is Onaosa and I am here on behalf of my grade 8 class at St. John Vianney who Trustee Martino is our school Trustee. Myself along with 4 of my classmates have prepared the speaking notes for this evening. We would like to share our opinions and kindly ask that you do not remove the International Language program from the curriculum. We come from various different backgrounds including: Nigeria, Italy, Iraq, and Canada.

Us girls are very good students and we know when something is not right, in this case, removing I.L. from the curriculum is not right. We are very creative, diverse and open-minded people and when it comes to Italian it brings out the best of us. Italian is one of the classes that we have the most fun and learn the most. It is a pleasure for us students to learn another language. We have bigger opportunities than most kids have and to be able to learn another language is a gift.

Removing I.L. would not benefit us in any way. Italian is our favourite subject and we really enjoy learning it. We know for sure that if you remove it from the curriculum, there would be little to no difference in our learning. If I.L. is removed from our education system, we feel that our time will not be used wisely and productively. Meaning that if you remove Italian from our schedule, we will not learn more math than we would have if Italian was there. Being able to have this extra subject, gives us so many more opportunities in life and is beneficial in many ways.

As you all can see, we all love learning another language and removing it from the curriculum is not a good idea for 3 reasons. First, our school day would not be as fun without it, it would be a very dull day with only math, language, science etc. Secondly, our Italian teacher is a great teacher. She knows how to entertain us all as a class and she connects to each of her students personally. Signora puts her heart into teaching her students and she is passionate about teaching students from different cultures. Her passion in teaching engages our class and keeps it lively. In class, we learn many valuable lessons such as learning to order food and drinks in Italian, so if we were to go to Italy we would know how to communicate with the people around us without the help of google translate.

In conclusion, we hope that you do not make a decision that will affect thousands of students that enjoy learning a third language. Thank you for taking the time to listen to the reasons why you should keep the International Language program in the Toronto Catholic District School board.

From,

Onaosa, Alessia, Lavinia, Dana-rose, and Precious