



## The TCDSB Census is here!

Dear parents, guardians and students,

The TCDSB Grade 9 Student Census, *we Belong, we Believe, we Become* is being launched this year. All students in Grade 9 will have the opportunity to share their voices.

At the Toronto Catholic District School Board we are always trying to make improvements and create a welcoming environment for our students to succeed. The purpose of the census is to ask students to tell us more about themselves, so that we can create more welcoming and inclusive schools.

As part of an Ontario initiative, we will be asking questions on identity based on the *Ontario Human Rights Code*, for protection against discrimination. These include: Indigenous identity, race, ethnic origin, religion, first language, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, status in Canada and socioeconomic status. Some questions are bound by the Anti-Racism Data Standards, under the *Anti-Racism Act* (2017). We will also be asking some questions on the learning environment/student engagement.

The census will take less than 20 minutes, and will be completed online, during class time.

Participation is voluntary; students can choose not to participate in the survey, or only answer some of the questions. They can also stop participating if they change their mind. All responses will be confidential; students will not be identified by their name. This is an opportunity to students to tell us about themselves so that we can better met the needs of all students.

The information that students provide will be linked to other data available at the Board to improve planning for their learning. We are interested in the experiences of all students, as a group. We will summarize the information to provide a more equitable and inclusive learning environment.

We want to hear the voices of all our students. If you have any questions regarding the TCDSB census, please do not hesitate to contact your principal.