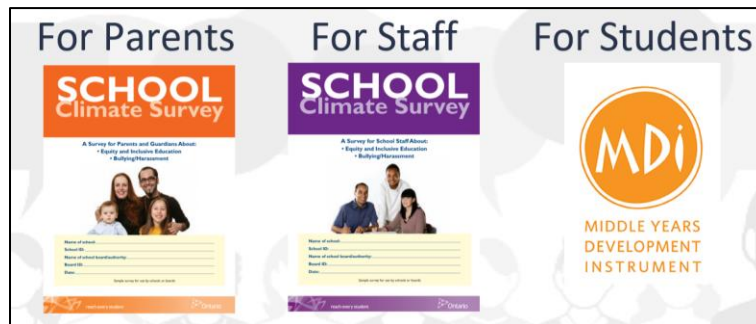




January 24, 2022

Dear Parents,

Before March Break, the Waterloo Catholic District School Board (WCDSB) will be conducting a variety of school climate surveys to collect information from students, staff, and parent/guardians. While the Ministry of Education requires all school districts to conduct these surveys (Education Act s.169.1(1)(a), (a.1), (a.2) and PPM 145), we are committed to providing a safe, caring, and inclusive place for everyone in our schools. The purpose of the school climate surveys is to assess the perceptions of safety (e.g., from students, staff, and parent/guardians), make informed planning decisions about programs to help prevent bullying and promote safe and inclusive schools, determine the effectiveness of programs on an ongoing basis, and build and sustain a positive school climate. Below you will find details related to each survey.



For Parents/Guardians and School Staff:

We will administer the Ministry created school climate surveys for Parents/Guardians and School Staff between February 22nd and March 11th. For more information about the Ministry created surveys, please visit <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/safeschools/climate.html>. The URL links to participate will be provided soon.

For Students:

We will administer the **Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI)** for students, from Grade 4 through grade 12, between February 22nd and March 11th. The MDI is an anonymous and voluntary online survey and will take place during class time on a board provided device with their classroom teacher. The MDI survey asks students about their thoughts, feelings, and experiences in school and in the community related to five areas of development that are strongly linked to well-being, health, and academic achievement: *Physical Health & Well-Being, Connectedness, Social & Emotional Development, School Experiences, and Use of After-School Time*. The MDI was developed by researchers at the Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP) at the University of British Columbia (UBC), and the administration of the MDI will be facilitated by the WCDSB Research Department.



Any student may choose not to participate, to stop participating, or to skip a question at any time. Additionally, parents/guardians of students under 18 years of age can ask that their child be exempt from participating in the MDI survey. As part of our communication campaign, information has been distributed electronically by school Newswire, on our website, and on social media. As you will read within the School climate information, there is an OPT out opportunity, this process is explained on the Student School Climate webpage: <https://www.wcdsb.ca/school-climate-survey/>

