



DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF NIAGARA

191 Carlton Street • St. Catharines, ON • L2R 7P4
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Dear Students and Families:

At the DSBN, we are committed to achieving an equitable and inclusive school culture where everyone feels safe and accepted, has a true sense of belonging, and feels their identity and lived experiences are valued. To support this work, it's important that we hear from you, and that we listen. Your voice matters to us.

This is why we are asking students in Grades 9-12 who are learning in-school, as well as family members, to participate in the 'Your Voice Matters' School Culture Survey. Collecting this information will help us better understand the feelings and experiences that all secondary students and families are having at school. Your input will be used to support and enhance our school, with the goal of building and maintaining a positive culture for all.

The questions are organized into five main areas that help create your school culture: Well-Being; Caring and Safe Schools; Sense of Belonging; Equity and Inclusion; Teaching and Learning.

Identity-based questions related to ancestry, ethnicity, race, religion, gender identity and language(s) spoken at home will also be asked. These are to understand how learning experiences may differ among groups of students, and will contribute to promoting a safe and inclusive school culture.

Students in Grades 9-12 will be asked to complete the survey at school during class time between **December 1 - 15, 2021**. You will receive a message on December 1 that includes the online survey link and your school code. You will also be able to access the online survey through your school website. By entering your school code, families will be invited to fill out the online survey. It will take approximately 15 minutes to complete. The survey will be entirely anonymous and confidential. Although the survey is voluntary, we encourage all students learning in-person and families to take part. The more responses we receive, the more effective the DSBN can be in supporting everyone moving forward.

To accommodate students and families with varying exceptionalities, the survey can be completed using voice recognition software such as Google Read & Write. If you have concerns about your own access to technology or require support with language translations, please contact your school.

Your school may be contacted for any additional questions as well, or visit [the DSBN Equity website](#) where you will find Frequently Asked Questions and other helpful information. The DSBN is committed to providing safe, caring and inclusive spaces for everyone to help students learn and succeed. Your partnership is an important part of that.

Sincerely,
Your School Principal