

École Sage Creek School FAQ

Below is an aggregate of the many questions asked on the evening of Monday, April 26. If you have any further questions, email communications@lrsd.net.

NEW SCHOOL:

Will the new school in Sage Creek be English or French Immersion?

A decision has not been made at this time. As per Board policy, one of the schools will serve students in the English program and the other will serve students in the French Immersion program.

If a new school opens after a student has gone to Windsor Park Collegiate or Collège Béliveau, will they be expected to come back to Sage Creek for a year just to be sent back to the high school?

If space permits at Windsor Park Collegiate and Collège Béliveau, students who have completed Grade 7 there could remain for Grade 8. A decision will be made when the completion date of the new school is known.

What are the possible solutions for addressing the overcrowding at Collège Béliveau? Are there plans to build another French Immersion high school?

An expansion to Collège Jeanne-Sauvé has been announced. The additional capacity may allow for realignment of catchment areas such that students living in Royalwood that currently attend Collège Béliveau could attend Collège Jeanne-Sauvé which is geographically closer. This adjustment may be sufficient. As always, we continue to monitor demographic patterns.

It was mentioned that the ÉSCS floor plan may be duplicated for the new school. Is there the need for a larger school? Will this be a consideration?

The size of school will be determined through consultation with the Manitoba Government. Based on population projections, LRSD has requested a school with a minimum capacity of 600 students. We are doing all that we can to ensure a larger property is purchased for the second school.

Our projections are showing more than 1,200 students needing a school; however, the Manitoba Government has authorized the construction of a third school in Sage Creek to serve the Division scolaire franco-manitobaine (DSFM) student population. With this third DSFM school, the capacity may not need to be larger.

What do potential Bill 64 changes mean for this plan?

The Manitoba Government has already authorized LRSD to purchase land for a new school in Sage Creek and has designated it as one of 20 new schools to be constructed. Minister of Education Cliff Cullen has suggested that construction will be sped up, with projects being completed within the next five years. The need for a school in the community will not change



regardless of whether Bill 64 is passed into law. It is expected that construction would proceed despite any potential governance and organizational changes because of Bill 64. The LRSD board office staff play a key role in advocating and supporting the 40 schools in St. Boniface and St. Vital. We regularly engage with the community at the local level to navigate challenges like the demographic pressures and changes we're experiencing in LRSD.

Staff members in LRSD are asking many questions and building their collective knowledge about Bill 64 and its four-pillar strategy.

TRANSPORTATION:

Will our students be transported to Shamrock School?

Sage Creek students will be transported to Shamrock School until the new school opens.

BEFORE-AND-AFTER SCHOOL CARE

What accommodations will be made for before-and-after school care? If a family has daycare space at ÉSCS, will there be before-and-after school care space made available to them at Shamrock or would transportation from before-and-after school care at ÉSCS be provided to/from Shamrock?

LRSD is committed to working with families and before-and-after school care providers to find a solution.

OTHER OPTIONS FOR ÉSCS:

Can ÉSCS purchase portables to expand our current capacity?

LRSD has previously approached the Manitoba Government to fund the purchase and installation of portables at ÉSCS. These requests were denied. LRSD does not have the authority to purchase portables without provincial approval.

Would there be an opportunity to transition Monterey Board Office for student use to cohort communities together?

LRSD has previously explored the possibility of renovating the Monterey Board Office to serve as a school. The projected costs were prohibitive (\$10.4 million in 2015), and it would have only been able to serve a student population of 300. The money would be better invested in construction of a new school in the community where the students attending it live.

If two-metre physical distancing is required in the fall of 2021, École Van Belleghem's Grades 7 and 8 students, who are currently housed at Island Lakes Community School, will be temporarily relocated to the Monterey Board Office.

GRADE SPECIFIC:

Where will English students attend for Grade 7 to 12?

Windsor Park Collegiate is the designated high school for the Sage Creek community. Currently, 215 students from Sage Creek attend Windsor Park Collegiate from Grade 7 to 12. No decision to change the catchment area has been made at this time. It must be noted, however, that population projections for Windsor Park Collegiate indicate that it will quickly reach and exceed capacity. The division will need to engage the community in conversations on this topic in the future. Possible solutions may involve:

- Sage Creek students remaining at Shamrock School for grades 7 and 8 until the new school opens.
- Adjusting the catchment areas of Windsor Park Collegiate and J.H. Bruns Collegiate for students in grades 9 to 12.

Why can't the Grade 5 and 6 French Immersion students go to Shamrock School?

As an English program school, Shamrock School does not have the resources to support the authentic learning environment necessary for second language learners to thrive, such as bilingual support staff, library resources and signage. There are no nearby French immersion schools that have capacity to accommodate Sage Creek students.

École Provencher is the only French Immersion school that could have capacity; however, it would only have capacity for one year and is not in close geographical proximity, so it is not a viable or sustainable solution.

My children are just entering ÉSCS. How many schools will they move to within their kindergarten to Grade 8 experience?

There are various scenarios depending on the timing of the completion of the new school. For example, if the new school were to open in the 2023-2024 school year, students entering kindergarten to Grade 3 this fall would complete their entire kindergarten to Grade 8 experience within the Sage Creek community. Students entering Grade 4 would attend Shamrock School for their Grade 5 year before returning to the Sage Creek community. Students entering Grade 5 would attend Shamrock School for two years before returning to the Sage Creek community.

If grade 4 ÉSCS English students transition to Shamrock next year, can they stay at Shamrock until grade 8?

Population projections for Windsor Park Collegiate indicate that it will quickly reach and exceed capacity. Depending on the timing of the opening of the new school in Sage Creek, some students may need to complete Grade 7 or Grade 8 at Shamrock School. Another determining factor will be the rate at which the transition of students from Bonavista and North Island Lakes to Island Lakes Community School proceeds. Parents/guardians of students in grade 4 of ÉSCS can expect a series of conversations in May and June about future planning scenarios.



Will the grade 5/6 Sage Creek students still be separated from the Shamrock School students as they are currently?

No. We believe students and staff would be better served to come together as one school community. That said, we will be in conversation with students, staff and parents/guardians in May and June about what it will take to provide a thriving and flourishing learning environment for all students at Shamrock School.

Will it be mandatory for North Island Lakes and Bonavista students in K-3 to move to ILCS? What if they don't want to?

Our demographic planning scenarios demonstrate that we have room to move all students in K-3 to ILCS. This is the starting point for dialogue in the months of May and June to see which families want their children in K-3 and their siblings to move to ILCS.

Are current grade 6 students housed in the gym at Shamrock School still continuing on to WPC in the fall?

Yes.

OTHER:

Are the shops and industrial arts rooms going to be put back in Sage Creek after the pandemic?

Yes, once a second school is built.

Can English students at ÉSCS continue choosing to attend J.H. Bruns Collegiate rather than Windsor Park Collegiate?

The demographic projections we're seeing for J.H. Bruns Collegiate and Windsor Park Collegiate (WPC) will obligate the community to deliberate about high school catchments for Bruns and WPC at a future date. It is too soon to make high school catchment decisions in 2021.

Could Shamrock end up with larger class sizes/overcapacity situation if numbers are unpredictable?

We are confident in our projections for the next five years. We do not anticipate an increase in class sizes.