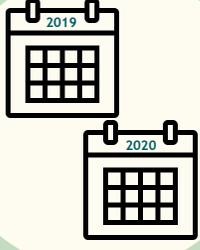


# Update on Brock University research at the Holy Cross Family of Schools

Thank you to all of the students, parents, staff, and board members who have offered us a tremendous amount of support for our research! Here is a brief update on what we've done and what's next.

## WHAT IS HAPPENING THIS YEAR?



We will be bringing our tablets to Grade 9 students who will be asked to complete brief, confidential surveys in November and May.

Like the survey we did last year with over 600 grades 5 to 8 students in the Holy Cross Family of Schools, the surveys will focus on factors that enable students to have positive peer relationships. We've also streamlined the surveys, using what we learned last year to make them shorter and easier to answer.



## WHY ARE THE SURVEYS BEING DONE AGAIN, TWICE THIS YEAR?

It is important to survey students at multiple points over time to understand how students and their peer relationships change as they get older, enter new classes or schools, make new friends, and encounter new challenges.

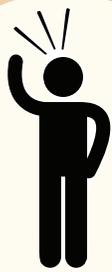
Students who did not complete the surveys last year are welcome to participate in the study this year!



## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS FOR STUDENTS AND SCHOOLS?

Given that we are doing two surveys this year, we expect to be able to give participating schools over **\$10,000** to support their specific needs and goals.

In addition, we will offer over **\$6,000** in prizes to reward students for returning consent forms, doubling the prize amount offered last year.



## WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED SO FAR?

Our data will take months to fully process. But an early look at our data has revealed some trends:

- ◆ Is bullying a problem in these schools? Roughly half of the grades 5 to 8 students we surveyed said they had been teased or called mean names at least once this year. Almost a quarter said they had been physically bullied.
- ◆ Although the number of students experiencing problems with bullying is similar to the average for schools throughout Ontario, these results clearly show that we need to better understand the factors involved so we can start effectively reducing bullying
- ◆ On the positive side, we found that over 75% of students reported prosocial behavior like helping others, cooperating, being loyal and trustworthy, and showing leadership skills, and that these students were popular, well-liked, admired, respected, and had lots of friends. These results give us confidence that bullying may be reduced by promoting prosocial skills and leadership abilities.
- ◆ Moreover, students recognized by their peers as defenders of children who are being bullied are highly liked, respected, admired, and popular, and have many friends. This is a promising finding that suggests there is support for prosocial leaders who show with their actions that bullying is not acceptable in the classroom or on the playground.



## DO I NEED TO GIVE MY CHILD PERMISSION TO PARTICIPATE?

No further action is required to allow your child to participate in our study. All grade 9 students at Holy Cross will complete the surveys in November and May unless they or their parent withdraw consent to participate.

To learn more about the study, please click on this link (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/brockholycross>). If you wish, you may also withdraw consent using this link.

Thank you for supporting our study! We appreciate your help! In the meantime, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email or call us using the information below.

Want more information?

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