

December 2, 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians:

This communication is a follow-up to the October 31, 2019 memo sent to the Holy Trinity High school system.

In that memo there was reference to a meeting earlier this school year between Board Trustee Peter Whittle (Zone 16), District staff, and school council representatives from Cape St. Francis Elementary, Holy Trinity Elementary, Juniper Ridge Intermediate, and Holy Trinity High. During this meeting, District staff proposed a possible reconfiguration of Juniper Ridge Intermediate, from the current Grades 5-7 to Grades 5-8; and for Holy Trinity High, from the current Grades 8-12 to Grades 9-12, beginning in September 2020.

Following that meeting, parents/guardians and other members of the Holy Trinity High school system were encouraged to review the information on the Holy Trinity High school review web page (link: <https://www.nlesd.ca/schools/schoolreview/2020/system-hth.jsp>) and to provide feedback on the proposed grade configuration changes to District staff by November 15, 2019.

A small number of people from the school system responded to the call for feedback and the following is a summary of their comments:

- All respondents were in favour of the proposed changes to the grade configurations of Juniper Ridge Intermediate (Grades 5-8) and Holy Trinity High (Grades 9-12)
- There was a recognition of the benefits of keeping Grade 8 students in an intermediate setting with their peer group
- A concern was expressed that the construction of a new Applied Technology suite at Juniper Ridge to support the Grade 8 Technology curriculum would not be ready for September 2020, should the proposed changes go ahead. District staff have reviewed this concern and do not anticipate an issue.
- A concern was expressed regarding the increased demands on the Juniper Ridge facility due to the extra students, in particular, for the common areas such as the cafeteria and washrooms. District staff have determined that the school has capacity for the extra students.

This feedback summary will also be shared with the Board Trustees for consideration prior to their December 7 regular public meeting, at which time a decision is expected to be made.

Should you have any questions about the school review process, please contact Leo Etchegary, Director of Schools for the Holy Trinity High school system at 758-2351 or via email at leoetchegary@nlesd.ca

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Darryl Feener". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

Darryl Feener
Assistant Director of Education-Programs (Avalon Region)