



January 13, 2023

**Re: SPANISH EXCHANGE 2023-24 FOR CURRENT GRADE 7 STUDENTS**

Dear Parent/Guardian,

A primary goal of the Waterloo Catholic District School Board (WCDSB) is to enable students to develop the knowledge, skills and characteristics that will lead them to become personally successful, economically productive, and actively engaged global citizens. The Internationalization of our schools and our curriculum is an important strategy contributing to the achievement of this goal. The school board has provided a wide variety of international opportunities to Secondary School students in the past and continuing moving forward. This coming school year, the WCDSB has organized opportunities for Elementary Schools, including a Student Exchange with Spain. It will be offered to current grade 7 students who attend school with the WCDSB. **The exchange will occur during their grade 8 school year.**

The exchange will be provided and supported in collaboration with Ken's Education Group (Ken's). Ken's Education Group is experienced, with a well-developed infrastructure to facilitate exchanges. They have demonstrated due diligence and promotion of high standards in all they do and as such, will be the primary facilitator of the exchange. Ken's has also provided an introductory parent/ guardian letter to accompany this letter.

This will be a true exchange experience where a one-to-one pairing of students will carry throughout the exchange. The Spanish exchange will involve three components:

1. Mandatory Spanish language classes in the spring of 2023 to develop language proficiency and enhance the overall experience for WCDSB students prior to travelling to Spain
2. A Spanish student will come to stay in your home for 5 weeks, in late September through October 2022 (dates are to be finalized)
3. WCDSB students will travel to Spain to stay in their partner student's home for 3 weeks, from mid Feb to approximately March Break, 2024

If you are an interested family and would like to learn more, please complete the Google Form included in this letter (<https://forms.gle/HxEaZnoC7e95k96Y8> ) and plan to attend one of these important information sessions offered in both Cambridge and Kitchener-Waterloo for your convenience:



CAMBRIDGE

Date: Wednesday, February 1, 2023

Time: 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Location: St Benedict CSS, 50 Saginaw Parkway, Cambridge

Room: Lecture Hall, room 100

KITCHENER

Date: Thursday, February 2, 2023

Time: 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Location: Resurrection CSS, 455 University Avenue West, Kitchener

Room: Lecture Hall, room 100

Please Note: Should we need to move the information sessions to a virtual platform, we will use the Google Form information to send families a link to a Zoom meeting

We hope to see you at one of these information sessions to learn more about this exciting opportunity!

Financial assistance may be available to support your child's involvement in this exchange. Please contact your school principal for more information.

For more information or general inquiries regarding the exchange, please contact Carla Santomero at [Carla.santomero@wcdsb.ca](mailto:Carla.santomero@wcdsb.ca)

Sincerely,

Carla Santomero  
Principal,  
International Education  
Waterloo Catholic District School Board

