



# Loretto Catholic Elementary School

September 2025



## School Information

Ms. L. Spadafora - Principal

**Website:** <https://schools.niagaracatholic.ca/lorettocatholic/>

**Location:** [6855 Kalar Road, Niagara Falls, ON, Canada](#)

**Phone:** 905 356 4175

**Twitter:** [@LorettoFalls](#) **Instagram:** [lorettocatholicnf](#)

## Principal's Message

### ***Welcome Back Lynx!!!***

A warm welcome is extended to each of our students and families as we begin the 2025-2026 school year together. On behalf of the staff we would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our families for entrusting your children to our care in a faith filled environment that fosters the excellence of each student through spiritual, academic and social pursuits within a Christ centred community.

There have had some updates to our school. We have added a few new names (listed below) to our awesome group of educators. We wish to welcome all of our new Loretto Catholic students and I look forward to seeing all our returning Lynx students and families.

We are excited to continue to work together with Father Mathew and St. Thomas More parish as this looks to be another amazing year at Loretto Catholic.

God Bless all of you,

Ms. Spadafora



## September Prayer to begin our year together

*Lord Jesus, we ask for Your help as we begin this new school year.*

*Allow us to experience Your presence in the many blessings You put before us.  
Open our eyes to the new challenges and exciting opportunities that this new school year brings.  
Open our hearts and minds to new friends and new teachers.  
Give us a generous spirit to be enthusiastic with our studies and have courage to accept new opportunities.  
Help us to be attentive to our teachers and let us experience Your presence in our new friends.  
Jesus, inspire us to do our best this year!  
Our Lady of Loretto, pray for us  
Amen*

### **New Theological Theme** - "Called By Name - Go and Make Disciples"

Hear God's Voice" Jesus calls each of us by name and we are invited to hear Him call our Name.

The **September calendar** is located below at the end of the newsletter.

## **Communication**

Loretto Catholic is rooted in Catholic and Christian values. Our goal is to create a safe, kind and loving environment for all who work, learn, and assist with our school community.

Aggressive or hostile behaviour or language toward, staff, students or our community helpers will not be tolerated. While we welcome feedback, concerns and opinions it is the expectation that all staff, students, parents, guardians and community helpers communicate their needs and concerns with one another in a respectful and peaceful manner whether through email, on the phone or face-to-face.

Adherence to this expectation is vital in order to create a community which can solve problems and help one another achieve success.

## **Morning Entry - Class entrances through specific school doors**

**Front Kinder Play area - Kinders only in gated area- escorted to class by staff at the bell**

**Front doors- late students after the bell only**

**Side front doors- Gr 1 and GR 1/2 students**

**Primary doors in back of school- Gr 2 to Gr 8**

**Portable with ramp - Gr 4/5 Barr and Gr 5 Jones**



## **Media Consent for Social/School & Board**

Lynx families we are excited to continue sharing our students, our events, the learning and the memories we make through Instagram. **This year we are asking that in Septemeber, an email reminder will go out to let you know that if you choose not to have your child featured in any media (School/ Board or Yearbook publications)\_you will need to email your child's teacher that information so they know not to take and share photos with the Administration so that it is not posted or shared.** Please also let

your child know as we try our best not to leave students out of photos.

Thank you

## **Balanced Day**

**8:35-8:45- Morning Free entry - Kinder students, we continue to be dropping off and picking up our students at side gate by the front doors only. Students will go directly inside with staff supervision. Parents are asked to remain on the outside of the play area. Parents are asked to not take pictures/videos of any other child(ren) and to move away from the gated area to help with the transition. Parents a package in August will come through the mail. Please complete the forms and place in your child's backpack- it is pick up and drop off information as well as a name tage that is to be placed on your child for the first day. The teachers will be tending to children and can not take information on the spot.**

**A typical Monday to Friday Balanced School Day at Loretto Catholic would be:**

- 845- 8:55 a.m. -Bell rings/Announcements & Attendance
- 8:55–10:55 a.m. – 120 instructional minutes
- 10:55-11:35 a.m. – 40 minutes nutrition break (20 mins eating/20 mins physical activity break)
- 11:35-12:55 p.m. – 80 instructional minutes
- 12:55–1:35 p.m. – 40 minutes nutrition/physical activity break
- 1:35–2:55 p.m. – 80 instructional minutes
- 2:55-3:05 p.m. - Prayers/Announcements & Dismissal of all students

### **Tips for Parents:**

How to Plan and Prepare for Nutritional Breaks Packing a nutritious meal for the Balanced School Day can be both enjoyable and straightforward. Here are some suggestions to help you plan a healthy lunch for your child:

- Divide a single lunch into two portions to ensure adequacy for each nutritional break.
- Wrap sandwiches individually or cut them in half.
- Separate fruits, vegetables, crackers, and cheese into labeled bags for each break.
- Consider providing two healthy drinks for each break.
- Avoid packing foods containing nuts or nut products to support our peanut-safe schools.
- Involve your child in planning and preparing their nutritional breaks.
- Ensure your child includes a balanced selection of healthy foods if they are responsible for packing their lunch.
- Aim to include items from three of the five food groups outlined in Canada's Food Guide to Healthy Eating for each break.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

## **Staffing**

### **Teaching Staff**

Mrs. Kaufmann & Mrs. A. Tripodi (DECE) - Kinder  
Miss. Scordino & Mrs. K. Tabuelog (DECE) - Kinder  
Ms. Derda - Grade 1  
Mrs. McKean - Grade 1/2  
Mrs. De Prophetis - Grade 2  
Mrs. Pillitteri - Grade 2/3  
Mr. Cicchino - Grade 3/4  
Mr. Gentilcore - Grade 3/4  
Mrs. Barr - Grade 4/5 a.m. Mrs. Beckett (LTO)pm  
Mr. Jones - Grade 5  
Mrs. Pasto - Grade 6



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Mr. Consoli - Grade 6  
Mrs. Farah-Smith -Grade 7  
Mr. Cullen - Mr Wong (LTO)- Grade 7  
Mr. Gabriele - Grade 7/8  
Mrs. Minotti - Grade 8  
Mr. vanWissen - Grade 8  
Mrs. Shellhorne - ERT  
Mrs. Mancuso - ERT  
Madame Nero - FSL  
Madame Costa - FSL  
Mrs. Cottringer - ESL  
Mrs. Puido - PTM  
Miss. Cooney - PTM  
Itinerant Arts- Mr. Starrs

#### **Support Staff**

Mr. Marino  
Mrs. Perri-Taylor  
Mr. Simac  
Mrs. Ward  
Miss. Triano  
CYW- Mrs. Cardamone  
Library Technician - Mrs. Repchull

#### **Office/Custodial Staff**

Mrs. Ginette Bais- Secretary  
Mr. Scott Thompson -Custodian  
Mrs. Daniella Ferraro - Custodian  
Mr. Luca Ferraro - Custodian



### **Class placements**

As we continue to plan for the 2025- 2026 school year and the specific organization of the school is tentative dependent upon any changes to our enrolment numbers. As well, due to our enrolment numbers, we know that combined classes are a reality for certain grades.

We will continue to follow the direction set in the past several years, and will not be accepting requests. As the experts in education, we will base all student placement decisions on what is in the *best interest of the entire student community at Loretto Catholic*. These decisions are made in good faith and based on, but not necessarily limited to, the following considerations: individual needs of students; academic strengths and needs; social and emotional needs of students; resource support requirements and personnel allocation; and classroom teacher strengths.

#### **How Parents can help with the transition to a different grade...**

Talk positively to your child about next year. If your child is with a different group of students discuss relationships and the excitement of making new friends.

**Combined classes such as but not limited are Grades 3/4, 6/7 and 7/8. We have very large numbers in certain grades and combined classes will be a reality.**

**Class placements were available as of Thursday August 28th- 2025 through the Parent Portal.**



**\*\*\*\*Please note that at this time, we will not be making any adjustments or changes to class lists or homerooms if needed until the end of September should enrolment increase or decrease. Any emails/phone calls in regards to placement will not be reviewed until mid/end of September.**  
Thank you

## **Save the Date- Open House/Meet the Teacher Night**

Please join us on **Thursday October 2nd from 4:00-6:30pm** for our Open House/Meet the teacher night. We will be having food trucks and Inflatables. More information will be sent out mid September.



## **Student Emergency Information**

During the first few weeks of school, you will be receiving a copy of your child's information sheet which the school retains on file for all children in our building.

We ask that you please review the information and ensure that it is **current** and **up to date**, as it is critical that we have a means of communicating with you during the day if needed.

## **Parking Lot Safety**

Just wanted to take a moment to thank all our families who are following the **Kiss'n Ride process both before and after school.**

We are asking parents to only use the front area designated as a Kiss'n 'Ride- to not park and leave your car or exit your car in this area. Student(s) exit the car only with their belongings and cross with the supervisor to the school property. This should be used by our Kinders to Grade 4 students only. Grades 5-8 can dismiss and use the KSD/Loretto side parking by the Kalar Turf for pick up.



We also ask that parents do not park in front of the stop signs along the exit path as this blocks traffic and flow. This area is blocked off with pylones.

We have supervision staff who are helping students so they can walk to their entrances both at the front and back of the school **before 8:45 a.m.** Once the bell goes, students must enter through the front doors.

We ask that cars proceed **slowly** as we have had a few very close calls with students. Cars need to **STOP** and check that the crosswalk is clear where students and families are walking to cross.

Should parents want to park- then please use the side entrance at the KSD side and enter through the back gates after 8:35.

Families are asked not to park on the side of Loretto Catholic where the gate and portables are at any time as this is an Emergency Lane, as well we have been asked not to use the Avondale Parking lot as a pick up zone.

Your support and assistance in ensuring our students' safety are very important to all of us.

# Suggested Supply Lists by Divisions

## Kinder student supply list

The following is a list of items that your child will need to bring with him/her on the first day of school:

- a backpack for your child to carry his/her belongings/agenda/lunch and snack
- a lunch as well as a healthy morning and afternoon snack in a reusable lunch pail
- a pair of Velcro shoes to be kept and worn at school (indoor shoes) - labelled
- a complete set of extra clothes (must be dress code) in a plastic or Ziploc bag (please include socks, underwear, shorts/pants and a shirt/top) - labelled
- box of tissues to share

Additional suggested items:

- reusable water bottle and cutlery in your child's lunch pail (eco-friendly)
- a reusable straw (eco-friendly)
- baby wipes
  - Play dough to be used in the classroom

Please ensure that all clothing including the extra clothes left at school, indoor and outdoor shoes, coats, hats etc. are all labelled. This is very important to ensure that your child's items will not be lost.

The Kinder Team

## Primary School Supply list Grades 1-3

School Supplies for our Primary students

- Backpack to carry your lunch, workbooks and agenda
- Lunch bag with 2 healthy snacks and a lunch
- Indoor shoes- labelled
- A big smile and lots of energy!!!

All school supplies will be provided for you, however, you may wish to purchase your own. If you wish to purchase supplies, the following is a suggested list.

A pencil case with a zipper (no pencil boxes please as they take up too much room in/on the desk)

- Pencil crayons and/or markers
- Box of tissues (2)
- Reusable water bottle (plastic & labelled)
- An extra set of clothing (Dress Code attire) should be left at school in case of accidents. Please label all clothing.
- As we will be outside please be sure to send in a hat and apply sunscreen prior to the start of the day. Students can bring sunscreen they can apply throughout the day. Please label the bottle.

Standardized Dress Code

The Niagara Catholic District School Board will continue with the implementation of the Standardized Dress Code Policy. Details regarding the Standardized Dress Code can be found at <http://portal.niagaracatholic.ca/dresscode/>. Parents/Guardians are reminded that students are to wear dress code that complies with the Dress Code Policy. We ask that you label all items.

Staying Organized

The Communication book and the use of the NCVLE have proven to be an effective organizational tool and we will continue to use them this year. The routine of recording reminders and incomplete

work is meant to foster good organizational skills. Parents/Guardians are expected to read their child's agenda each night and initial the agenda in the appropriate space once the work has been completed.

**Please notify teachers as soon as possible if your child has any health concerns/allergies.**

The Primary Team

## Junior School Supply list Grades 4-6

All school supplies will be provided for you, however, you may wish to purchase your own. If you wish to purchase supplies, the following is a **suggested** list.

- A pencil case
- Pencil crayons and/or markers
- Protractor
- Box of tissues (2)
- Reusable water bottle (plastic & labelled)
- No binders please

As we will be outside please be sure to send in a hat and apply sunscreen prior to the start of the day. Students can bring sunscreen they can apply throughout the day. Please label the bottle.

Standardized Dress Code

The Niagara Catholic District School Board will continue with the implementation of the Standardized Dress Code Policy. Details regarding the Standardized Dress Code can be found at <http://portal.niagaracatholic.ca/dresscode/>. Parents/Guardians are reminded that students are to wear dress code that complies with the Dress Code Policy. We ask that you label all items.

Staying Organized

The NCVLE is an effective organizational tool and will continue to be used this year. The routine of recording reminders and incomplete work is meant to foster good organizational skills. Parents/Guardians are expected to log into their child's account nightly to ensure work is completed.

Please notify the teacher as soon as possible if your child has any health concerns/allergies.

The Junior Team

## Intermediate School Supply list Grades 7 & 8

All supplies will be provided for you, however, you may wish to purchase your own. If you wish to purchase supplies, the following is a **suggested** list:

- A pencil case and sharpener
- Pencil crayons and/or markers
- Scientific Calculator
- Geometry Set
- Box of tissues
- Reusable water bottle (plastic & labelled)
- \*\*\* One binder (2 inch) and a package of dividers

As we will be outside please be sure to send in a hat and apply sunscreen prior to the start of the day. Students can bring sunscreen they can apply throughout the day. Please label the bottle.

Standardized Dress Code

The Niagara Catholic District School Board will continue with the implementation of the Standardized Dress Code Policy. Details regarding the Standardized Dress Code can be found at <http://portal.niagaracatholic.ca/dresscode/>. Parents/Guardians are reminded that students are to wear dress code that complies with the Dress Code Policy. We ask that you label all items.

Students should exercise in the appropriate attire (as well as use deodorant) and then change back into their school clothes following the Physical Education period.

### Staying Organized

The student's NCVLE is an effective organizational tool and we will continue to use it this year. The routine of recording reminders and incomplete work is meant to foster good organizational skills.

Please notify the teacher as soon as possible if your child has any health concerns/allergies.

The Intermediate Team

## Anaphylaxis

At Loretto Catholic, we continue to have several students with Anaphylaxis - a severe life threatening condition caused by an allergic reaction to certain food products (i.e.) peanuts, dairy, medications, latex products, inhalers, and insect bites from bees or wasps. Residue on any surfaces can trigger a severe allergic reaction. Anaphylaxis requires immediate action through medications or an EPI- PEN. We ask that students continue to work on ensuring products from home are nut-free as well as any other allergies lists in each class which teachers will inform them of.

If your child has allergies that the school is unaware of, please call and speak to your child's classroom teacher and we will send home the forms to be completed and have on file.

## Catholic School Council - Nominations and Elections

The Loretto Catholic School Council (CSC) is already busy planning and getting organized for this year. Our first meeting will be on **Tuesday, September 23rd at 6:00**. We hope that you will consider coming out and participating. We meet four times throughout the year.

Catholic School council forms will be emailed through School Messenger, please email the form back to [loretto.catholic@ncdsb.com](mailto:loretto.catholic@ncdsb.com) or print and return the form to the office by Sept 18th by 3:00 pm to be nominated as a part of our Loretto Catholic CSC for this year.

## Parent volunteer/Chaperones

Parents/Guardians interested in volunteering to chaperone ( be responsible to supervise children) on school trips/excursions are asked to have an up-to-date (within the last 5 years) vulnerable sector check through Niagara Regional Police. The original must come to school and we will make a copy to place in our files. If you submitted a check last year , you do not need to re submit.

## Big Bear Spiritwear link

### Big Bear Spirit Wear

Families are able to purchase Spirit Wear through Big Bear Spiritwear - **please visit the website by clicking on the banner above with their name.**

We have launched our new **FRESH** Loretto Catholic Logo for our Spirit Wear.

Students may continue to wear existing spirit wear. Just a reminder that Spirit Wear T-shirts are not part of the daily dress code as collar shirts must be worn.

Please see the items below that are available throughout the year to purchase.

**\*\*To order- Link to Big Bear website- click schools- click Niagara Falls - click on Loretto Catholic**



School dress code is in effect. Collared shirt is either blue or white- no logos. Pants, skirts, shorts are blue. Denim is dark denim and in good repair, not faded or with holes.

All sweaters are blue unless they are Loretto Catholic Spirit wear which are blue and/or grey and have our school logo on it.

**Grad hoodies are reserved for our students in Grade 8 only.**

## **New information/updates from of Ministry of Education**

Dear Parent/Guardian(s),

As we continue to foster a safe and positive learning environment for all students, I would like to remind you of the new regulations regarding cell phone use that have been implemented in Ontario schools.

To minimize distractions and maximize learning, cell phones are only permitted during instructional time when they are being used for educational purposes as directed by the teacher. Outside of these times, students are expected to keep their phones turned off and stored away unless needed for documented learning needs and/or health related requirements. We kindly ask for your support in reinforcing this policy with your children and encouraging them to focus on their studies during school hours.

Your cooperation is essential in helping us maintain a healthy and respectful school environment. If you have any questions or concerns regarding these rules, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

## **School Cash online**

### **Payment for School Activities- School Cash Online**

Parents/Guardians are asked to sign up for our convenient payment program - SCHOOLCASHONLINE. This is an excellent way to pay for student activities/lunches without sending in money to school.

To register, please go to:



#### **SchoolCashOnline.com: Welcome**

Why Use SchoolCash Online? Convenient Make secure payments 24/7 from the comfort of your home Easy To Use Online shopping with various payment methods Safe Your child won't be carrying cash or checks to and from school Saves Time Manage your school expenses and view payment history in one place

🔗 [schoolcashonline.com](https://schoolcashonline.com)

### **Lynx Water Bottles**

We will continue to sell our Loretto Lynx 24- ounce reusable Sports Water bottles with our Loretto Lynx logo on it as well as a spot to write your child's name on it. Water bottles are BPA-free sports

bottles that are made with a polyethylene (PET) material that's phthalate-free, non-toxic and lead-free. It features a twist-on lid with push/pull drinking spout. Its translucent bottle colour matches its lid color. Bottles can be purchased through School **Cash Online** for **\$8.00 each or 2 for \$14.00. We will begin selling as of mid September until late May.**



## Reusable Water Bottles & Utensils

Please ensure that your child comes to school each day with a reusable water bottle. This will not only help keep our children hydrated but will also help our environment. We ask that if your child needs a fork or spoon to eat their snacks or lunch that you please place one in their lunch pails.

## Lunch and Special Treat Days

Thank you to all our families for your support throughout the year for the lunch days. We will begin again in October 2025.

We will continue to use the Little Caesar, Pita Pit, Swiss Chalet, Far East, popcorn, and ice cream.

## Leaving School Grounds

Any student who wishes to leave the school grounds during the school day for any reason is required to be signed out by a parent/guardian in the main office. Students will not be permitted to leave school grounds for lunch unless picked up by a parent/guardian.

If a change in dismissal routine is to occur, a signed note from the parent is required EACH TIME. This will help us ensure your child is safely dismissed from school. Texts from parents, office phone/cell phone usage will not be a regularly accepted form of permission and will only be considered in the case of an extenuating circumstance.

## Niagara Nutrition Partners

Thank you to our Niagara Nutrition Partners for all their support this year. Each class has a bin and tongs filled with delicious and nutritious food items such as yogurt tubes, fruits, fruit bars, and individually baked goods. These items vary from day to day. All students are welcome to pick a snack to compliment their own snacks.



We also want to thank our families for donating to this great cause so we can continue to sustain and help maintain it throughout the year.

**Please continue to help by donating through School Cash Online.**

## Terry Fox - September 26, 2025

On Friday, September 13th all students will be participating in The Terry Fox School Event. School Cash online donations will be accepted **throughout the month of September**. Students may be out

of dress code and support our event by waering White and Red.



## Orange Shirt Day - September 30, 2025

September 30th has been declared Orange Shirt Day throughout Canada in recognition of the harm done to generations of children by the Indian Residential Schools. As an affirmation of Niagara Catholic's commitment to ensure that every child matters as we continue on our reconciliation journey, the Niagara Catholic District School Board is acknowledging Orange Shirt Day on **Tuesday, September 30th, 2025**. The origin of Orange Shirt Day is based on a story shared by a survivor of the Residential School system, Phyllis Webstad, during the Truth and Reconciliation meetings held in Williams Lake, BC in 2013. In response, staff, students and community members of Loretto Catholic School are encouraged to wear the colour orange on September 30th as a visible symbol in support of the notion that every child matters and that we are called to love, respect, and care for one another as children of God.

To order orange shirts through Pegasus School Images – Pegasus Order Form Shirts are \$15 including tax. Families are encouraged to place their orders online through Pegasus School Images. A credit card is required.

At the time of placing orders, parents/staff will be asked to select:

- 1) The Shirt Size
- 2) Quantity
- 3) Name of the School where the shirt is to be delivered.
- 4) All orders must be placed by midnight, **Monday, September 16th**, for all shirts to be delivered to schools on time.

## Items Left At School

We know it is the season when we have many student belongings at school like hats, mittens, sweaters, coats, indoor/outdoor shoes and boots at school. Often items are not labelled and it is hard to know who they belong to. We do have a lost and found for students to check in the vestibule in the main entrance to the school. Unfortunately, should items go missing and/or are lost when students have left them at school a reminder that we, the school, are not responsible for any lost items or items left at the school. We will do our best to help our students find their items. We ask that items are all labelled as many items are similar or from the same stores.

## Toys at School

We remind all our students and parents that although toys are fun to play with during recess times, it is difficult to keep track of whose toys belong to whom. Often students bring and play with their toys during class time. We ask that you please consider not sending toys or labelling the toys and speaking to your child about when is an appropriate time to use them.

Although students are encouraged **not to trade** playing cards of any kind i.e. Pokémon, we are not responsible for traded, lost or misplaced cards.

Thank you for your support



## Pets on School Property

Parents, we kindly ask that your pets do not come on to school property at arrival and dismissal. Many of our areas are already congested with families at pick up and some of our families and students are a little uncomfortable.

We appreciate your support.

## Niagara Falls Crossing Guard information

Families are asked to check the site often for changes in services such as shift time changes, additions or removals of locations, and service interruptions due to inclement weather or staff shortages. We will always try to post changes in services by no later than 7:30am and 2:00pm, but sometimes last-minute issues arise, so check and check often!

<https://niagarafalls.ca/city-hall/transportation-services/school-crossing-guards.aspx>

## Bike Safety

Now that the nice weather is here, we know that our students will be riding their bikes.

Here are safety tips to keep in mind:

- Wear a [properly fitting helmet](#) every time you cycle, scooter or skateboard. It is the law for cyclists up to the age of 18. Parents can be good role-models by wearing a helmet too.
- Check out [Niagara Navigator](#) or Google Maps and plan safe routes to walk or bike when you visit friends, parks, the library and other nearby locations.
- Brush up on [how to use hand signals](#) while riding your bike.

To brush up on safe cycling tips with your children, download [Ontario's Young Cyclists Guide to Safety](#).



## We are a proud member of the Saint Michael High School Family of Schools

Please click on the banner above to link to St. Michael HS



Ms. Spadafora