



# Notre Dame Catholic School



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Principal: Mr. E. Roussos Superintendent of Education: Mr. D. Massi

FAITH ♦ WISDOM ♦ HUMILITY

## February 2025

### Principal's Message

Dear Notre Dame Families,

The midway point of the school year is approaching. Progress towards our goals is ongoing. There will always be more to do and more ways in which we can grow or improve spiritually, mentally and emotionally. Our strength and determination to accomplish goals comes from many places, but most importantly our faith. We offer this prayer for all of our families:

#### ***A Prayer for Accomplishing Goals***

*Dear God, we come to you seeking your divine wisdom to understand what you want us to accomplish with the gifts, talents, opportunities, time, and other resources you have given us. Please help me plan effectively and set goals and targets that help align our purpose with yours and live a life that allows your will to prevail, and see your plans come to pass in our lives. We pray, Amen.*

All the best,  
E. Roussos

### Theological Theme Called by Name: Follow Me

"Come, follow me!" These words of Jesus are an invitation for each and every one of us. How can each of us better follow Jesus right where we are today? How can we become missionaries encouraging each other to look up from the table, let go of our sins and see the finger of Jesus pointing at each of us personally beckoning us to hear the command call?: "Come, follow me!"



### Notre Dame on Social Media

Follow Notre Dame on Instagram to get the latest updates:



@notredamenf

### Our Lady of the Scapular Parish

**Website:** [www.scapular.ca](http://www.scapular.ca)

**Mass Times:**

**Saturday - 5:00 PM & Sunday - 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 AM**

\*Please contact your child's teacher for their class monthly mass time



### Registrations - Join Our Family!

We are always welcoming those families who want to join the Notre Dame Catholic School Community! Please register online at the [Niagara Catholic DSB webpage](#) or by clicking [here](#).

**We are proud to be a part of the Saint Paul High School family of schools!**

### Niagara Catholic District School Board Mission

*We are a Christ-centred Catholic faith community that celebrates diversity and fosters spiritual growth, inspiring all to reach their full potential in mind, body and spirit.*

JUSTICE ♦ COMPASSION ♦ STEWARDSHIP ♦ ACCOUNTABILITY ♦ COMMUNITY ♦ INTEGRITY ♦ FAITHFULNESS



# Notre Dame Catholic School



## ON THE CALENDAR

### Alternate Lunch Days

Families will have the option to order lunch for students on select days each month. In February, we will offer the following alternate lunch days:

- February 5 - Little Caesar's Pizza
- February 12 - Swiss Chalet
- February 19 - Pasta Fresca
- February 26 - Far East Chinese Restaurant

**All orders can be placed through SchoolCash Online.** Thank you in advance for your participation.

### Black History Month

Black History Month is an annual observance in the **month of February**. All Canadians have an opportunity to participate in Black History Month activities, events, and festivities to honour the legacy of Black Canadians, past and present. Students will be completing various activities in classes that promote awareness of the contribution Black Canadians have made to Canadian culture.

### Science & Engineering Fair

Our Science Fair showcase will be on **Wednesday, February 5**. Our Gr 7 & 8 students completed projects and will showcase their learning to students, staff and families. All projects highlight our students' scientific thinking. All Gr 7 & 8 projects will be adjudicated before lunch by Saint Paul High School students and NCDSB staff, with top projects moving on to the Niagara Regional Science Fair on the weekend of March 21. Families are invited to view projects from 1:00 to 1:40 PM in our gymnasium. There will be no viewings allowed during adjudication.



### Term 1 Provincial Reports



Term 1 Reports for students will be posted in the Parent Portal during the **week of February 10**. Although no formal interviews are scheduled, as always, teachers and parents may request to meet at an agreeable date and time to discuss student progress over the course of the term.

### Valentines Day

Students at Notre Dame will "celebrate" Valentines Day on **Thursday, February 13**, Students are invited to wear red, pink and white, as it will be an out of dress code day. The school will be selling Valentines cookies for \$2. All proceeds will help offset graduation costs for our Grade 8 students.



**Parents are asked not to send any treats to school for their child's class, as they cannot be shared with other students.**



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## ON THE CALENDAR

### Kids Helping Kids Fundraiser

Niagara Catholic's 27th Annual Kids Helping Kids fundraiser will take place from February 10-21. This year's event will jointly support the Niagara Children's Centre, as well as the Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education. Kids Helping Kids is a fun, informal fundraiser, which supports these causes through paid participation in theme days. **Donations to the Kids Helping Kids fundraiser can be made through School Cash Online.**

For further information about the Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education, please contact Jim Marino, at 905.735.0240 ext. 210 or jim.marino@nfce.org. To find more about the Niagara Children's Centre, please visit their website: [Niagara Children's Centre](http://Niagara Children's Centre)

**More information on theme days will be sent to parents in the upcoming weeks. For your advanced planning:**

Monday, February 10 - Jersey & Hat Day	Monday, February 17 - Family Day - No School
Tuesday, February 11 - Creative Hair Day	Tuesday, February 18 - Cozy Sweater Day
Wednesday, February 12 - Spiritwear Day	Wednesday, February 19 - Spiritwear Day
Thursday, February 13 - Red, White & Pink Day	Thursday, February 20 - Disney Theme Day
Friday, February 14 - PA Day - No School	Friday, February 21 - Twin Day/ Dress Like a Teacher Day

### Guest Speaker: Jon Hansen at Notre Dame

Jon Hansen will be engaging the students of Notre Dame with his message of "Unleash Your Greatness" on **Wednesday, February 19**. He will deliver two presentations - one for Kindergarten to Gr 5 and another for Grades 6-8.

He is an inspirational speaker, former educator, and social media influencer who travels across Canada inspiring students of all ages to unlock their potential, embrace resilience, and rediscover their inner greatness. As the author of *The Greatness Code: Rediscover Your Strong Within*, Jon's powerful message of self-belief and personal growth continues to make a lasting impact on students. His engaging, relatable approach helps young people thrive not just in school, but in life and beyond.

More information about Jon Hansen can be found on his [website](#). You can also view a [video](#) for parents.

### Pink Shirt Day



Niagara Catholic continues to demonstrate a commitment to bullying awareness, prevention and intervention in our schools, our communities, and online through the participation of our schools in Pink Shirt Day on **Wednesday, February 26**.

Bullying can come in many forms (such as physical, verbal and cyber) and sometimes can be hard to see. On **February 26**, students and staff at Notre Dame are invited to wear a pink shirt with their dress code bottoms in support of bullying awareness.



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## ON THE CALENDAR

### Saint Paul High School Transition Activities



#### Saint Paul High School Transition Activities

Our Grade 8 students have started their transition from being part of the Notre Dame family to joining the Saint Paul family. Students have been visited by school administrators Mrs. Majka, Mr. Folinazzo and Mrs. Piroso to introduce students to the excellence they can expect when attending Saint Paul. Notre Dame students will begin experiencing the Patriot culture by attending a variety of events.

#### Transition Visits & Activities

Over the course of the second term, our students will be further exposed to the culture and excellence they will experience at Saint Paul HS. The girls high school hockey team has invited interested Grade 7 & 8 students to skate with them at a practice. As these events are scheduled, students and families will be notified.

## Kindergarten

#### Kindergarten Open House

Our Kindergarten Open House will be held on **Thursday, February 6 from 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM.**

Parents of future Kindergarten students are invited to drop by Notre Dame to see both our English and/or French Immersion Kindergarten classrooms in action and get a tour of the different learning environments within the school. Family visits do not need to be scheduled. The Classroom Teachers, Early Childhood Educators, Education Resource Teacher and school Secretary and Administration will be available to provide information about your child starting their Catholic Education journey in September 2025. Look for more information on our school social media platform.

#### Kindergarten Registration

Register online at [niagaracatholic.ca](http://niagaracatholic.ca)

If you have a child that was born in 2021, they are eligible to begin school in September 2025. **Click on the link above** to register your child and have them join the Notre Dame Family!



# Notre Dame Catholic School



## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

### Notre Dame Spirit Wear



Notre Dame Catholic School spirit wear has been given a refreshed look. All spirit wear items will be accepted as part of the Notre Dame Catholic School standardized dress code. Families can purchase items directly through our supplier, Big Bear Spiritwear, on their website [here](#).



### Elementary Standardized Dress Code



The Niagara Catholic DSB has a Standardized Elementary Dress Code in place for students in elementary schools. All students are to wear navy bottoms and navy blue or white shirts. For more detailed information, please view the NCDSB flyer [here](#).

### Thank you Delta Bingo!

Our students and staff are thankful for all that Delta Bingo gives back to the school. Students have benefitted from recess and PE equipment, learning materials, as well as classroom technology. We look forward to continuing our school fundraising efforts through our partnership.

The school is always looking for parent volunteers to assist during our assigned time at Delta Bingo (Tuesday afternoon). If any parent would like to assist with fundraising, please contact the school.



### Student Consent Forms

Each year students have the opportunity to join in many learning activities here at school or on educational field trips. The school is asking that parents complete the following consent forms ([found on School Cash Online](#)), to ensure the school has the necessary information to keep your child/children safe.

**Parent Consent - Student Personal Information (all K-8 students)** - This form allows us to know parent preferences when it comes to using a child's information (ie. images, etc) in school publications such as social media posts, class photos and the school yearbook.

**NCDSB Athletic Participation /Acknowledgement of Risk Form (Gr. 4-8 students only)** - This form explains risks associated with participation in activities happening on school property and allows parent to indicate preferences regarding a child's participation in day-to-day activities (ie. intramurals, sports team tryouts, etc).

Educational Field Trips and activities happening off school property will have a separate consent form sent home.



# Notre Dame Catholic School



## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

### Emergency Medical Protocols

At Notre Dame, we work cooperatively with families in order to provide a safe, inclusive, and healthy educational environment for all students. We recognize that students who are at risk because of medical concerns such as **allergic reactions, diabetes, epilepsy, intolerances, asthma and/or seizures** require an intervention plan for their needs to be met and to reach their full potential at school.

If your child requires a specific plan of care, please contact the school at your earliest convenience so we can ensure his or her safety while in our care.

### SchoolCash Online Payment for School Activities

As activities and educational field trips are being scheduled for our students, we ask that parents sign up for our convenient payment program, SchoolCash Online. This is an excellent way to pay for student activities without sending money to school.

To register, please go to:  
<https://ncdsb.schoolcashionline.com/>

### School Messenger - Safe Arrival

One of our greatest priorities is ensuring that all our students arrive safely to school each and every day. School Messenger allows parents to report their child's absence quickly and conveniently using the **mobile app**, a **website**, or an **interactive toll-free phone line** to report an absence, late arrival or early departure, in advance. This process allows the school to verify student attendance and notify parents of an unreported student absence efficiently.

If your child is marked absent and the absence hasn't been explained in advance, our SafeArrival system will contact you to get a reason for the absence. Calls will continue until you choose an option to explain your child's absence. **PLEASE** use the following information to report your child's absence: mobile app, online at <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca/#/home> or by calling 1-844-287-6287. It is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

### Student Aware Internet Filter

This is just a reminder to families that all Niagara Catholic schools use a software program called "Student Aware". This program enables schools to monitor its student internet traffic while using Board internet devices. The "Student Aware" program will be identifying and notifying school staff when students access online websites related to suicide, violence, abuse and/or other dangerous activities that could be injurious to themselves and/or others. When high-risk incidents are identified, the occurrence will be investigated and school administration will respond accordingly to support student mental health and well-being.