



Notre Dame Catholic School



6559 Caswell Street, Niagara Falls, ON, L2J 1C2

Phone: (905) 358-3861 Email: notre.dame@ncdsb.com

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

FAITH ♦ WISDOM ♦ HUMILITY

May 2025

Principal's Message

Dear Notre Dame Families,

As we enter the month of May, spring is in full bloom. During this month, we honour Mary, mother of Jesus. She is our school's namesake, as Notre Dame in French means "Our Lady". We also celebrate our mothers, grandmothers, and aunts for the unconditional support, love and protection they provide to their children and family. Like Mary, they are willing to bear the cross for their children on the path to holiness, charity and compassion. We pray this short novena:

Mary, Our Mother, by accepting the invitation to bear God's Son to the world, you brought forth new life for all of us. Your faithful acceptance of God's word is our model and inspiration as we strive to make room in our hearts for your Son and bear Him to others. Help us to follow Him more closely, even to the foot of the cross, as you did.

Looking forward to the many great things happening this month!

All the best,
E. Roussos

Theological Theme Called by Name: Follow Me



When Jesus says "Come, follow me," He's doing more than just asking us to walk with Him. He is asking us to become a part of something bigger. Imagine you're invited to join an adventure where you learn new things and grow in ways you never thought possible. Following Jesus means we get to learn from Him how to be more loving, forgiving, and courageous. It's like being part of a great story where each of us has a special role. As we follow Jesus, we discover our own strengths and talents and find joy in helping others. So, when we hear His invitation, it's a chance to embark on an exciting journey of faith and make a real difference in the world!

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

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

May 2025



Notre Dame Catholic School



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Catholic Education Week "Pilgrims of Hope"

This year's Catholic Education Week theme is, *"Pilgrims of Hope."*

- In February of 2022, Pope Francis announced that the theme for the upcoming 2025 holy year would be "Pilgrims of Hope." "We must fan the flame of hope that has been given to us and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision. (from Vatican News, a short video on the history of the Jubilee/Holy Year: <https://x.com/VaticanNews/status/1783768498885275868>)
- The Holy Father asks us to focus prayerfully on the bonds that unite our whole human family, to reflect on the rampant poverty in our world, and to think about the plight of the many refugees forced to leave their homes. He also summons us, as stewards of Creation, "to contemplate the beauty of creation and care for our common home."
- A pilgrimage is a spiritual journey of movement toward a goal, often lived together with others – and that certainly describes Catholic education. Hope – one of the three theological virtues – is grounded in our Easter faith in Jesus' resurrection and renewal; this is what enables us to be builders, dreamers and leaders in Jesus' name. Pope Francis invited us to keep moving ahead in faith, in joy, and in hope, as part of a pilgrim people. Even in challenging times, our eyes are focused on the future.

There are five sub-themes for each day of Catholic Education Week:

- Day 1: By honouring human dignity / Honorent la dignité humaine
- Day 2: By caring for creation / Prennent soin de la création
- Day 3: By responding to the poverties in our world / Luttent contre les pauvretés
- Day 4: By serving in solidarity / Servent en solidarité
- Day 5: By living as peacemakers / Vivent en artisans de paix

Every year, the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA) provides our Catholic schools with a resource kit to help schools prepare for Catholic Education Week. Using these resources, as well as our own developed activities, we have prepared a series of activities, which will highlight how the students and staff at our school are being *Pilgrims of Hope together*.

Catholic Education Week—School Events

Track & Field Day: Tuesday, May 6 - 8:45 AM - 1:00 PM

- Parents are invited to watch their child participate in a variety of activities throughout the day
- Our K-3 will be engaged in activities on the turf at Saint Paul HS and our Gr 4-8 students will be competing in track and field events at Oakes Park

School Mass: Wednesday, May 7 - 1:00 PM @ Our Lady of Scapular Parish

- Our monthly school mass will be held during Catholic Education Week
- Parents are welcome to join students and staff

Mental Health Week

Mental Health Week is a Canadian tradition, with communities, schools and workplaces rallying to celebrate, protect and promote mental health. Students at Notre Dame will focus on activities that highlight the connection between our Catholic faith and mental health during the week of **May 5 to 9**.



Notre Dame Catholic School



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Alternate Lunch Days

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

- May 7 - Little Caesar's Pizza
- May 14 - Subway
- May 21 - Pasta Fresca
- May 29 - Carmine's Pizza

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

Ice Cream Days

On **Fridays in May & June**, all students will have the opportunity to purchase an individual cup of vanilla frozen yogurt as a snack. **Frozen yogurt will cost \$2.** There is no need to pre-order, and students can politely decline if they are not interested. Proceeds from selling the frozen yogurt will go to off-setting graduation costs for our Grade 8 students. Thank you in advance for your support.

Notre Dame Catholic School Council

The Notre Dame Catholic School Council is part of what makes our Catholic school so special, as it gives parents a voice in helping us serve our students. Meetings are held at the school, however a meeting link can be extended to those parents who would like to join from home.

Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday, May 13**. Please contact the school if you are interested in attending!

Grade 3-8 Health Fair

Our Grade 3/4, 5, 5/6 & 6/7 students and their teachers will visit Saint Paul HS on **Wednesday, May 14** to take part in a Healthy Living Fair. Students will receive information from a variety of age-appropriate topics that promote life-long health and wellness. More information will be communicated to parents closer to the date.

Play Day

To continue strengthening our connection to our Catholic feeder school, the Saint Paul Leadership class will organize a Play Day for our Gr K-8 students on **Thursday, May 29**. Our students will be lead through different activities on the Notre Dame field as well as the Saint Paul turf field. Play Day will be an out of dress code day. Students are encouraged to wear comfortable athletic attire, and dress accordingly to prepare for being outside in the warm weather.

Primary Movie Night

Students and Parents in Grade K-3 will be invited to school on **Thursday, May 15 at 6 PM** to watch a movie in the gymnasium. Popcorn will be available for students. More details will follow closer to the date.

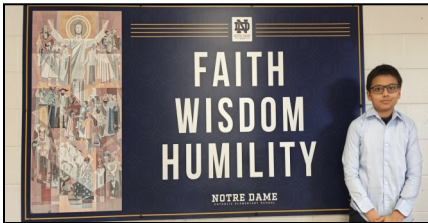


Notre Dame Catholic School



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Catch the Spirit Award of Excellence



The expectations for students in our Catholic schools combine faith with knowledge, skills, values, attitudes and actions. As we work together to help students “reach their full potential in mind, body and spirit”, the Niagara Catholic “Catch the Spirit Student Award of Excellence” has been established to honour student representatives of leadership rooted in justice and service. The student representative chosen shows a commitment to their faith and demonstrates outstanding qualities in a variety of areas.

The recipient of this year’s award at Notre Dame Catholic School is Jacob George. Jacob will be receiving his award at the Celebrating Excellence Award Ceremony on **Tuesday, May 6.** Congratulations Jacob!

Grade 8 Graduation

Save the date! Grade 8 Graduation will be held on **Thursday, June 19 at 5:00 PM.** More information will be shared over the course of this month. Stay tuned!



Educational Field Trips

Classrooms are booking year-end educational field trips. Please be mindful on the day of the trip and consider the weather and location when preparing your child for the day. Some things to consider are running shoes for walking and activities, a hat and sunscreen if it is sunny, layers if the weather is unpredictable, a water bottle for hydration and a lunch in reusable containers.

Consent forms will be sent home through SchoolMessenger closer to the date of the Field Trip, and any payment and consent for a trip can be made through School Cash Online. If you have any questions about your child’s trip, please reach out to the classroom teacher.

School Yearbook

An electronic consent form was sent to families back in early September by the Niagara Catholic DSB. This form allows families to indicate their preference on whether their children’s photos can be included in school publications, such as the yearbook, social media posts, etc.

If families have not completed their consent form yet, we kindly ask consent forms be completed for each child through SchoolCash Online.



Notre Dame Catholic School



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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. Pirosko to introduce students to the excellence they can expect when attending Saint Paul. Notre Dame students will be experience the Patriot culture and level of excellence by attending a variety of events.

NCDSB Summer School

The Niagara Catholic DSB offers students the opportunity to earn high school credits by taking courses in summer school. For Grade 8 students, it gives them a head start on earning credits towards their Ontario Secondary School High School Diploma, as well as an opportunity to build connections with other students. **You can find more information about the NCDSB summer school program and register for courses by clicking [here](#).**

Kindergarten

Kindergarten Registration

Register online at 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!

To complete the registration process, families are asked to provide their child's **registration documents** to the school, by either dropping them off at the main office or emailing them to the school at notre.dame@ncdsb.com.

"Welcome to Kindergarten" Spring Orientation Evening

The Notre Dame Kindergarten team will host a family orientation evening on **Thursday, May 22 @ 6:00 PM**.

The information session will be for those families who have registered a child to start Kindergarten at Notre Dame in September 2025. Parents will receive an overview of the program for English and French Immersion streams and meet school staff who will be involved in their child's learning. Families who have registered will be emailed further details soon. We look forward to welcoming our future Notre Dame students and their families!



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 equipment purchased for both recess & PE, as well as learning materials and 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.