



# Notre Dame Catholic School



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

FAITH ♦ WISDOM ♦ HUMILITY



## Principal's Message

### Welcome Back!

The staff of Notre Dame Catholic School are excited to be back and ready to make this another amazing school year for our students. We want to welcome our new and returning students, as another memorable school year will begin on September 2.

As a community of Christian believers, we ask God's blessing be bestowed on all our students, families, staff and all who are a part of the Notre Dame Catholic Community. Our continued strong partnership between the home, school and church provides our children with a solid foundation for their spiritual, emotional, and academic journey through life. We welcome the input of all members of our community and partners in education, so that we can continue to grow in a positive way. As always, please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any questions regarding your child's education.

We are looking forward to a fun and memorable 2025-26 school year!!!

All the best,  
E. Roussos

## Theological Theme: Called by Name - Go and Make Disciples!

Jesus doesn't just know your name. He calls you by it! In Matthew 28:19, Jesus tells us to "go and make disciples of all nations." But, He doesn't send us out as strangers. He calls each of us by name. He asks us to join this great mission. Just like Jesus called Simon by name and made him Peter, He calls you by your name too. He sees the special gifts you have. You aren't just another face in the crowd. You are called by name to help others follow Jesus right where you are. As we start this school year, let's listen for Jesus calling our name and answer Him in love!

## Registrations - Join Our Family!

We are always welcoming those families who want to join the Notre Dame Catholic School Community! Please register online at [niagaracatholic.ca](http://niagaracatholic.ca)

**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

September 2025



# Notre Dame Catholic School



## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

### Welcome Back New Daily Schedule Starting September 2!

For the 2025-26 school year, the start and end times of the school day at Notre Dame Elementary School have not changed. The morning bell will ring at **8:10 AM** and the dismissal bell will ring at **2:30 PM**.

For your reference, a typical day at Notre Dame will be as follows:

- **7:55 AM - student drop-off**
- **8:10** - 8:20 AM - Student entry and morning routines
- 8:20 - 10:20 AM - 120 instructional minutes
  - ⇒ **10:20 - 10:40 AM - 20 minute physical activity break** (outdoor recess)
  - ⇒ **10:40 - 11:00 AM - 20 minute nutrition break** (indoor lunch)
- 11:00 - 12:20 PM - 80 instructional minutes
  - ⇒ **12:20 - 12:40 PM - 20 minute physical activity break** (outdoor recess)
  - ⇒ **12:40 - 1:00 PM - 20 minute nutrition break** (indoor lunch)
- 1:00 - 2:20 PM - 80 instructional minutes
- 2:20 - **2:30** PM - School day dismissal routines

The complete 2025-26 School Year Calendar & Meeting Dates can be found on the NCDSB website, or by clicking [here](#).

### Student Supervision and Safety

As student safety is our first priority, please keep in mind the following:

#### **Supervision Start/End Times**

- **Morning supervision begins at 7:55 AM.**
- **End-of-day supervision ends at 2:40 PM.**
- All students are supervised by school staff during recess and lunch.

#### **Student Pickup and Drop-off**

- We ask parents to not leave students at the school before supervision begins at 7:55 AM.
- If alternate drop-off/pickup arrangements are needed due to unforeseen circumstances, please contact the office.
- Students who arrive after the 8:10 AM entry bell are to enter the school through the front door and pick up a late slip before going to their classroom.

### 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



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



# Notre Dame Catholic School



## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

### 2025-26 Notre Dame Catholic School Staff

|                 |                             |                        |                  |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| Kindergarten    | Mrs. Parillo & Mrs. Pullano | Education Resource     | Mrs. Gualtieri   |
| Kindergarten FI | Mme. Martineau & Mme. Cole  | FSL / FI English       | Mme. Solefack    |
| Grade 1         | Mrs. Bartolini              | FI English             | Mr. Mangiacasale |
| Grade 1 FI      | Mme. Chambers               | K-3 Science & PE       | Mr. Kamendy      |
| Grade 1 FI      | Mme. Taddeo                 | Music                  | Mr. Sottile      |
| Grade 1-2       | Mrs. DeMeo                  | Librarian              | Mrs. Arcuri      |
| Grade 2-3       | Miss Vriens                 | Educational Assistants | Mrs. Brown       |
| Grade 2-3 FI    | Mme. Della Smirra           |                        | Mrs. Deacon      |
| Grade 3 FI      | TBA                         |                        | Mrs. Smith       |
| Grade 3-4       | Miss Avila                  | Child & Youth Worker   | Ms. Bovolotto    |
| Grade 3-4 FI    | Mme. Mantesso               | Caretaker              | Mr. Waters       |
| Grade 4-5       | Mrs. Cha                    |                        | Mr. Gasbarrino   |
| Grade 5-6       | Mrs. Mellen                 | Secretary              | Miss Anderson    |
| Grade 5-6 FI    | Mme. Jaramillo              | Principal              | Mr. Roussos      |
| Grade 6-7       | Miss Collee                 |                        |                  |
| Grade 7-8       | TBA                         |                        |                  |
| Grade 7-8 FI    | Mme. Conversano             |                        |                  |

### First Day of School Arrival

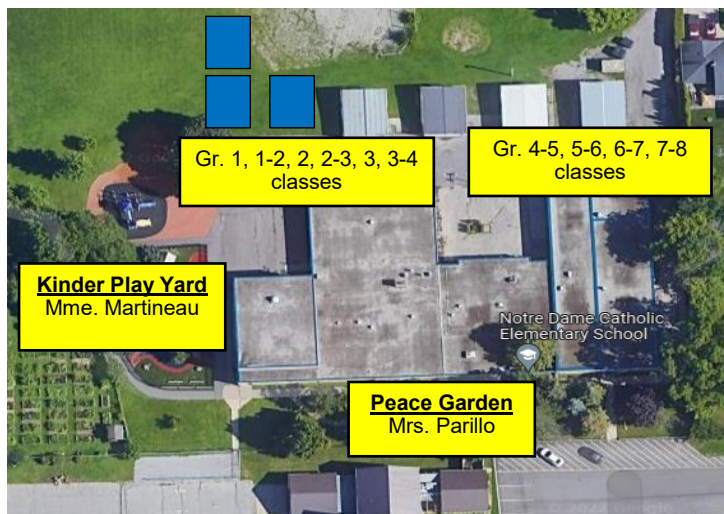
In order to facilitate an efficient and safe drop-off, all staff will be outside on the first day of school to welcome students.

To avoid larger gatherings, we ask that Kindergarten parents who are escorting their children on to school grounds, do so efficiently. Staff will be easily identifiable.

Once your child is in the care of his/her teacher, please be mindful of the excitement that comes with the first day of school and calmly exit the school area.

**Please refer to the map to find general locations for your child's teacher on Tuesday, September 2.**

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.





# 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.

### Nut Free School Lunches, Alternate Lunch Days, Hydration

We encourage student lunches to be healthy and nutritious in order to provide them with the energy to maintain focus and complete classroom work to the best of their ability. **There are students at Notre Dame who have an anaphylaxis allergy, so to ensure the safety of all students, all lunch items sent to school are to be nut-free.**

Alternate lunch days will continue this year. Students will have the option to purchase pizza, subs, pasta, wraps, chicken dishes and salads. Any proceeds from alternate lunch days goes back to the school to pay for student learning materials. The monthly calendar and newsletter will indicate alternate lunch days for that month.

Alternate Lunch days for September are:

- September 24 - Little Caesar's Pizza

Please make all orders through SchoolCash Online.

Staying hydrated is very important throughout the school day. Studies show that there is a correlation between cognitive processes and hydration levels. **Students are encouraged to bring a reusable water container to school to help them stay hydrated or use the water fountains located in each hallway.**

### 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 there is a change in dismissal routine, a signed note from the parent is required EACH TIME the occurrence happens. This will help the school ensure your child is safely dismissed. 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.

### After School Care - Strive Niagara

The before & after school licensed care provider at Notre Dame for this school year is Strive Niagara. To find out more information about Strive Niagara, please visit [www.striveniagara.ca](http://www.striveniagara.ca). All new families must register through the ONELIST at <https://niagara.onehsn.com/> prior to registering at Strive Niagara in person.





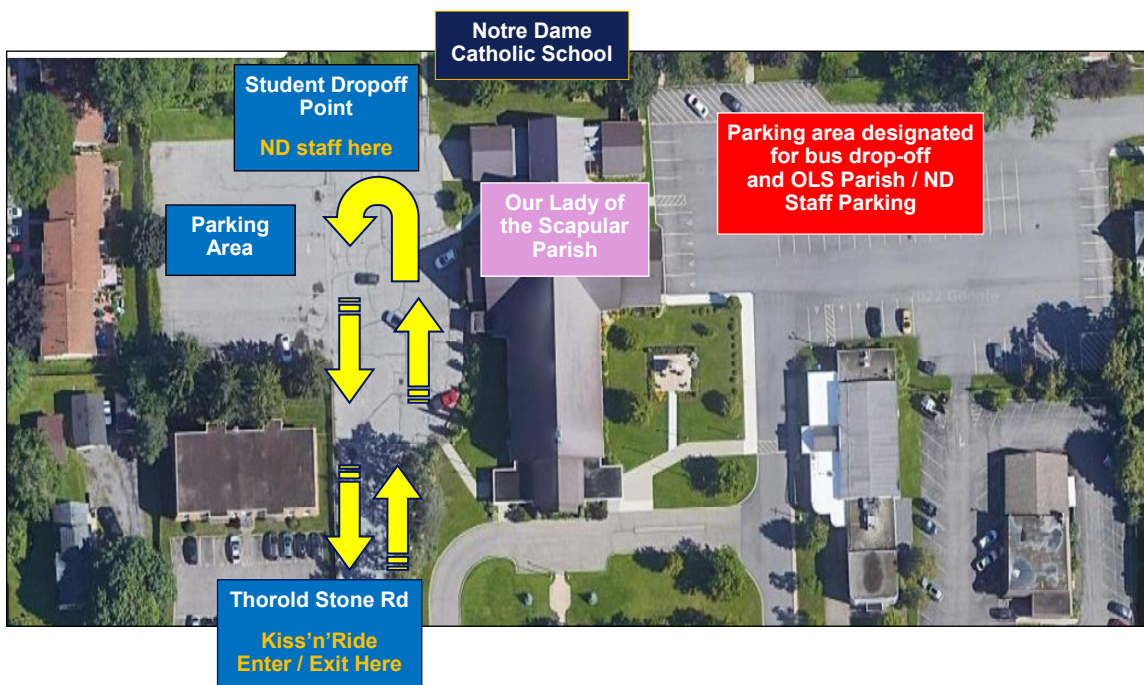
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## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

### Kiss'n'Ride Drop-off

Students who are being dropped off at school by a parent or family member are to use the Kiss'n'Ride area, located in the parking lot closest to the gymnasium. When dropping off your child/children at Kiss'n'Ride, follow the flow of traffic and proceed up to where school staff are present and place your car in park. **A staff member will be present to welcome and escort your child/children onto the walkway safely. There is no need to exit your vehicle.** Please refer to the diagram for reference:



### Back to School Bus Transportation Information

Finalized transportation information was made available to families on **Thursday, August 28, 2025**. Please ensure the following:

- Visit [www.nsts.ca](http://www.nsts.ca) and sign in to the secure parent portal for your child's student transportation information. To sign in to the portal you will need your child's Ontario Education Number (OEN) which can be found on their report card. While signed in, please subscribe to the delay and cancellation module for direct and timely emails regarding student transportation that impacts your child's bus route.
- Families who have not had their child ride a bus in the 2024-25 school year are asked to complete the **Opt-In to Transportation form**. That same form includes the option to **Opt-out of Transportation** for any student who does not require bus transportation this school year.
- **Students who rode the bus during the 2024-25 school year do not need to have an Opt-In to Transportation form completed.**
- Unauthorized passengers (ie. Students who are not registered for transportation) will not be permitted to ride the bus.

Please contact your school or NSTS if you have questions regarding your child's transportation arrangements.



# 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 your children, 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.schoolcashonline.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: <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.

### Thank you Delta Bingo!

Our students and staff thank you so much for your generosity!!! We look forward to continuing our school fundraising through our partnership. Last year, funds raised through volunteering allowed the school to purchase classroom TV displays, classroom resources and physical education equipment to enhance student learning. **Thank you to Mrs. Thornton and her team of volunteers who donate their time for the benefit of our students - we appreciate all that you do!** The school is 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.

