



ST MARK CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HOME OF THE MOUNTAIN LIONS

A member of the Blessed Trinity Family of Schools

SEPTEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

Dear God,

**Help me to,
Use my eyes to see new friends,
Open my ears to listen to my teacher,
Open my mind to learn new skills.**

**Let my heart love everyone around me,
Help me to grow and learn each day,
I want to be the best that I can be this school year.**

Amen



St. Mark Staff 2025 - 2026

We are extremely excited to have such an amazing staff!
Please see the current staff organization for the 2025-2026 school year.
We have had a few changes this year, and possibly more to come.
Please join us in welcoming our new Vice-Principal, Mrs. Kelly and all of
our new staff members.

Secretaries	Mrs. Manchuk, Ms. Traficante, Ms. MacDonald
Caretakers	Kailey Gibson (Head Caretaker), Anthony DiPaolo, Julie Yablonsky, John Marischuk
Educational Assistants	Ms. Burnison, Ms. Heczko, Mrs. Lametti, Mrs. Penner, Ms. Struyk
Designated Early Childhood Educators	Mrs. Croce, Mrs. D'Achille, Mrs. Frlan, Miss Gibson
Kindergarten	Ms. Traficante, Mrs. Desrochers, Mrs. Warriner, Mrs. Bozzo, Mrs. Borg
Grade 1	Mrs. Romano, Mrs. Pellizzari, Mrs. Loutraris
Grade 1-2	Mrs. Baldasaro
Grade 2	Mrs. Melfi, Mrs. Morawek
Grade 2-3	Ms. Fisher
Grade 3	Mrs. Metelsky, Ms. Appel
Grade 3-4	Ms. Lohin, Mrs. Semple
Grade 4	Mrs. Ervick, Mr. Totolo
Grade 5	Mr. D'Orazio, Miss Reid, Mr. Federici
Grade 6	Ms. McLaughlin, Mrs. Cormier, Ms. Foster
Grade 7	Miss Mejia, Mrs. Ferrelli, Mrs. Perkic
Grade 8	Mr. Montague, Mr. Costantini, Miss Sirianni
French Teachers	Mme Buergler, Mr Kinney, Mme Maddelena, Mme Reka, Mme Tessaro, Mme Proracki
Primary Team Teachers	Mrs. Fotivec, Mrs. Maddelena, Mrs. Reka, Mrs. Tessaro
Itinerant Arts Teacher	Ms. McCabe
Educational Resource Teachers	Mrs. Duffy, Mrs. Zamfir
Child & Youth Worker	Mrs. Tice, Mrs. Rogers
Library Technician	Miss Amorim
Vice Principal	Mrs. Kelly
Principal	Mrs. DeCoff

Daily Schedule

Please see the schedule below for our bell times. First bell rings at 8:40am and classes start promptly at 8:50am. *Any students arriving during or after announcements will be logged in as late in the Safe Schools Arrival system and the Lates will be recorded on their report cards.*

bell 
schedule

8:40	Bell Rings
8:40 – 8:50	O' Canada, Land Acknowledgement & Announcements
8:50 – 9:30	Period 1
9:30 -10:10	Period 2
10:10 – 10:50	Period 3
10:50 – 11:10	Kindergarten, Grades 4 – 6 RECESS OUTSIDE Grades 1 – 3, Grades 7 – 8 NUTRITION BREAK INDOORS
11:10 – 11:30	Kindergarten, Grades 4 – 6 NUTRITION BREAK INDOORS Grades 1 – 3, Grades 7 – 8 RECESS OUTSIDE
11:30 – 12:10	Period 4
12:10 – 12:50	Period 5
12:50 – 1:10	Kindergarten, Grades 4 – 6 RECESS OUTSIDE Grades 1 – 3, Grades 7 – 8 NUTRITION BREAK INDOORS
1:10 – 1:30	Kindergarten, Grades 4 – 6 NUTRITION BREAK INDOORS Grades 1 – 3, Grades 7 – 8 RECESS OUTSIDE
1:30 – 2:10	Period 6
2:10 – 2:50	Period 7
2:50 – 3:00	Dismissal

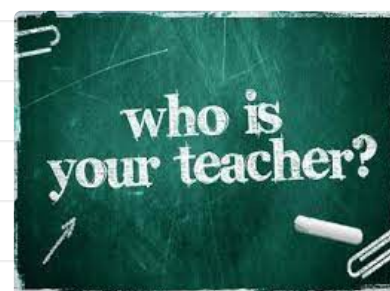
Class Lists

As of Thursday August 28th, at 1:00 pm, families are able to log into the parent portal and see who their child(ren)'s teacher will be for this school year. A great deal of time and effort has been put into creating class lists.

No changes/switches will be made to the class lists. Registrations at St. Mark are constantly changing as well as staffing so **changes to class lists are not possible.**

Thank you for your understanding and patience with this process.

Mrs. DeCoff and Mrs. Kelly



Communication to the School

St. Mark 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.

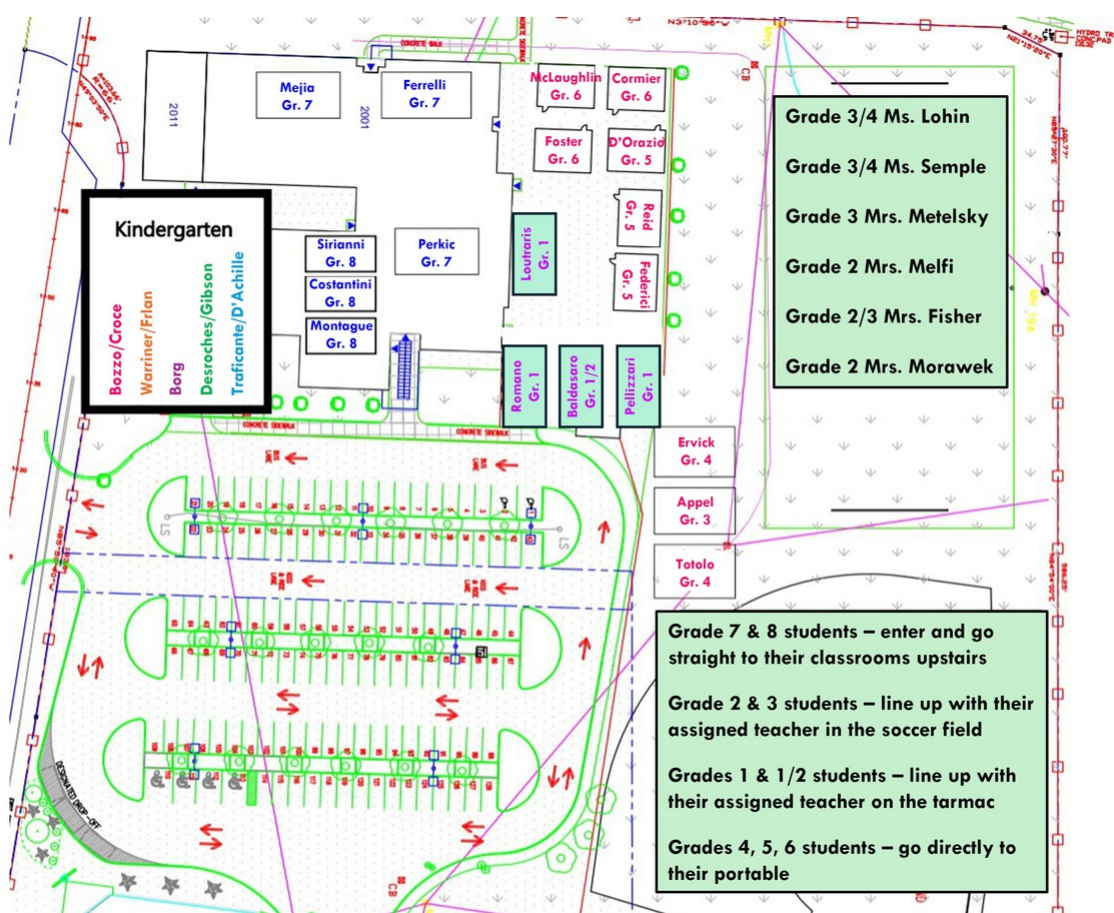
Thank you,

Mrs. DeCoff and Mrs. Kelly

First Day of School Arrival and Departure

We cannot wait to see all of our students on the first day of school! As we know our parking lot is not easy to maneuver on a regular day, and the first day of school adds a little extra challenge. Adding on a larger school population makes the first-day drop-off even more difficult. BUT, we can do this!

Please see the chart below showing where the classroom teachers will be standing (with sign in hand) to welcome their new class. We ask parents to please stay on the sidewalk and to have only staff and students on school property. This reduces the volume on school property and helps staff with locating students more easily. For the first few days, the location they meet in the morning will be the location they will be at the end of the day. Once students are comfortable with the location of their classroom, we will resume free entry in the morning.



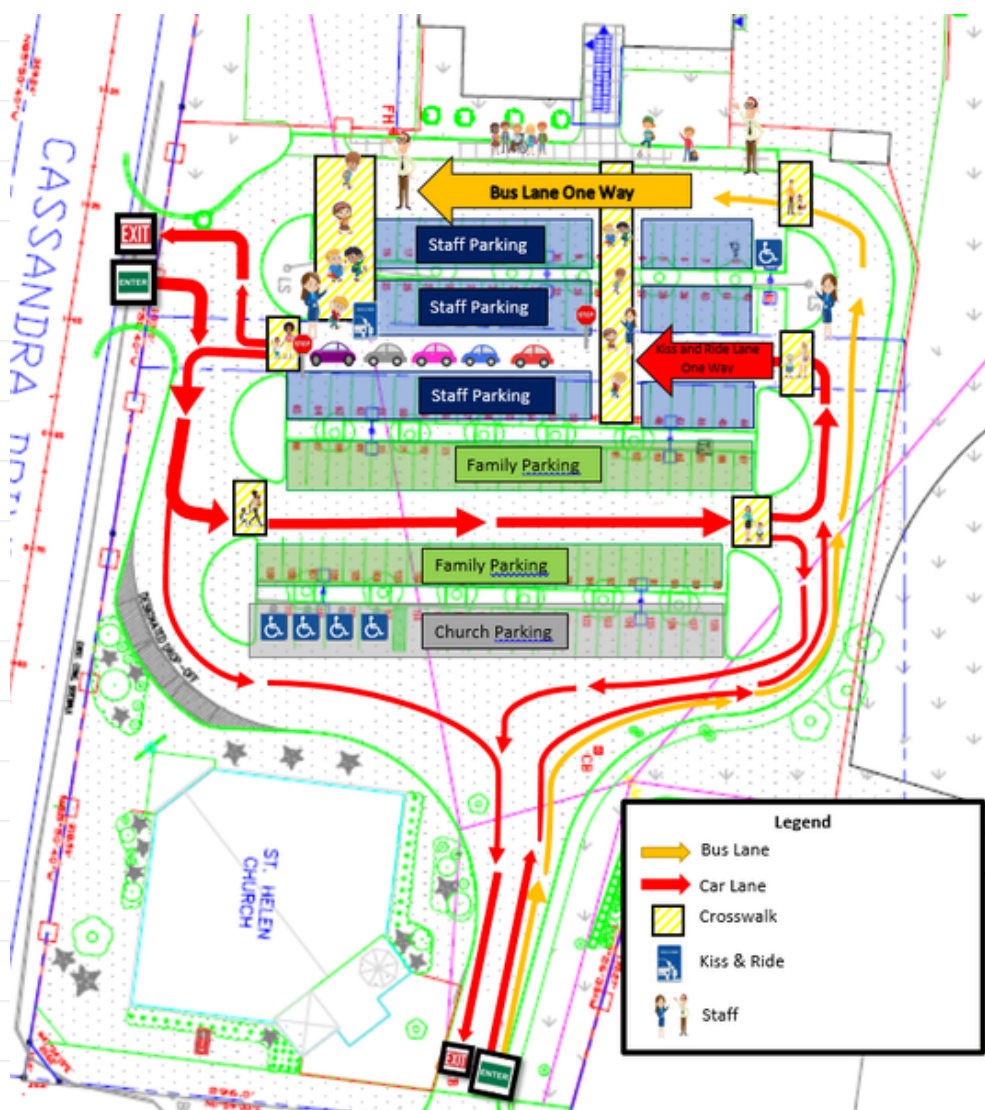
Dedicated Kiss and Ride Area

The kiss and ride area is for families to drive to a dedicated area in the parking lot and drop their child off who will be directed by school staff to the front of the school. The kiss and ride area allows for the driver to stay in the car, while a staff member assists their child. This is an efficient way for families to drop off their child(ren) at school. For families who prefer to park and walk their child(ren) to the front of the school, there will be a parking area dedicated for you to park. For this to run smoothly and efficiently, we ask parents to **please park in the family parking zones only (white lines). All numbers parking spots have been allocated for staff parking.**



Parking in no-parking zones creates congestion and increases the risk of a child being hurt.

Please see the diagram below outlining the dedicated areas for Kiss and Ride as well as parent parking. We will have extra staff outside during the morning to assist in this process. **We ask families to please be patient and SLOW DOWN in the parking lot.**



Student Cell Phone use - PLEASE READ

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 all

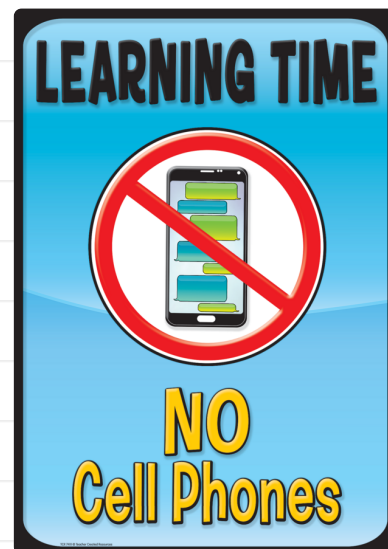
Ontario schools.

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.

Mrs. DeCoff and Mrs. Kelly



SCHOOL PICTURE

Students will have their individual pictures taken on Thursday, October 2nd. The school photographer is Pegasus.

Bring your smiles!!!!

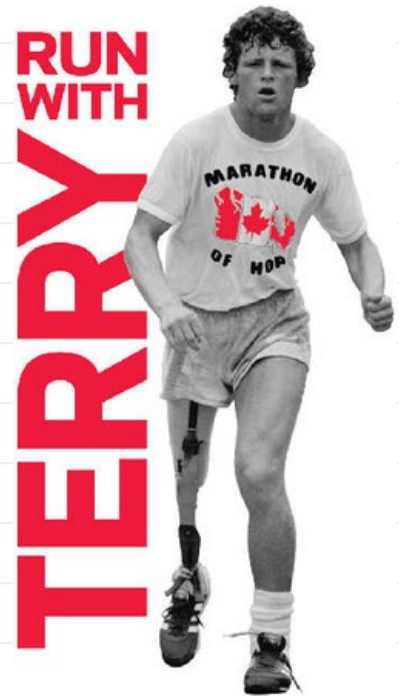
Hot Lunches

Our hot lunch programs will begin the week of September 29th. We will continue to offer subs on Tuesdays, pizza on Thursdays, ice cream on Fridays, milk on Tuesdays & Thursdays, pasta from Valentino's on the first Wednesday of each month and Shelby's Shawarmas on the third Wednesday of each month. We will serve any food ordered during our first Nutrition Break at 10:50 am. Items will be posted on School Cash Online the first week of school for purchase.



TERRY FOX WALK/RUN

On Friday, September 12th all students at St. Mark Catholic Elementary School will be participating in The Terry Fox School Event. On-line donations will be accepted throughout the month of September.



ORANGE SHIRT DAY

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. 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 St. Mark Catholic School are encouraged to wear an orange shirt (with dress code bottoms) on **Tuesday, 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.

Orange shirts are available for purchase through Pegasus School Images. Scan the QR Code below or visit [Pegasus School Images](#). **All orders must be placed by midnight, Monday, September 15, 2025, to insure delivery to each school in time for Orange Shirt Day.**

Catholic School Council Sign-Up

The Catholic School Council is a valued partner of the St. Mark Catholic School Community. The Ministry of Education mandates that elections to the Catholic School Council be held in the Fall of each school year. Parents interested in being a part of the St. Mark Catholic School Council are asked to complete a Nomination (Sign-up) Form by clicking on the link below. The election of the Catholic School Council Chair will be held at **our first meeting on Tuesday, September 30, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.** at the school.

St. Mark Catholic School Council

Nomination Form

The Catholic Education of each student is the shared responsibility of the Board and its staff, its students, parents, guardians, parishes, and community members. When all of these groups enthusiastically and cooperatively share this responsibility, our students benefit.

It is for this reason that all schools across Ontario, each school year, elect a School Council comprised of parent, school, parish, and community members.

The purpose of Catholic School Councils is, through the active participation of parents, to improve pupil achievement, and to enhance the accountability of the education system to parents. A Catholic School Council's primary means of achieving its purpose is by making recommendations, in accordance with the Regulations, to the principal of the school and the Niagara Catholic District School Board. As an advisory body, the Catholic School Council may provide advice to the school board and/or



SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND STUDENTS WITH PREVALENT MEDICAL CONDITIONS POLICY

At the beginning of every school year, we remind all students and parents/guardians of our Board's Policy on supporting students with prevalent medical conditions. At St. Mark Catholic Elementary School we have Emergency Guidelines which clearly state what medical procedures must occur for those students who have various life-threatening medical conditions. We are reminding all students and parents/guardians that we have students in our

school who are known to have a potentially life-threatening allergy called Anaphylaxis. Anaphylaxis is a severe life-threatening form of allergic reaction. It may begin with severe itching of the eyes or face; a sense of constriction in the throat, then other symptoms such as vomiting, diarrhea, and difficulty with breathing may develop. This may lead to coma and death. Foods such as peanuts, other nuts, fish, shellfish, eggs, milk, sesame, and wheat as well as insect stings from bees and wasps, latex products, and medication, are the most common allergens that produce anaphylaxis. Anaphylaxis requires immediate first aid response and immediate medical intervention. If your child requires a special plan to ensure their safety, please alert your child's teacher so we can ensure that we are doing all we can to keep your child, and all children, safe.

Please see the Supporting Children, Students with Prevalent Medical Conditions Policy for more information.



302.1 - Supp. Children, Students w Prev. Med. I Cond. Policy A OP.pdf

[Download](#)

274.3 KB

Safe Arrival for Absences

The Safe Arrival program reduces the time it takes to verify student attendance making it easier for you to report your child's absence and easier for staff to respond to unexplained student absences.

The Safe Arrival program allows parents to report their child's absence quickly and conveniently in one of three ways: 1) Use the SafeArrival website, <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca>. The first time you use the website, select Sign Up to create your account using your email address. After logging in, select the Attendance tab to Report an Absence. 2) Using your mobile device, download and install the SchoolMessenger app (blue logo) from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store (or from the links at <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca>). You must register through the website on a computer before you can access the app. Use your new login information to access your account. Select Attendance to Report an Absence. If you would like to receive attendance notifications on your mobile device please enable Push Notifications in the Settings area of the app. The document Using the SchoolMessenger app will give instructions for using the App. 3) The toll-free number 844-287-6287 will allow you to report your child absent without creating an account



SCHOOLMESSENGER®

Dress Code

We ask that all students follow the Dress Code policy that has been in effect since November of 2012 at all elementary schools across Niagara Catholic.

Our dress code consists of **SOLID navy-blue pants, and either a solid white or navy top with a collar**. Spirit Wear can be worn at any time, if it has been purchased through Big Bear Spiritwear or previously from Front Row Sports.

White T-shirts are NOT dress code.

Hoodies/ Sweaters can only be worn if they are navy blue, or spiritwear.

Please do not send your child in black, grey, or camouflage-colored pants. Polka dots and stripes are also not a part of the dress code.

Students will be asked to call home for proper dress code items if they come to school out of dress code.

If you are having difficulty finding clothing, or require financial assistance with purchasing dress code items, please contact the school directly.

Please see the attached dress code policy if you have any additional questions.



302.6.10 - Elementary Standardized Dress Code Policy.pdf

Download

227.6 KB

<https://docushare.ncdsb.com/dsweb/Get/Document-1982054/302.6.10%20-%20Elementary%20Standardized%20Dress%20Code%20Policy.pdf>

docushare.ncdsb.com

Spiritwear Orders - Big Bear Spiritwear

We are very excited to announce that our spiritwear provider is Big Bear spiritwear. By clicking on the link below, you will see a larger selection of styles and colours for our spiritwear. The prices are fair and the quality is excellent. Families have an option of embroidered or printed Mountain Lion logos.

<https://www.bigbearspritwear.com/st-mark-mountain-lions/>

INSURE MY KIDS

NIAGARA PUBLIC HEALTH

ALPHA COURSE AT ST. HELEN CHURCH

Please join us this Autumn for the Alpha course at St. Helen Church. Alpha is a free 11-week course that explores life's big questions and is being led by your fellow parishioners at the Church. Join us for a meal, a short video, and a friendly discussion, starting Wednesday, September 17th at 6:30 pm.

Text or call Kelly at 905-328-9155 or call Rose at 905-563-7807 or email sthelensalpha@gmail.com to RSVP and if you have any questions.





September 2025 Calendar.pdf

Download

1.2 MB



St. Mark Catholic Elementary School

J. DeCoff

Principal

M. Kelly

Vice-Principal

Email: st.mark@ncdsb.com

Website: <https://schools.niagaracatholic.ca/stmark/>

Location: [4114 Mountain Street, Beamsville, ON, Canada](#)

Phone: [905.563.9191](tel:905.563.9191)

Twitter: [@StMark_Catholic](https://twitter.com/StMark_Catholic)



Jennifer DeCoff

Jennifer is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters