



# ***Firebird Free Press***

September 2nd-5th, 2025

## **Week at a Glance**

### **Monday September 1st:**

\*Labour Day: No School

### **Tuesday September 2nd:**

\*First Day of School

### **Wednesday September 3rd:**

### **Thursday September 4th:**

\*Intermediate Team Meeting @ 12pm

### **Friday September 5th:**

## **School Day Schedule**

### **School Day Schedule**

**Entry:** 8:40 am

**School Begins:** 8:50 am

**Period 1:** 8:50am-9:30am

**Period 2:** 9:30am-10:10am

**Period 3:** 10:10am-10:50am

**Nutrition Break:** 10:50am-11:30am

**Period 4:** 11:30am-12:10pm

**Period 5:** 12:10pm-12:50pm

**Nutrition Break:** 12:50pm-1:30pm

**Period 6:** 1:30pm-2:10pm

**Period 7:** 2:10pm-2:50pm

**Prepare for Home:** 2:50pm-3:00pm

**Dismissal:** 3:00pm

Parents / Guardians please do not drop your child off before 8:25 am, as supervision begins at that time.

## Cell Phone Use in Schools

Students who bring their cell phones to school must have the phone stored out of view and turned off or onto silent mode during the instructional day. They may only use it if their teacher permits it for learning, for health or medical purposes, or to support special education needs.

If a teacher sees a cell phone that is not stored out of view, students will be required to hand in their device in for the instructional day. The cell phone will be placed, by the student, in a secure storage area designated by the principal.

If a student refuses to hand in their personal mobile device, the Ministry requires that the student be sent to the principal's office. Consequences for failing to hand in their phone is at the principal's discretion.

School boards are now required to disable access to social media platforms on school networks and board devices. This is intended to limit the number of interruptions in class and to benefit the mental health and well-being of students. Niagara Catholic already blocks access to some social media sites. Now all will be unavailable to students on the board network during the school day.



## Safe Arrival

Student achievement is linked to student attendance. School staff and parents/guardians have a shared responsibility to promote student attendance. Excused and unexcused absences can add up quickly and affect student learning.

Niagara Catholic uses the Safe Arrival system to record a student's absence. Parents/guardians use Safe Arrival to report their child's late arrival or absence quickly and conveniently.

Electronic absence reporting also ensures that parents can be notified quickly if their child is not at school.

[Learn more about SafeArrival](#). [Click here for parent instructions](#).

There are three ways to report an absence:

Call the toll-free number:

[1-844-287-6287](tel:1-844-287-6287)

Visit the [SchoolMessenger website](#).

Download the SafeArrival app in the Apple Store or on Google Play.

## Student Pick Up During the Day

Should your child need to be picked up early or for appointments, please indicate using SafeArrival, we ask that you come to the front doors (so we can verify with an adult) and we will send them out to you.

## NSTS: Bus Routes

Finalized transportation information is available through Niagara Student Transportation Services (NSTS). Please note that NSTS has changed their parent portal. More detailed information can be found [here](#).

Please contact NSTS if you have any questions regarding your child's arrangements.

## Anaphylaxis

We currently have several children registered at St. John Henry Newman School with peanut, tree nut, pumpkin, dairy and egg allergies. We hope you will consider this very carefully when you pack any food for your children's snack and lunch. We thank you for your cooperation in this very serious matter.



## Dress Code

### Dress Code

1. Compliance with the Standardized Dress Code Policy is a condition of registration and attendance in an elementary school within the Niagara Catholic District School Board.



2. It is the expectation that students wear the elementary standardized dress code items properly and in compliance with expectations throughout the school day and at all activities and events as representatives of the school and/or Board.

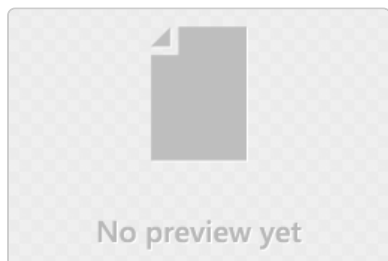
3. Alternate Dress Days will be determined by the school Principal for specific events or activities and communicated in advance to students, parents and guardians.

4. All students are expected to wear the elementary standardized dress code when on field trips unless approved by the Principal.

At all times, students should dress in a manner suitable for attendance at a Catholic elementary school. Students are asked to cooperate with these expectations. Those students who do not cooperate will be expected to make suitable changes and/or will be sent home.

Dress Code items can be purchased at stores such as: Walmart, Old Navy, Children's Place, Giant Tiger and others. It's easiest to remember, white or navy-blue tops and navy-blue bottoms.

Spirit Wear: SJHN spirit wear items can be purchased through Big Bear Spirit Wear. Please see the link below for more information.



### St. John Henry Newman Firebirds

St. John Henry Newman Class of 2026 Gradhoodie Embroidered –  
#SJHNF-JLH-2026

[bigbearspritwear.com](https://bigbearspritwear.com)

## Kiss and Ride

The Kiss and Ride allows for students to be safely dropped off at school without parents having to park and get out of their vehicle. Individuals using the Kiss and Ride lane are to pull up to one of the supervisors and they will assist your child in exiting your vehicle. This process will occur again

at 3:00 pm when picking up your child after school. Just a reminder to please avoid pulling over in the fire lane, as we must keep that lane clear at all times. Also, please make sure that students are using the proper car seats when riding in a vehicle.....SAFETY COMES FIRST!

For instructions on how to use our Kiss and Ride click [here](#).

## School Cash On-Line

Kindly help us to continue to be a paperless school by registering for school cash on-line. PAY ONLINE FOR SCHOOL TRIPS, FOOD ORDERS AND MORE!!! Please register: Step 1: Go to this website: <https://ncdsb.schoolcashonline.com> Step 2: Register by selecting the "Get Started Now" and follow the steps. Step 3: After you receive the confirmation e-mail, please select the 'click here' option, sign in and add each of your children to your household account.



## REGISTER IN SEPTEMBER

To Pay Your Child's School Fees Online

SchoolCashOnline

For safety and efficiency reasons, Niagara Catholic District School Board would like to reduce the amount of Cash & Cheques coming into our schools. Please join the thousands of parents who have already registered and are enjoying the convenience of paying ONLINE! It takes less than 5 minutes to register. Please follow these step-by-step instructions, so you will begin to receive email notifications regarding upcoming events involving your child(ren).

**NOTE:** If you require assistance, select the **GET HELP** option in the top right hand corner of the screen.

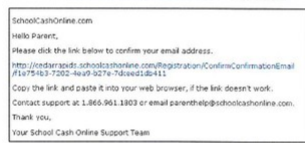
### Step 1: Register

- If you have not registered, please go to the School Cash Online home page <https://ncdsb.schoolcashonline.com/> and select the "Get Started Today" option.
- Complete each of the three Registration Steps  
\*For Security Reasons your password, requires **8 characters**, **one uppercase letter**, **one lowercase letter** and a **number**.



### Step 2: Confirmation Email

A registration confirmation email will be forwarded to you. Click on the link provided inside the email to confirm your email and School Cash Online account. The confirmation link will open the School Cash Online site prompting you to sign into your account. Use your email address and password just created with your account.



### Step 3: Find Student

**Note: Student Number is Not Required**

This step will connect your children to your account.

- Enter the School Board Name
- Enter the School Name
- Enter Your Child's Name & Birth Date
- Select **Continue**
- On the next page confirm that you are related to the child, check in the Agree box and select **Continue**
- Your child has been added to your account

### Step 4: View Items or Add Another Student

If you have more children, select "Add Another Student" option and repeat the steps above. 5 children can be added to one parent account.

If you do not wish to add additional children, select "View Items For Students" option. A listing of available items for purchase will be displayed.

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School Cash Online – Parent Registration

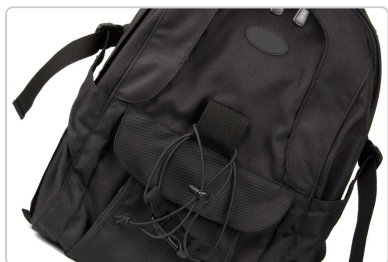
## Re-Useable Water Bottles

In an effort to promote and teach students about sustainability, we ask students to avoid bringing disposable plastic water bottles to school. We encourage students to bring in reusable water bottles which they fill up at our Hydration Stations located around the school. Thank you for your concern and co-operation for the environment.



## Additional Insurance

For those families that would like additional insurance for their child(ren) while at school, at home and at play, please visit the link below for more information.



### **Insuremykids Student Accident Insurance**

For over 50 years, insuremykids® has helped families protect their finances against the unexpected expenses of child accidents.

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

## **SJHN Staff 2025-2026**

Mrs. Di Paola/Mrs. Visca: Kindergarten

Mrs. Piro/Ms. McRae: Kindergarten

Mrs. DeCicco/Ms. Irakoze: Kindergarten

Mrs. Sacco: Grade 1

Mrs. Gabriele: Grade 1

Mrs. J. Sacco: Grade 1/2

Mrs. deRuiter: Grade 2

Mrs. Cuiello: Grade 2/3

Mrs. Nurton: Grade 3

Mrs. Mostowy: Grade 3/4

Mrs. Olesen: Grade 3/4

Mrs. Mancuso: Grade 3/4

Mrs. Fortino-Carter: Grade 4/5

Mrs. Harrold: Grade Grade 5

Mrs. Thompson: Grade 5

Mr. Barr: Grade 6

Mrs. Zutt: Grade 6/7

Ms. Korce: Grade 7

Miss Frankcom: Grade 7

Mrs. Capitano: Grade 8

Mr. Tham: Grade 8

Mr. Smith: Arts

Mr. Quaranta: ERT

Mr. Morasse: FSL

Mrs. Caffarelli: FSL/PTM

Mrs. Piscitelli: FSL

Mr. Miarecki: PTM

Mrs. Cooney: PTM

Ms. Aleo, Mrs. Serniak: Caretaker

Ms. Venzon and Ms. Fazzari: Secretary

Ms. Finlay, Mrs. O'Dell, Mrs. Thibault, Mrs. Vander Veen: Educational Assistants

Mrs. Hunt: Librarian

Mrs. Cardamone: CYW

Mrs. Hastings: Vice Principal



## Communication Between Home & School

The Ministry of Education has given school boards new requirements on how to communicate with parents who have questions, concerns, or complaints. This information will also be shared on the Parents section of the Board website and school websites in time for the start of the new school year. The process is outlined below:

- Parents/guardians should expect a response to a concern within **two business days**.
- If parents have a question about a classroom-related matter, such as curriculum, homework, classroom behavior, or specific incidents, please contact the child's teacher.
- If the parent cannot resolve the issue at the classroom level and/or have a question about school procedures, extracurricular activities, or safety concerns, please contact the school Principal.
- For issues unresolved at the school level or issues related to Niagara Catholic policies, procedures, resource allocation, or other concerns, please contact the Superintendent of Education assigned to St. John Henry Newman Catholic Elementary School.



**chris spagnol**

chris is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters