



Dear Students, Parents and Guardians:

On behalf of the Niagara Catholic Board of Trustees, administrators and staff, we extend a Happy New School Year from our family to your family.

A new school year brings optimism, enthusiasm and excitement at the new opportunities and rewarding experiences which await all students. We welcome back all returning students and families, and extend a very warm welcome to all students and families joining our schools and the Niagara Catholic family for the first time. We know that you will feel right at home in our system.

It was an active summer throughout Niagara Catholic. We held our first Summer Camp, with 275 elementary students participating in the five-week camp at one of six sites throughout the system. Based on the enthusiastic response from students, families and staff, we will begin our 2018 Summer Camp registration in February. In addition to the camps, we continued to provide a variety of secondary courses through our extensive Continuing Education Summer School during the month of July.

Niagara Catholic's Facilities Services team was active throughout the summer, overseeing approximately 85 projects. These include the construction of the new \$10-million St. Martin Catholic Elementary School, which will welcome more than 400 students on the first day of school, and a \$1.7-million renovation to the indoor athletic facilities at Notre Dame College. Construction of the new \$4.4-million, six-classroom and three child care room addition is underway at Our Lady of Fatima in Grimsby. Throughout the system, there were major renovations and maintenance work totaling more than \$13.5 million, along with the installation of the \$1.2-million turf athletic field at Saint Paul Catholic High School. As a year-round service team, Facilities Services ensures that all of our facilities continue to be healthy and safe for students and staff.

Our focus for the 2017-2018 school year will be on our faith formation theme *Serve Him – One Family in Christ*, and on implementing our Board-approved System Priorities. The annual System Priorities are posted in all Board sites, and, along with the Annual Budget, are available online at [niagaracatholic.ca](http://niagaracatholic.ca). As a Catholic school system, we are committed to providing all students with a loving, caring, safe and inclusive Catholic educational environment, where, through the charisms of faith, social justice, support and leadership, we nurture an enriching Catholic learning community for all to reach their full potential and become living witnesses of Christ.

All students and families are vibrant partners in Catholic education, and we invite you to stay connected with schools and the Board through social media networks on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, and through our website. Your continued connection with schools and the Board enables us to communicate directly with you on news, events and activities throughout the school year.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Senior Administration, Principals, Vice-Principals and staff, we extend every blessing for a faith-filled, rewarding and inspiring 2017-2018 school year, as collectively we continue to nurture the souls and build the minds of our most treasured gift, our students.

Fr. Paul MacNeil  
Chair of the Board

John Crocco  
Director of Education

## 2017 - 2018 System Priorities

### Provide Supports for Success

- Increase student engagement, and student voice in achievement, well-being and mental health awareness
- Engage in a review of specific programs, pathways, services and supports provided for all students
- Enhance global competencies and experiential learning opportunities for all students

### Enhance Technology for Optimal Learning

- Improve access and use of technology for all students and staff

### Building Partnerships and Schools as Hubs

- Create opportunities for meaningful dialogue, feedback and input from students, parents, staff, pastors and the community
- Refine brand awareness and communication with stakeholders
- Enhance and develop wrap-around partnerships with community services

### Strengthen Human Resource Practices and Develop Transformational Leadership

- Enhance professional development opportunities for all staff
- Consolidate Board requirements for the Health and Safety of staff and students
- Address regulations regarding data management

### Create Equity and Accessibility of Resources

- Conduct a review of the criteria used in the allocation of resources to deliver approved programs, supports and services with Board and School Improvement Plans

### Ensure Responsible Fiscal and Operational Management

- Maintain financial stability through a balanced Budget 2017-2018
- Achieve Ministry of Education compliance for Grants for Student Needs

### Address Changing Demographics

- Continue to optimize efficiency in capacity utilization in all Board facilities