



Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary School

Principal- Mrs. R. Araujo

Vice-Principal- Mrs. E. Gambale

Proud to be a part of the Blessed Trinity CSS Family of Schools

September, 2025 NEWSLETTER

Message from the Principal and Vice-Principal

We are excited to start another school year. We hope everyone had a wonderful summer!!

We are looking to our future year together and our focus will be ensuring our students maintain a high level of mental wellness and health. This will in turn promote a healthier lifestyle and ensure their academic success in literacy and numeracy which will continue to be another focus for us. We will continue to build our Catholic faith with the support of our families and school parish, St. Joseph's Catholic Church and Father Rico.

We welcome Mrs. Gambale who is our new VP and wish Mrs. Kish all the best as she begins her journey at St. Anthony's School in St. Catharines.

May God bless each of you as we begin the 2025 - 2026 school year. We are looking forward to learning and growing with our students and more importantly we look forward to making OLF a wonderful learning environment for our students!

Faith Formation



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!

This year's theme: Called by Name: "Go and Make Disciples"

Staffing List 2025-2026

Meet our team!!!

Kindergarten A	J. Trivieri ECE- K. Manson		Grade 4A	J. Cole (Mann)
Kindergarten B	S. Barlow (AM), L. Borsodi (PM), ECE- M. Krushelnicki		Grade 4/5 A	J. Jaski
Kindergarten C	K. DiTomaso ECE- D. Littler		Grade 5A	A. Cantoni
Kindergarten D	S. James		Grade 5/6 A	G. Puma
Grade 1A	L. Di Marco		Grade 6A	J. Boland
Grade 1B	P. Anzovino		Grade 7A	D. Ciccone
Grade 1/2 A	E. Kawai		Grade 7B	JP Sorgini
Grade 2A	K. Zortman		Grade 7C	D. Biagi
Grade 2B	K. Marchese		Grade 8A	R. Martinelli
Grade 2/3 A	A. DeBellis		Grade 8B	A. Grossi
Grade 3A	C. Haitas		FSL (one period)	A. Proracki
Grade 3/4 A	C. Savage		PTM	T. Di Ianni
Grade 3/4 B	E. Kitchingman		FSL/PTM	J. Lisciandro /

				M. Ruggiero (Feb/26)
ERTs	L. DelGobbo-Hanounik L. Borsodi (1/2)		FSL	C. Fthenos
EA	B. Finlayson		Itinerant Arts	C. Dionne
EA	A. Blake			
EA	L. Gillis		Child and Youth Worker	J. Tice
EA	V. Jeffery		Secretary	L. MacDonald
EA	Amanda Lang Crawford		Secretary	D. Procaccini
EA	L. Mandula		Caretaker	R. Dryce
			Caretaker	A. Apellado
Library Tech	Mrs. Barfield		Head Caretaker	T. Barbas
Vice-Principal	Mrs. Gambale		ESL	C. Jeffrey
Principal	Mrs. Araujo			

Your child's class placement

Parents can access their child's placement using the parent portal THURSDAY, August 28th, as you did when you accessed your child's report card. Here is the link:

https://www.niagaracatholic.ca/parents/report_cards

Please know that much time has been put into placing children using a variety of criteria and parent requests that we received. While we made every effort and attempt to ensure all accommodations were considered, there may be some accommodations that we simply could not put into place. **Class placements may change ONLY if enrollment changes.** Other than for that particular reason, **we are not able to accommodate any parent requests for changes** in class placement.

The best interest of your child is our main priority. How Can Parents Help? Please trust our professional judgment to make good decisions regarding your child's placement. Talk positively and hopefully to your child about this year. We are looking forward to another wonderful school year with your support.

The first day of school- Things you need to know

PLEASE REVIEW THIS WITH YOUR CHILD to prepare them for the first day back.

All students (Grades 1-8) will be entering the building through the front door at the beginning of

the day and proceed to their classroom and will exit the building through the front doors unless otherwise directed by teachers. Kindergarten children will proceed to the Kindergarten area (fenced in) and will be greeted by their teachers. **Parents of Kindergarten children are reminded not to linger as this will increase stress and anxiety levels for students who have difficulty with parent separation.**

Parents will not be permitted to exit their car if they are using the kiss and ride lane. If you wish to exit your vehicle and escort your child to the entry door, you will need to park your car. Bus lanes cannot be used by parents unless all buses have entered and exited safely (this is usually after 8:25 am or after 2:50 pm). **THIS IS INTENDED TO KEEP YOUR CHILDREN SAFE and trumps convenience.**



A list of items **was included in the June newsletter.** We are including again for our new families.

Kindergarten	Primary 1-3	Junior 4-6	Intermediate 7-8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a change of clothing in a clear plastic bag (top, pants, underwear, socks)-all labeled - very important and kept at school • Indoor running shoes (Velcro) • Backpack (regular size) • lunch bag • reusable water bottle • Reusable cutlery • 2 packages of dry-erase whiteboard markers • 1 box of 8 washable markers • 1 box of sharpened pencil crayons or twistables • 2 boxes of tissues • 1 package of wipes • 1 box of large ziploc bags • 3 large glue sticks • 3 cans of Playdough • Craft donations (gems, sparkles, pom poms, googly eyes, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A large backpack • A change of clothes labeled in a ziploc bag (dress code top, pants, underwear, socks) • Lunch bag • Indoor running shoes (Velcro) • 2 boxes of tissues • 1 package of wipes • Reusable water bottle • 3 dry-erase markers • Small dry erase board & eraser • Several sharpened pencils • eraser • 1 box of sharpened pencil crayons or twistables • Pencil sharpener with shaving case • 1 box of washable markers • 4 large glue sticks • 2 cans of Playdough • A pencil case • 2 large ziploc bags • A personal set of headphones or earbuds for iPad/ Chromebook use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indoor shoes • Pencil crayons • Pencils • Highlighters • Glue stick • Small enclosed sharpener • Red pen • Small pencil case • Small agenda/calendar • Box of tissues • Calculator • Ruler (30 cm) • Black Thin tip Sharpies • A personal set of headphones or earbuds • 30cm ruler • markers • French: thin binder or plastic duotang that has <u>pockets on the inside</u> to hold loose papers with lined paper in the binder 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific Calculator • Indoor/Running Shoes • Personal Chromebook if available • Personal hygiene products for locker (deodorant, etc) • Two 2" medium sized binders (Gr.8) • Standard school supplies • French: thin binder or plastic duotang that has <u>pockets on the inside</u> to hold loose papers with lined paper in the binder



Balanced Day

Just a reminder that all Niagara Catholic elementary schools will be on a Balanced School Day schedule. A Balanced School Day is a modified elementary school schedule designed to enhance learning, foster healthy habits, and encourage daily physical activity. This schedule comprises three instructional blocks interspersed with two nutritional breaks of approximately 40 minutes, allowing 20 minutes for a nourishing lunch and an additional 20 minutes for indoor and/or outdoor physical activity.

A typical Monday to Friday Balanced School Day at Our Lady of Fatima would be:

8:25 am - 8:35 am - Morning entry

8:35 am - 10:35 am – 120 instructional minutes

10:35 am - 11:15 am – 40 minutes nutrition/physical activity break

11:15 am -12:35 pm – 80 instructional minutes

12:35 am - 1:15 pm – 40 minutes nutrition/physical activity break

1:15 pm - 2:35 pm – 80 instructional minutes

2:35 pm -2:45 pm - Afternoon dismissal

Tips for Parents

How to Plan and Prepare for Nutritional Breaks

Packing a nutritious meal for the Balanced School Day can be both enjoyable and straightforward. Here are some suggestions to help you plan a healthy lunch for your child:

- Divide a single lunch into two portions to ensure adequacy for each nutritional break.
- Wrap sandwiches individually or cut them in half.
- Separate fruits, vegetables, crackers, and cheese into labeled bags for each break.
- Consider providing two healthy drinks for each break.
- Avoid packing foods containing nuts or nut products to support our peanut-safe schools.
- Involve your child in planning and preparing their nutritional breaks.
- Ensure your child includes a balanced selection of healthy foods if they are responsible for packing their lunch.
- Aim to include items from three of the five food groups outlined in Canada's Food Guide to Healthy Eating for each break.

IMPORTANT Cell Phones- Smart Watches, etc.

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

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 will be purchasing classroom lock boxes for our students in Grades 6-8 to house their phones should they not wish to store them in their locker/backpack.** Students in Grade 5 or younger should not be bringing their cell phones/smart watches to school.

We kindly ask for your support in reinforcing this policy with your children and encouraging them to focus on their studies during school hours. **Any student who has their phone out without the explicit permission of the teacher will be asked to place their cell phone in another location (classroom or office) until the end of the day.**

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.

Updated Student Information

If there are any changes to your contact information, including emergency contacts, phone number, address, email or custody arrangements, please contact the school to update this information.



EMAIL ADDRESS

As the majority of correspondences/newsletters/updates, etc. are now e-mailed, we would ask that you provide the office with your updated email address if you already have not done so. This will ensure that you are in receipt of all communications as they relate to your child(ren). Your cooperation in this regard is greatly appreciated.

Attendance Reminder

Please remember to enter your child's absence or late arrival before 8:15 am. After 8:30 am, you will have to call the school or wait for the callout system to contact you. The system will continue to call out until you have completed all the steps required. The link has been provided below:

https://www.niagaracatholic.ca/parents/safe_arrival



Catholic School Council

First virtual meeting is Monday, September 15 at 6:00 PM - As a Catholic School Council member, you can help discover new and exciting ways to contribute to the education of students in our school. Education is a partnership involving parents, students, teachers, principals, school boards, The Church, government, and the community. Your involvement in the council gives you the opportunity to strengthen that partnership, and to be part of a dedicated team working to ensure a high quality of education and an accountable education system for the children of Ontario. Your participation can make a difference! Please consider joining the Our Lady of Fatima Catholic School Council.



Last word....

If you need anything or require additional information, visit the Niagara Catholic website at <https://www.niagaracatholic.ca/> for information about

- 2025-2026 school calendar
- Dress code
- School Cash Online- sign-up
- Information about Safe Arrival and your child's absence
- and so much more!

