



# St. Teresa of Calcutta Chronicle

Part of the St. Francis Family of Schools



## Happy First Week of School

Welcome back as we embark upon a new school year. As I did last year, I will be providing you with weekly updates of news and events as we navigate through the 2024 – 2025 school year. I will also post important dates on the school website at: [St. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Elementary School \(niagaracatholic.ca\)](http://St. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Elementary School (niagaracatholic.ca))

**I look forward to seeing everyone on September 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

## Balanced Day



Just a reminder that we will be going to a ‘Balanced Day’ this year. I have attached a schedule for you below. This is new to everyone this year including staff. As a collective, we will all navigate through this new schedule and make adjustments as necessary. However, I do truly believe that this new schedule is beneficial for all parties concerned and I am looking forward to the new experience. Once again, thank-you for your support and patience!

### St. Teresa of Calcutta: Bell Times

8:15 – 8:20	Bus Arrival/Drop Off Starts/Supervision outside begins
8:25	Bell to start school
10:35 – 10:55	1 <sup>st</sup> Outside recess
10:55 – 11:15	1 <sup>st</sup> Nutrition Break
12:35 – 12:55	2 <sup>nd</sup> Outside recess
12:55 – 1:15	2 <sup>nd</sup> Nutrition Break
2:35	Pick Up Starts K
2:45	End of Day Bell/Bus Dismissal
2:55	Bus Departure (varies with weather, etc)

## Morning Drop-off/End of Day Pick-up



Just a reminder to parents that these are busy times and we will do our very best to move traffic along. Please be patient and remember to always drop off and pick up your child close to the curb so that they are not crossing traffic unless you are walking with them. You will also notice that there are additional parking spaces by the kindergarten area which you are more than welcome to use. We have a total of two entrances and exit areas from the back of the school: the one large entrance gate going into the back field which is located right by the play equipment and the small gate by the gym.

## **Busing and Parent Pick-up and Drop-off**

Please contact the school first about any address changes or bus situations. We work closely with the transportation department and most changes to the bus have to be entered into the Edsembl system at school. Please be patient with bus times for pick up and drop off for the first two weeks.

At the beginning of the day, parents can drive up to the front doors of the school to drop off their child(ren). An adult will be there to direct them.



Parents that are getting out of their vehicle to walk their child to the kindergarten area for drop-off will need to park in the side parking lot. Buses will be pulling in and dropping off students at the front of the main entrance. Please do not park in this area so that buses can enter and leave for their next run.

At the end of the day, parents can pick up their child(ren) from the front of the school by parking in the main parking lot and meeting them at the front of the school. Pick-ups will be dismissed at 2:45 pm along with all of the other students in the school. At this time all bus students and walkers will be dismissed. Please make sure you do not block the buses from entering the front of the school.

## **Nutrition and Water Bottle Policy**



A healthy school environment enhances student learning and success, and enhances students' social and emotional well-being. In order to establish this environment and reduce the risks for all students who suffer severe, life threatening allergic reactions (anaphylaxis) to certain foods, Principals and staff must follow the Administrative Guidelines as outlined in the Anaphylaxis Policy 302.1 of the Niagara Catholic District School Board. Therefore, as a reminder to all families that there should be no food items brought to the school for birthdays or holidays (Halloween, Christmas, Valentine's Day, etc). Any special classroom events will be organized by the teacher.

## **Dress Code Reminder**

Please take a moment to review the Elementary Dress Code policy before purchasing new dress code items for the 2024-2025 school year.



(<https://docushare.ncdsb.com/dsweb/Get/Document-1981986/302.6.10%20-%20Elementary%20Standardized%20Dress%20Code%20Policy%20AOP.pdf>)

## **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. I have included the link below:

<https://niagaracatholic.ca/safearrival/>



## **SchoolCash Online**

Throughout the school year, there will be opportunities for your child to participate in social justice initiatives, food days, field trips, and other activities that may include a fee. All fees are collected through School Cash Online. I have provided the link below:



<https://ncdsb.schoolcashionline.com/>

## **Parent Portal - Edsembli Student Information System**



Just a reminder that all report cards, class placements, and IEP's will be provided electronically through the Edsembli Student Information System. I have provided the link to the Parent Portal for access to this and all sites that may assist you and your child. Please ensure that we have the correct e-mail address on file in order to access the parent portal information.

<https://sites.google.com/niagaracatholic.ca/parents/home>

## **Fire Drills / Hold and Secure Practice**

Every year we will perform six fire drills (3 in the fall and 3 in the spring) as well as two hold and secure practices. A letter will be e-mailed home with the dates for the hold and secure practices to explain the process.



## **Updated Emergency Forms**



Emergency forms will be sent home to all families during the first week of school. If there are no changes to the form, please reply "No Changes" so that we know you have received the form. We will be making these changes as we receive them and changes can continue to be made at any point throughout the year.

## **E-MAIL ADDRESS**



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

## **Technology**

We will be sending information home to families on BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) during the first few days of school. Please make sure you read the policy carefully before sending your child to school with their personal device.

[https://docushare.ncdsb.com/dsweb/Get/Document-1981909/301.5%20-%20Electronic%20Communications%20Systems%20\(Students\)%20AOP.pdf](https://docushare.ncdsb.com/dsweb/Get/Document-1981909/301.5%20-%20Electronic%20Communications%20Systems%20(Students)%20AOP.pdf)



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 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.

## **Field Trips**

As we plan and prepare for field trips we remind all families that:

All activities have an inherent risk of injury; this includes activities students take part in on educational field trips. One very important part of effective planning requires that parents be informed of the risks associated with the proposed activity and give permission for their child to participate. This is accomplished by using a Permission/Informed Consent form provided by Niagara Catholic. The purpose of Informed Consent is to demonstrate that the school board acts as “a reasonable and prudent person” in informing the participant and his/her parents that there are inherent risks associated with specific activities, and that certain injuries may result if the student participated. Common risks that are inherent to activities include but are not limited to:

- Collision with natural or man-made objects or other persons; hard surfaces; flying objects;
- physical agility including rapid movements and quick turns and stops;
- Physical exertion;
- Exposure to weather conditions;
- Exposure to vegetation, insects and wildlife;
- Site conditions, e.g., heights, water, equipment, and materials;
- Modes of transportation;



- Failure to remain within designated areas and supervised activities.

Injuries may occur as a result of participating in activities (including recess) that are inherent in the aforementioned risks. Injuries can include but are not limited to bruises, cuts, scrapes, sprains, strains, broken bones, dental injuries, concussions, back and spinal injuries, sunburn, insect bites/stings, serious injury. The risk of sustaining these types of injuries result from the nature of the activity and can occur without any fault of either the student, or the school board, its employees/agents or the facility where the activity is taking place. By choosing to take part in this activity, you are accepting the risk that you/your child may be injured. The chance of an injury occurring can be reduced by carefully following instructions at all times while engaged in the activity. If you choose to attend this field trip /educational activity, you must understand that you bear the responsibility for any injury that might occur. The Niagara Catholic District School Board does not provide accidental death, disability, dismemberment or medical expense insurance on behalf of the students participating in this activity.

**Catholic School Council - First meeting Tuesday September 24th 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, 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! Nomination forms will be emailed out to all families. Please consider joining the St. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic School Council.

Nomination forms will be emailed out on **Monday, September 9th, 2024.**

**Staffing Organization for the 2024 – 2025 School Year**

**Kinder A: TBD – ECE: Ms. Conidi**

**Kinder B: Mrs. Taylor**

**Grade 1 Mrs. O’Connor**

**Grade 2 Mrs. Madden-Nadeau**

**Grade 3 Mrs. Dingman**

**Grade 3/4 Ms. McDonell**

**Grade 4/5 Mrs. Haywood**

**Grade 5/6 Mrs. Monaco**

**Grade 7 Mr. Perdue**

**Grade 8 Ms. Leslie**

**ERT: Mr. Kwinecki**

