



Mary Ward Catholic School

September 2024

School Information

Principal: Mr. A. Cardamone **Superintendent of Education:** Mr. D. Massi

Parish: Our Lady of the Scapular Church

Pastor: Fr. Gregory Schmidt **Associate Pastor:** Fr. Ronnie Tagnines

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

Location: 2999 Dorchester Road Niagara Falls, ON L2J 2Z9

Phone: 905-354-9221

Welcome Back Tiger Families

The staff of Mary Ward Catholic are excited to be back and ready to make this a great year. We welcome back all of our families and extend a warm welcome to our new families. As well, we would also like to welcome Fr. Gregory Schmidt and Fr. Ronnie Tagnines, our pastors and spiritual leaders at Our Lady of the Scapular Parish.

We pray that this year is filled with spiritual, academic and social growth and fun! As a community of Christian believers, we ask God's blessing on all our students, families, staff and all individuals who are a part of the Mary Ward community.

As a staff, we are re-affirming our commitment to Catholic Education and our determination to continually provide exemplary education at Mary Ward. Our continued strong partnership of home, school and church provides our children with a solid foundation for their spiritual, emotional, academic and physical lives.

We welcome the input of all members of our community so that we can continue to grow in a positive way. As always, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Dear God,

Thank you for the gift of education in every form. As our children prepare to start a new year may confidence be their foundation, may grace be their guide and may hope be their compass towards a bright future. I pray they would have eyes to see the needs of those around them and a heart to love well. May they face each day with positivity knowing that no matter what comes their way, they do not have to face it alone.

Amen.



Called By Name

Our Niagara Catholic's theological theme from 2022-2026 is "Called by Name". Our theological theme will direct us through daily prayer, faith formation sessions and school and system faith-centered events for the upcoming years:

2022-2023 Called by Name: You are Mine

2023-2024 Called by Name: Hear My Voice

2024-2025 Called by Name: Follow Me

2025-2026 Called by Name: Go and Make Disciples



Mary Ward Staff 2024-2025

Secretary: Mrs. Roberto

ERT: Mrs. Biamonte-Ramunno

Kindergarten: Mrs. Bomberry / Mrs. Kostyk

Kindergarten: Mrs. Rufrano / Ms. Picard

Grade 1: Mrs. Jakovljevic

Grade 1/2: Mrs. Renda

Grade 2: Mrs. Quaranta

Grade 2/3: Mrs. Marrie

Grade 3: Mrs. Giorgi

Grade 3/4: Mrs. Lawrence

Grade 4/5: Mr. Cottringer

Grade 5: Mrs. Maggiolo-Sommise

Grade 6: Mrs. Zappia

Grade 6/7: Mr. Wallace

Grade 7: Mr. Molnar

Grade 8: Mr. O'Neil



Grade 8: Mrs. Wojtasik

FSL: Mme. Driscoll & Mme. Covelli

Music: Mr. Marrie

ESL: Mrs. Cottringer

CYW: Mrs. Vanklinken

EAs: Mrs. Figueroa, Mrs. Leo, Mrs. Janiak, Mrs. Dolan & Ms. McKelvie

PTM: Ms. Giammarco

Librarian: Mrs. Arcuri

Caretakers: Mr. Maloney, Mrs. Panetta & Mrs. Bray

Principal: Mr. A. Cardamone

Respectful Interaction at Mary Ward

Mary Ward 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.

Curriculum Night / Meet the Teacher

Event Information

Curriculum Night / Meet the Teacher

Curriculum night will take place on Wednesday September 18, 2024 from 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. This informative evening provides parents with an opportunity to meet the classroom teacher and to attend classroom and curriculum information sessions. The three classroom presentations will begin and conclude at...

6:00 p.m. to 6:20 p.m.; 6:30 p.m. to 6:50 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. to 7:20 p.m.

Hope to see you there!

When?

Wednesday, Sep 18, 2024, 06:00 PM

Bell Times 2024-2025

Entry Bell — 8:35 AM

Nutrition Break — 10:05 AM

Activity Break — 10:25 AM

Nutrition Break — 12:45 PM

Activity Break — 1:05

Dismissal — 2:55 PM

Student Supervision

Student safety is our first priority. Please keep the following procedures in mind:

- Morning supervision begins at the arrival of the first bus at 8:25 AM. Supervision concludes with bus supervision at 3:05 PM.
- Please do not drop off before 8:25 AM.
- Remain with your child until supervision begins.
- All students are supervised during nutrition and activity breaks.
- Upon arrival, Grade 4-8 students are to enter the school through the front entrance. Kindergarten thru Grade 3 students are to enter through door west of the gym.
- So we can accurately track student arrival, if any student arrives after the 8:35 AM bell, they are to buzz the office at the front door and pick up a late slip before going to their classroom.

Reminders

Electronics

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.



Payment for School Activities

Parents are asked to sign up for our convenient payment program - SCHOOL CASH ONLINE. This is an excellent way to pay for student activities without sending money to school.

To register, please go to:

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



SchoolCashOnline.com: Welcome

SchoolCash Online

✉ ncdsb.schoolcashionline.com

Yearbooks have arrived!

The 2023-2024 school year was definitely one to remember! And now you will soon reminisce about all those good times! If you ordered a yearbook last year, it will be delivered to you the first week back.

Teachers will begin taking photos as soon as we begin for the 2024-2025 yearbook. Be sure to complete the Parent Guardian Consent Form - Notice of Collection Use and Disclosure of Student Personal Information that is available in School Cash Online in order for your child's photo to be used. As well, be sure to order your copy as soon as it is posted in School Cash Online!

EarlyON News

“EarlyON Child and Family Centres offer free programs to parents/caregivers and their children from birth to six years of age. We welcome all families to participate in our programs that help strengthen adult-child relationships, support parents, and help foster healthy child development. We have three locations: Mary Ward Catholic Elementary School, St. Michael Catholic Elementary and MacBain Community Centre. Please follow our <https://www.facebook.com/EarlyONNCDsb> to view our programs, calendars and hours of operation. For more information, please call 905-357-2398.”

Back to School Bus Transportation Information

On Monday, August 19, 2024 Niagara Student Transportation Services (NSTS) posted preliminary back to school transportation arrangements for each student enrolled, if they meet policy eligibility for transportation, including bus route numbers, stop locations and times. Finalized Transportation information is available as of Thursday, August 29, 2024.

Please visit www.nsts.ca and sign-in to the secure parent portal to get your child's student transportation information. To sign-in to the portal you will need your child's Ontario Education Number (OEN) which can be found on their report card. While signed in, please subscribe to the delay and cancellation module for direct and timely emails regarding student transportation that impacts your child's bus route.

Please complete the Opt-In to Transportation form in the parent portal to notify NSTS if you intend to have your child(ren) ride the bus. If you have Opted-In your child(ren) for student transportation last school year (2023/24), there is no need to Opt-In again for the new school year (2024/25). You can also Opt-Out of Transportation if you do not intend to have your child(ren) ride the bus.

Eligibility information is also available through the portal, including pedestrian directions if your child lives within the non-transported zone of the school and is not eligible for bus service. Changes to home, pick-up or drop-off addresses must be made through your child's school. During the summer you may notify NSTS of address changes so we can ensure a bus stop is available for your child to start the school year; however, NSTS is not authorized to change student address

information. With the availability of the secure parent portal, NSTS will not mail student transportation notices (except for kindergarten students or new students to the system **who do not have an OEN** to sign-in to the portal).

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

Please note that if you must OPT - IN before August 28th at 3:00 pm in order to receive transportation the first week of school.

Bus Safety

At the Stop - Be 5 to 10 minutes early, and stand on the inside of the sidewalk/ shoulder away from the roadway.

When the Bus Arrives - Line up in a straight line, wait for the bus to come to a complete stop and the doors to open, and never touch the outside of the bus.

Getting on the Bus - Get on the bus one at a time, hold the handrail as you climb the stairs, and go directly to your seat and get settled.

Riding on the Bus - Sit with your back to the back of the seat and your bottom to the bottom of your seat with your school bag on your lap, and use your quiet speaking voice so that the bus driver can concentrate on driving.

Getting off the Bus - Stay in your seat until the bus comes to a complete stop, only get off the bus at your school or at your bus stop, look for your parent/ guardian before you get off the bus if that is your routine, and always tell the bus driver if you do not see your parent/ guardian at the bus stop waiting for you if that is your routine or if you missed the stop.

Crossing in Front of the Bus - Watch and wait for the bus driver to signal to you to cross the road once it is safe to do so.

Crossing Guard Safety

Please ensure that you wait to cross the street **ONLY** after the Crossing Guard sounds her whistle 2 times. When the Crossing Guard sounds her whistle 1 time it means for everyone to stop.

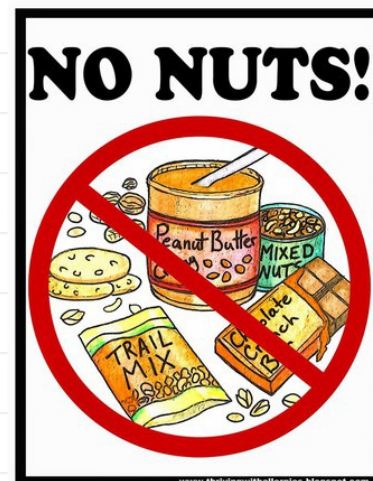
Emergency Medical Protocols

At Mary Ward, we work cooperatively with families in order to provide a safe, inclusive, and healthy educational environment for all students. We recognize that students who are at risk because of medical concerns such as allergic reactions, Diabetes, Epilepsy, intolerances, asthma and/or seizures require an intervention plan for their needs to be met and to reach their fullest potential at school. **If your child requires a specific plan of care, please contact the school at your earliest convenience so we can ensure his or her safety during the school day.**

Anaphylaxis

At Mary Ward Catholic, we continue to have several students with Anaphylaxis – a severe life threatening condition caused by an allergic reaction to certain food products (i.e.) peanuts, dairy, medications, latex products, inhalers and insect stings from bees or wasps. Residue on any material that has been touched by hands that have not been properly washed may also trigger a severe allergic reaction. Anaphylaxis requires immediate first aid (Epipen) and immediate medical intervention. Classroom teachers who have children with anaphylaxis are working hard to prevent accidental exposure to products that trigger life-threatening reactions. We are requesting that all

parents co-operate by not sending specific foods for lunch or snacks that could trigger a life threatening reaction. Thank you in advance for your co-operation with this life-threatening concern.



Niagara Region Public Health

Eyes Ready for the School Year!

Proper vision is important for a student's learning and social development. A full eye exam by an eye doctor (optometrist) is the best way to ensure a healthy eyes and good vision.

[The Eye See...Eye Learn®](#) program is for students in junior and senior kindergarten to have a full eye exam (covered by OHIP) with a [participating optometrist](#). If a child needs glasses, they will receive a free pair donated by Plastic Plus, Modern Optical Canada and the participating optometrist. For children aged 19 and under, OHIP covers the cost of a complete annual eye exam and any follow-up assessments that may be required.

A yearly eye exam is recommended – [find an eye doctor near you](#).

For more information, please visit <https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/schools/vision-screening.aspx>



Safely Packing Lunches

1. Clean

- Wash your hands for 20 seconds with soap and water before preparing any meal
- Make sure you sanitize countertops, utensils and any lunch boxes or lunch bags
- For surfaces and lunch boxes/bags: mix 2.5 ml (1/2 tsp) of bleach with 1 L (4 cups) of water
- Apply to surface and let stand briefly.
- Rinse with clean water and air dry or use a clean towel.
- Wash raw fruits and vegetables before eating

2. Keep Cold Food Cold

- Meat, chicken, seafood, eggs, and dairy products must stay cold to stay safe. Use frozen packs to keep food at or below 4°C (40 F).
- Use an insulated lunch bag and place freezer packs between foods that need to stay cold. Refrigerate the night before to get your lunch bag off to a cool start.

3. Keep Hot Food Hot

- Hot food must stay hot at above 60°C (140°F). Use insulated containers and keep them closed until ready to eat or take your food cold and reheat it

For more information visit https://www.niagararegion.ca/living/health_wellness/food-safety/default.aspx

Grade 7 Immunization Campaign

Niagara Region Public Health's school-based vaccination clinics will begin in September for the following publicly funded [routine school vaccinations](#):



- Meningococcal
- Single dose
- [Required for school attendance](#) under the Immunization of School Pupils Act
- Hepatitis B (HB)
- 2 or 3 dose series – depending on age and health history
- Human Papillomavirus (HPV)
- 2 or 3 dose series – depending on age and health history

Parents/legal guardians of grade 7 students will receive an information package and instructions on how to submit their completed consent form. Parents/legal guardians must complete the consent form whether their child is receiving **all**, **some**, or **none** of the vaccines. More information will be provided through your child's school.

Active School Travel

Back to school means restarting morning drop off and afternoon pick up routines. This year take the stress out of driving and consider active school travel instead! Active school travel is any



mode of transportation that is powered by humans – walking, biking, and scootering for example. There are several benefits of active school travel for your children:

- More people walking means fewer cars and cleaner air around the school
- Kids who walk, bike, or roll to school arrive alert and ready to learn
- Active transportation to school counts towards daily physical activity needs for your children
- And much more!

To help build confidence and participate in active transportation safely, consider reviewing the resources below:

- [Blue the Butterfly](#) – a pedestrian safety video for families
- [Cycle Safety Virtual Bike Rodeo](#) – education and training for safe cycling featuring skills like putting on a helmet, using hand signals, and doing shoulder checks

School Messenger

One of our greatest priorities is ensuring that all our students arrive safely to school each and every day. School Messenger allows parents to report their child's absence quickly and conveniently using a mobile app, a web site, or an interactive toll-free phone line to report an absence, late arrival or early departure, in advance.

As a result, it will take the school less time to verify student attendance, and less time to begin to notify parents and guardians of absences that were unexpected or unplanned. This time savings makes it faster and more efficient to account for all students and their safety.

If your student is marked absent and the absence hasn't been explained in advance, our SafeArrival system will be able to rapidly contact you by automated phone call, text message, email, or mobile app push notification to get a reason for the absence. Calls and contacts will continue until you choose an option to explain the absence.

PLEASE continue to call and advise the school of your child's absences, late arrival or early dismissals by using the mobile app, online <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca/#/home> or by calling 1-844-287-6287. It'll be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to make it convenient for you to report future absences.

Student Information Forms

On the first day of school, you will be receiving a copy of the student information sheet, which the school keeps on file for all children in our building. The information provided should be current and up to date, as it is critical that we have a means of contacting you during the day should there be a need. Please return these with changes indicated in the space provided by Friday September 13, 2024.

Should there be any changes during the school year, please keep us informed. It is imperative that we have accurate and complete information on file. If you have a current email address, please be sure to add it on the form in the space

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - Delta Bingo & Gaming

Mary Ward Catholic School would like to extend a big thank you to Delta Bingo & Gaming on Drummond Rd. for their contributions to our school fundraising initiatives. Since we began volunteering in 2013, Delta has donated a whopping \$66,000.00!! This could not be possible without the help of parent volunteers from our community. A special thank you to Robyn Pearson and Amanda Leon for their leadership. We need volunteers for September 8th and 15th. It is only a two hour time commitment. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Robyn Pearson at robynpearson@gmail.com.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.



Charitable Gaming. It's a win-win.

Through Charitable Gaming, we've raised over

\$500M

for thousands of participating charities and non-profits in local communities across Ontario.

Kiss 'n' Ride Drop-off

When dropping off your child(ren) at Kiss'n'Ride, place your car in park, and staff will be present to welcome them and escort them on to the walkway safely. There is no need to exit your vehicle. Please ensure that we are all patient so that all students and staff are safe.

Standardized Dress Code

A friendly reminder that all schools within the Niagara Catholic District School Board follow a standardized dress code. Simplified, the dress code requires students to wear a white or navy shirt with a collar and navy bottoms - pants, shorts or skirts. For specific requirements, please contact the school with any concerns. It is our goal to work with you and to support and alleviate any concerns you may have.



NIAGARA CATHOLIC

Standardized Elementary Dress Code

Niagara Catholic has a standardized dress code for students in all of our Catholic elementary schools. All students wear navy blue bottoms and navy blue or white shirts.

OUR DRESS CODE COLOURS

Tops

At a minimum, every student is required to wear one of the following:

- Navy or white Oxford shirt (short or long sleeve) or;
- Navy or white collared shirt (short or long sleeve) or;
- School-designed spirit wear

The elementary standardized dress code shirt must be plain (no logos or advertising) and buttoned in a respectable manner. Visible t-shirts worn under the elementary standardized dress code top must be either navy blue or white.



Bottoms

At a minimum, every student is required to wear one of the following:

- Navy sweat pants (Kindergarten - Grade 3) or;
- Navy pants (capri, cargo, denim, kobe or corduroy) or;
- Navy skirts, skirts or dresses or;
- Navy walking shorts.

Only knee-length shorts, skirts or dresses are permitted. All clothing must be in good repair. Grade 8 students have the option to wear grey secondary uniform pants.



Shoes

For health and safety reasons, running shoes with a full back and closed toe are the recommended footwear. Parents/guardians should provide a pair of indoor shoes for physical education and indoor wear. Socks must be worn with the elementary standardized dress code pants or shorts at all times.

Mary Ward Spirit Wear & Grad Hoodies

As we look toward the Grade 8 graduation Class of 2025, we wanted to let you know that we have made Graduation hoodies available for you to order. Our upcoming Graduating class can wear the hoodies as part of their Dress Code for the upcoming school year. If orders were placed during the summer they will be delivered in early September. To order your hoodie and/or spirit wear please go to Maddalena's website <https://www.maddalena-uniforms.com/>

Terry Fox Walk

On Friday, September 27 all students at Mary Ward School will be participating in The Terry Fox School Day Walk. This will also be our first Spirit Day. All students are welcome and encouraged to wear red and white. It is an Alternate Dress Code Day. A monetary donation can be made using our the following link. 100% of the money raised will be donated to the Terry Fox Foundation.



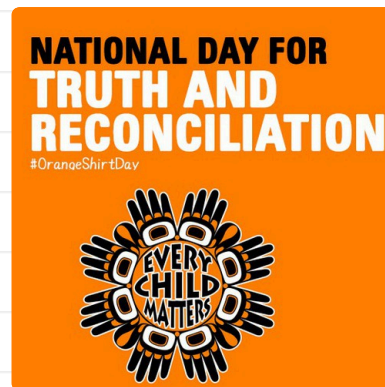
Mary Ward Catholic Elementary School - Niagara Falls, ON | Terry Fox School Run

Terry Fox School Run

schools.terryfox.ca

Orange Shirt Day

Students and staff are encouraged to wear the colour orange on Monday, September 30, 2024, in support of Orange Shirt Day. We encourage all schools order shirts from Pegasus School Images, as all proceeds will be shared between the Orange Shirt Society and Woodland Cultural Centre. Pegasus Order Form Shirts are \$15 including tax. Families are encouraged to place their orders online through the link below. A credit card is required. At the time of placing orders, parents/staff will be asked to select: The shirt size, the quantity and the name of the school where the shirt is to be delivered. All orders must be placed by midnight, Monday, September 16, 2024 for all shirts to be delivered to schools on time.



Niagara Catholic District School Board (NCDSB) - Orange Day

teamandspiritwear.com

Mary Ward Catholic School Council

The Mary Ward Catholic School Council is already busy planning and getting organized for all the things that make Mary Ward Catholic School so special. At our first meeting we will be electing a Council Chairperson, as well as our Parent Reps. As a Catholic School Council, we are mandated to meet 4 times yearly. There is a place for everyone on the Mary Ward Catholic School Council. Get involved and make a difference. Self Nomination forms will be emailed to families in early September. Our first meeting is **Tuesday, September 24, 2024.**

Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee is a regional body of representative stakeholders that supports the Mission of Catholic Education and the Mission of the Niagara Catholic District School board by providing a communication link to parents/guardians, Catholic School Councils, the Director of Education and the Board of Trustees.

For more information, about the NCPIC please visit the NCDSB website.



Mr. A. Cardamone

Principal



