

St. Thérèse Catholic School

Back to School Newsletter

School Information

Mrs. Turcotte - Principal

Mrs. Saxton - Secretary

Website - <https://schools.niagaracatholic.ca/st-therese/>

Address - [530 Killaly Street East, Port Colborne, ON](#)

Phone - 905-835-8082

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PLEASE NOTE - OUR NEW BALANCED DAY TIMETABLE

8:40-8:55- Student Arrival

8:55 -9:05 - Entry Bell - Prayers, Announcements, Attendance

Periods 1 and 2

✓10:25 -10:45 FIRST BREAK - outdoor play

✓10:45 - 11:05 SECOND BREAK - indoor snack

Periods 3, 4 and 5

✓1:05 - 1:25 THIRD BREAK - indoor lunch

✓1:25-1:45 FOURTH BREAK - outdoor play

Periods 6 and 7

3:05 - 3:15 - Prayers, Announcements

3:15 - Dismissal Bell

A BACK-TO-SCHOOL PRAYER

Loving God, thank you for the rest and relaxation we enjoyed over the summer.

Today, we pray for our children as they begin their new school year.

Bless them with joy at seeing friends, excitement at new experiences, and a love of learning. Watch over all who learn, replacing fear with joy, anxiety with peace, and tiredness with energy.

Grant teachers wisdom, patience, and joy in serving their students.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

Principal's Message

Dear St. Thérèse Families,

Welcome back to another exciting school year at St. Thérèse. We look forward to seeing your children and hearing about their summer adventures. On behalf of the staff, we would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all of our families for entrusting your children to our care in a faith filled environment that fosters the excellence of each student through spiritual, academic and social pursuits within a Christ centred community.

We are pleased to welcome several new staff members (listed below) to our awesome group of educators. We wish to welcome all of our new students to our Titans Family and look forward to seeing all of our return Titan students and families.

We are looking forward to continuing to work with Father Daniele and the St. Thérèse Parish as we continue to on our faith journey this school year.

Our construction project continues to move along. While our main office is almost complete, we encountered some structural concerns with our main entrance that will require more time to complete. Therefore we will continue our entrance and exit plan from June to assist with the flow of traffic and keep our children safe.

In the morning, parents may use the front U driveway where the buses pull in for a Kiss n Ride drop off. This is for families whose children can get out of the car independently and are doing a quick

drop off. Our buses will also be using this driveway to pull up and let students off. Please remember if you are behind a bus when dropping off your children, kindly wait until the bus pulls away and follow the bus out of the parking lot, rather than maneuvering around the bus.

If you prefer, you can park on the shoulder of the road and cross with our crossing guard to walk your children on to school property. Please remember, only students are allowed in our back playground during school hours. Kindly walk your children to the west-side gate and allow them to join their friends in the playground. Mrs. Piazza will be guiding your children from the crosswalk, through the parking lot to the west-side playground entrance and bike rack. Mrs. Flagg will be greeting students off the bus each morning.

The end of day dismissal will begin around 3:10pm for parents and guardians picking up their children. Please DO NOT enter the U driveway as our buses will be pulling in and require the entire space to safely board all of our students. You are welcome to park on the shoulder of the road and staff will communicate your arrival so your child will come leave before the end of day dismissal at 3:15 and buses board.

The East-side parking lots will have 4-5 parking spaces available for the **first week of school only** for **Kindergarten** parents to drop their children. After the first week, our construction crew will need to take over the entire parking lot. Beginning Monday, September 9th, Kindergarten families can park on the shoulder of the road (as we did in June) and meet their children at the East-side Kindergarten door. If you have older students, we can have them meet your kindergarten-aged child so you can pick up all your children at once. Alternatively in the morning, you can use our U-driveway as a Kiss n Ride and your child will be walked down the hallway to the Kindergarten classrooms if this works better for your family.

Please do not hesitate to ask the staff questions regarding our temporary dismissal and drop off procedures. We appreciate everyones patience and understanding as we navigate the wonderful improvements to our school.

Yours in Catholic Education,
Mrs. Turcotte

St. Therese Staff 2024-2025

Classroom Teachers

Kindergarten: Mrs. Rossi - ECE - Mrs. Tedesco

Kindergarten: Mrs. Smyth - ECE Mrs. Doddridge

Grade 1/2 - Mrs. Anderson

Grade 1/2 - Mrs. DiBartolomeo

Grade 3/4 - Miss Breton

Grade 4/5 - Mrs. Sadowski

Grade 6/7 - Mrs. Loeffen

Grade 7/8 - Mr. Frey

Additional Teaching Staff

FSL/PTM - Madame Fijavz

PTM - Mrs. Deluca

ERT - Mrs. Barnes

Itinerant - Mr. Starrs - Day 1 & 5

Educational Assistants:

Mrs. Elsie

Mrs. Stivoric

Mrs. Piazza

Mrs. Flagg

Mr. Thompson

Support Staff:

Secretary - Mrs. Saxton

Librarian - Mrs. Butera Barros - Day 3 & 4

CYW - Mrs. Annunziata - Day 5

CYW - Mrs. Sadonoja - Day 2

Custodial Staff:

Head Caretaker: Mr. Scalzo

Cleaner: Mr. Badaway



Follow us on
Instagram

@St.TheresePC

GREEN STUDENT VERIFICATION FORM

On **Friday, September 6th** you will be receiving a double-sided **green Student Verification Form**. It is imperative that you review this information that we have on file for your child(ren), make any changes to your email, emergency contacts, allergies, phone numbers, address, etc to ensure we have the most up to date information for each child.

Please ensure you review **BOTH sides** of the document, indicate if you have a child beginning kindergarten in 2025 and **SIGN the document** (whether you have made changes or not) and return the form to school by **Tuesday, September 10th**.

Thank you for your attention to this task and adhering to our tight timelines as we require this information for our child's safety.

SACRAMENTAL SAVE THE DATES

To help families prepare for the sacraments of **First Communion, First Reconciliation and Confirmation**, Father Daniele will be hosting family information nights. While children are welcome to attend, this session is intended for parents and guardians. If you are unable to make the meeting, please reach out to Father Daniele and he will meet with you at an alternative date that suits your schedule.

First Communion/Reconciliation Meeting - Thursday, October 3rd at 6pm at St. Thérèse Parish.

Confirmation Meeting - Thursday, October 17th at 6pm at St. Thérèse Parish.

SAVE THE DATES:

Confirmation - Sunday, April 27th at the 9am Mass

First Communion - Saturday, May 10th at the 4pm Mass



Reusable Water Bottles

To help ensure your child comes to school each day with a reusable water bottle we have designed our very own St. Thérèse Water Bottle!

Water bottles are on sale through School Cash Online and will be handed out to students when we see the purchase online.

Grade 8 Graduation - SAVE THE DATE

Our **Grade 8 Class** will celebrate their **Graduation** at 6pm on **June 19th, 2025** at Lakeshore Catholic Secondary School. All are welcome to attend the Graduation Ceremony to support our graduates on their big day! A Graduation Celebration will immediately follow the ceremony (for Graduates only!) at Lakeshore Catholic.



Kinder Celebration of Learning - SAVE THE DATE

Each year we have a celebration of learning to celebrate our Kindergarten students. For your planning purposes our **Celebration of Learning** will be on **Friday, June 20th** in the afternoon.



School Apparel - Gradhoodies

St. Thérèse SPIRIT WEAR

St. Thérèse Spirit Wear is available for purchase year round! Items are shipped directly to the school with your child's name on the package for easy delivery!

Please check out [Big Bear Spiritwear's website](#) for more information - Click on Schools to find our shopping link!



HOME OF THE GATORS
PORT COLBORNE, ON



We are a proud member of the Lakeshore Catholic Family of Schools

Meet the Staff Night

We are happy to welcome all of our families to attend our **Meet the Staff Night on Thursday, September 19th from 4:30pm - 6:00pm**. Typically this event takes place Thanksgiving weekend but needed to be moved earlier this year as Thanksgiving is very late.

Our evening will begin with an opportunity for all families to visit their child's classroom, meet their teachers and see their lockers. We will conclude the evening with a pizza social in our school gymnasium so family can mingle and enjoy each others company to begin our school year! **Please note: Pizza and beverages MUST be purchased ahead of time through School Cash Online.** There will be a limited number of extra items for sale on a first come, first serve basis. Plans are being made to have the Marble Slab Creamery return again this year for desserts that can be purchased directly from the vendor if you wish.

Orange Shirt Day - National Day of Truth and Reconciliation Day

Orange Shirt Day is the story of Phyllis Webstad, an Indigenous woman who shared her experience at an Indian Residential School through the children's book, *The Orange Shirt Story*. By participating in Orange Shirt Day, we recognize the harm done to generations of children by the Indian Residential School system in Canada. The first Orange Shirt Day occurred on September 30th, 2013 as Chief Fred Robbins saw Phyllis' story as a way of bringing together Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. Since that time, Orange Shirt Day has grown into a national awareness among schools, businesses, and communities.

In June 2021, the Federal Government of Canada designated September 30th as the National Day for Truth & Reconciliation. While this addresses Call to Action #80 of the Truth and Reconciliations 94 Calls to Action, it coincides with an established day that was created by Survivors of Indian Residential Schools. As a Board we can acknowledge the Federal statutory day, but for school and student activities, for the present time, it remains "Orange Shirt Day" as a way of respecting the grass root Indigenous movement.

Niagara Catholic has organized an orange shirt sale with proceeds being shared between the Orange Shirt Society and the Woodland Cultural Centre. Shirts can be ordered through Pegasus School Images - [ORDER HERE](#) - Shirts are \$15 including tax.

At the time of placing orders, parents/staff will be asked to select:

- a. The shirt size
- b. quantity
- c. Name of the School where the shirt is to be delivered (best to add PC to our name)



All shirts must be ordered by midnight, **Monday, September 16th** for all shirts to be delivered to our school on time.

Catholic School Council Nominations and Elections

Our **St. Thérèse Catholic School Council (CSC)** is accepting self-nominations for our upcoming school year. The nomination form will be emailed home through School Messenger on **Friday, September 6th**. If you are interested in being a part of our parent/guardian group and giving back to our school community we welcome you to complete the nomination form and email it st.therese@ncdsb.com by **Monday, September 16th**.

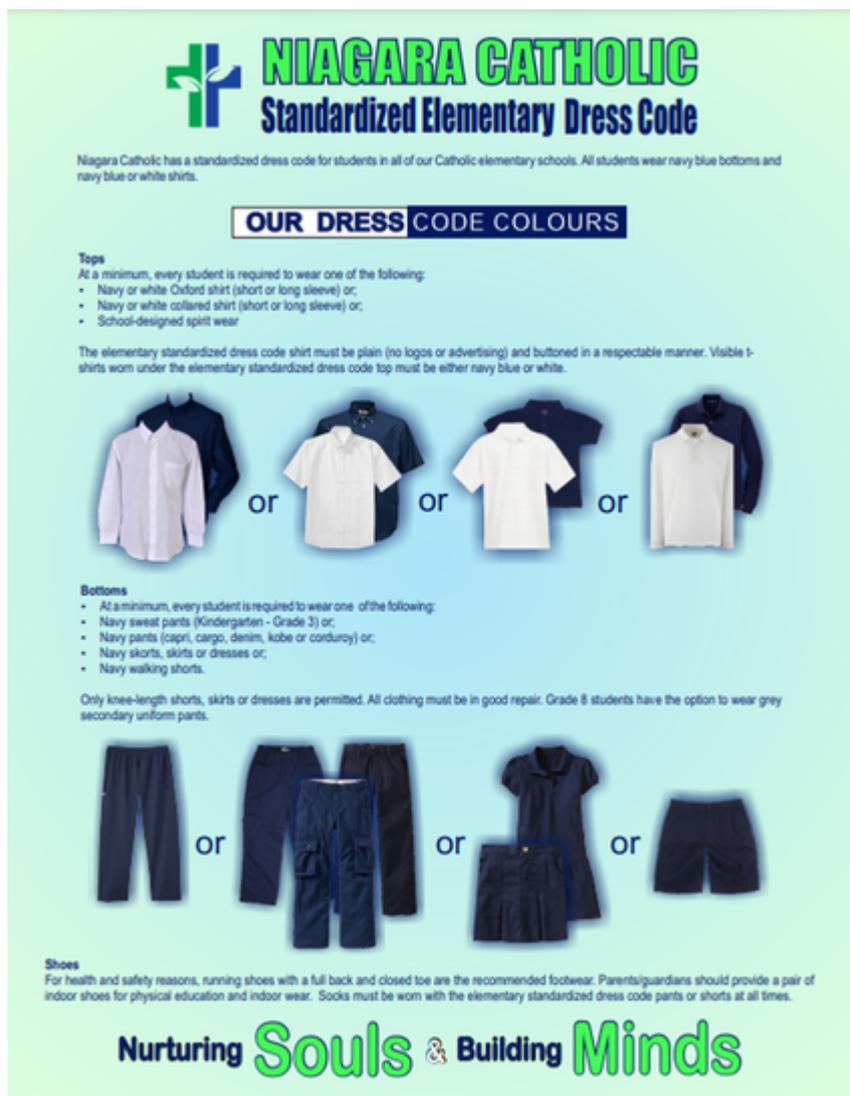
Our first Catholic School Council meeting will take place on Tuesday, September 24th at 6pm in our school library. All are welcome to attend!

Standardized Dress Code

Reminder that students are expected to follow dress code expectations daily. We have provided a graphic below as a reminder of the colour and items of clothing that students can wear to school. Our Grade 8 Students are also able to wear their GRAD Hoodies!

All students can also wear St. Thérèse Spirit Wear or Lakeshore Catholic Spirit Wear!

Thank you for your continued support.



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.

Nurturing Souls & Building Minds



Melissa Turcotte

Melissa is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

