

# St. Joseph Phoenix

SEPTEMBER 2024



Dear parents/Guardians:

It is so exciting to be starting another new school year. So much opportunity awaits the students to show off their gifts and talents. I always love the energy that a new school year brings! So much excitement, not only with the students, but the staff as well. No two school years are ever the same. Everyone is anxious for what the year will bring, all the way from our new year 1's in kindergarten, all the way up to our leaders in grade 8!

I would personally like to welcome all the new families we have here at St. Joseph's this year! It is such a wonderful school community and an extremely warm and inviting staff. I trust that your children will love it here, and I welcome you to share your gifts and talents with the school community by joining our Catholic School Council.

Enjoy the last few days of your summer break, and I look forward to welcoming your children back into the school on September 3rd! See you all then.

Yours in Catholic Education,  
*Mr. T. Atkinson, Principal*

## Bell Times

08:45-09:00 AM - Supervision

09:00-09:10 AM - Entry Bell

11:10-11:50 AM - 1st Nutrition/Movement Break

01:10-01:30 PM - 2nd Nutrition/Movement Break

03:20 PM - Dismissal

## School Day Schedule



\*All recess/lunches, students will be going downhill, weather permitting, so please send extra clothing/rain boots when needed.

No children are to arrive prior to 8:45 am as there is no supervision prior to this time.

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## St. Joseph Staff 2024-2025

KA: Ms. Zanon / (ECE) Miss LaRose

KB: Mrs. Wall / (ECE) Mr. Saranchuk

G1: Mrs. Hogben

G1-2: Mrs. Filice

G2-3: Mrs. McIntosh

G3-4: Mrs. Sorgini

G4-5: Mrs. Baldasaro

G5-6: Mrs. Furbacher

G7: Mrs. Vanaselja

G8: Mrs. Morrison

ERT: Mrs. Penner

FSL: Mme. Worster

PTM (Primary Team Member): Miss Barlow, Ms. Mann, Mrs. Tessaro

IA (Itinerant Arts): Mr. Friesen

EA (Education Assistant): Mrs. Caron, Mrs. Dell, Miss Littler, Mrs. Sliwka

CYW (Child Youth Worker): Ms. Dahl

LIB (Library Assistant): Mrs. Azevedo

Head Caretaker: Miss Sumner and Caretaker: Mr. Beechey

Secretary: Mrs. Humphreys

Principal: Mr. Atkinson

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## New Cell Phone Rules in Ontario Schools

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.

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## Bus Information

To check on your child(ren)'s bus route and times, please go to [www.niagaracatholic.ca](http://www.niagaracatholic.ca) and follow the link to "Transportation"; you will require your child's OEN # which can be found on their report card.



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## Personal Items

Please be sure to label your child's items such as clothing and even shoes. The Lost & Found bin is constantly overflowing and if items are labelled we can easily return them to the owner. Thank you for your cooperation.



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## Indoor Shoes

Every child is required to have indoor shoes that can be left at school. These should be labeled with the child's name. Indoor shoes will be worn every day inside the classrooms. This provides for the comfort, safety and well being of our students and the cleanliness of the school.



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## Visitor Sign-In

In compliance with the Ontario Ministry of Education and Training "Safe Schools Act", all schools are mandated to have in effect a Visitor Sign-In procedure. All visitors must sign in at the front entry upon entering the school. If you are dropping something off, please be sure to label the item as we do receive multiple items at times.

We appreciate your continued understanding and cooperation.



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### **Administration of Medication**

If your child requires the administration of over the counter or prescription medications on a short term or regular basis at school please contact the office to obtain an Administration of Medication Form which needs to be completed and signed by your physician.

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### **Student Information Form**

The Student Information / Emergency form will be sent home the first week with each student. Please note any necessary changes and sign the form and return it to school by:

**Thursday, September 12th**

It is very important that we have the correct information regarding contacts and medical conditions available to us at all times for the safety of your child(ren).

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### **Nutrition and Anaphylaxis Policies**

Niagara Catholic's Nutrition Policy was adopted in June 2005. It states: The Niagara Catholic District School Board is committed to supporting a healthy school environment for the proper growth and development of students. Good nutrition is vital to the health and well-being of each student and his/her potential to learn. In accordance with the Church's teachings, it is the policy of the Board to provide in all its operations an educational environment which supports and enables diversity within its Catholic community. The Board supports students and parents/guardians in making healthy food and beverage choices on a regular basis.

It is important to note that we are to avoid offering food or beverages as a reward or an incentive for good behaviour, achievement, or participation. With this in mind, please do not send in food items to school for your child(ren)'s birthday. Food items will not be accepted or distributed for birthdays. If you would like to send something to school in honor of your child's birthday, a book for the classroom or non-food items such as pencils, erasers or stickers will be accepted and distributed.

There are exemptions to the Nutrition Policy (a maximum of 10 per school year) for school wide special events that will be granted throughout the school for holidays, such as; Halloween, Christmas and Valentine's Day and school events like the Fun Fair. Classroom teachers will provide information to parents regarding what to bring in for classroom parties. Please keep in mind that all food items brought in for classroom parties must be and be labelled **peanut/nut free**. Both the Nutrition Policy and Anaphylaxis Policy go hand in hand. The Anaphylaxis Policy (adopted in 1998) states that school staff are to: encourage students not to share lunches, food implements or trade snacks, choose alternatives to using food as a reward and establish procedures to encourage the anaphylactic student to eat only what he/she brings from home. There are students at St. Joseph who have life threatening allergies to peanuts and tree nuts and we need to continue to ensure their safety at school. For this reason, we require that students bring peanut/tree nut free lunches and snacks to school. Read all labels when grocery shopping to ensure that the food you send to school with your child(ren) is peanut/tree nut free. You may send in 'nut free' butters such as WOW Butter as long as they are clearly labeled so that school staff are certain it is nut free. Please check with your child's teacher for any additional allergies in their classroom of which you will need to be aware.

Your cooperation in keeping our students safe and healthy is greatly appreciated.

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## Kiss N Ride

Here are a few reminders to ensure smooth drop-offs and pick-ups for both new and returning families:

The Bus Lane begins at the Kindergarten play area and ends at the gates that lead out to Doran Avenue. Visitors may park in the designated spots located across from the front entrance of the school or in any free spot in our parking lot. When the school parking lot is full, I encourage visitors to park in the Municipal Lot located on Ontario Street across from Doran Avenue. Parking and stopping in signed no parking zones on Robinson Street should be avoided so that your vehicle is not ticketed.

The Kiss N Ride that outside of the Kindergarten play area is a functioning Kiss N Ride and parents/guardians are reminded that these are not parking spots. Drivers are not to exit their vehicles in the Kiss N Ride Lanes. School staff will assist students in and out of vehicles and ensure that students enter the playground safely. The parents/guardians of our Kindergarten students are asked to continue to use this Kiss N Ride when dropping off in the morning and picking up at the end of the day. If you have a kinder to drop off and then another child in grade 1-8 you will have to go through both K&R lanes. At end of day dismissal we will direct the older sibling(s) to the Kinder Kiss N Ride for one pick up. This process is quick and is efficient. All students and cars are through in less than 5 minutes.

We greatly appreciate your patience and cooperation.

The exit to Doran Avenue continues to be one way and at no time are vehicles to enter onto school property from Doran Avenue. There is no parking at the top of Doran Avenue and it is only to be used for exiting school property. The exit gates to Doran Avenue will only be unlocked during bus arrival and departure times.

In order to ensure an efficient and organized steady flow of vehicles and to give access to emergency vehicles in a timely fashion, at no time is a driver allowed to park or exit their vehicle in the Kiss N Ride/Fire Lane.



When dropping off in the morning, school staff will be at the Kiss N Ride Lanes assisting students and will ensure that students will enter into the playground area safely. Students are to only exit the vehicle at the top of the Kiss N Ride Lane where staff is present as we do not want students walking between the buses.

When picking up at the end of the day, parents/guardians line up in their vehicles single file in the Kiss N Ride Lane. If you are the first vehicle in the Kiss N Ride Lane, please be sure to pull up to the front of the line. Parents/Guardians are to wait in their vehicle and school staff will ensure children safely enter the vehicles.

Please ensure that everyone who picks up and drops off your child/children is aware of the Kiss N Ride procedures.

Thank you for your continued support and patience as we all work together to ensure the safe arrival and departure of our students.

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## SCHOOL MESSENGER APP FOR SAFEARRIVAL

Choose *one of these three options* for using the SchoolMessenger app:

1. Download the SchoolMessenger app from the Google Play Store
2. Download the SchoolMessenger app from the Apple App Store
3. Open your browser and go to [go.schoolmessenger.ca](https://go.schoolmessenger.ca)

Sign Up for an account and Log In

Please remember to report your child(ren)'s absence **prior to 9:00 AM**. If children are leaving during school hours, parents and/or guardians are to ring the bell and we will call your child(ren) to the front entry and bring them out to you. If someone other than a parent/guardian is picking them up, make sure to call and tell the office. If your child(ren) is going on vacation or an extended leave, please be sure to advise the office if it is more than 5 school days of absence.

[School Messenger / SafeArrival Link](#)

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## School Cash Online

Each family will require School Cash Online to pay for school activities, trips, milk program, etc. Please go to > <https://ncdsb.schoolcashionline.com/> < to set up an account and add your child(ren) to the account.

[SchoolCashOnline Link](#)

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## Spirit Wear Purchasing

Our school SpiritWear is available to purchase through Front Row Sports >  
<https://stores.inksoft.com/stjosephcatholic/shop/home>

## St. Joseph School Spirit Wear

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### School Nutrition

We will be starting up Tuesday lunches and the milk program mid September. You will receive an email once those items are available to purchase in School Cash. Our lunches consist of Gino's Pizza (twice per month), Subway and Pita Pit (once per month).

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### Niagara Nutrition Partners Snack Program

St. Joseph Catholic School has a snack program which is supported by the Niagara Nutrition Partners and funded by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services.

This program grant provides all of our students with the opportunity to have access to nutritious and delicious snacks during the school day. Teachers will be encouraging students to eat their snacks from home first and then will be welcome to enjoy the snacks provided if they choose. The program runs each school day, beginning mid September.

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### Fire Drills & Lockdown Procedures

One of our major focuses at school is SAFETY. In order to ensure the safety of all, staff and students will begin preparing for both our fire and lockdown practice drills. Throughout the course of the school year, we are expected to conduct 6 fire drills and 2 lockdown drills. We will be sending home communication when lockdown drills will be practiced. Teacher's will be discussing and practicing with all our students. We encourage you to discuss this with your children to help alleviate any fears when we do lockdown practice drills.



**Holly Humphreys**

Holly is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

