



Notre Dame Catholic School



6559 Caswell Street, Niagara Falls, ON, L2J 1C2

Phone: (905) 358-3861 Email: notre.dame@ncdsb.com

Principal: Mr. E. Roussos Superintendent of Education: Mr. D. Massi

FAITH ♦ WISDOM ♦ HUMILITY

September 2024



Principal's Message

Welcome Back!

The staff of Notre Dame Catholic School are excited to be back and ready to make this another amazing school year for our students. We want to welcome back our new and returning students, as another memorable school year will begin on September 3.

As a community of Christian believers, we ask God's blessing be bestowed on all our students, families, staff and all who are a part of the Notre Dame Catholic Community. Our continued strong partnership between the home, school and church provides our children with a solid foundation for their spiritual, emotional, and academic journey through life. We welcome the input of all members of our community and partners in education, so that we can continue to grow in a positive way. As always, please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any questions regarding your child's education.

We are looking forward to a fun and memorable 2024-25 school year!!!

All the best,

E. Roussos

Theological Theme: Called by Name: Follow Me

"Listen and hear my voice; pay attention and hear what I say" (Isaiah 28:23) Have you ever stopped to think about how much noise there is in our lives today? We are bombarded from morning to night with so many voices calling out for our attention. God tells us to "listen" and to "pay attention." His voice is not a loud voice, but a voice that speaks to us in the silence (1 Kings 19:11-13). God doesn't want to be one voice among many. He wants His voice to be our guiding light. He doesn't want a part of our heart. He wants our whole heart, because He has made our hearts to find joy in Him. What are the loud voices in your life that make it hard to find times of silence for prayer? What can you do today to make more time for God?



We are proud to be a part of the Saint Paul High School family of schools!

Niagara Catholic District School Board Mission

We are a Christ-centred Catholic faith community that celebrates diversity and fosters spiritual growth, inspiring all to reach their full potential in mind, body and spirit.

JUSTICE ♦ COMPASSION ♦ STEWARDSHIP ♦ ACCOUNTABILITY ♦ COMMUNITY ♦ INTEGRITY ♦ FAITHFULNESS



Notre Dame Catholic School



DAILY SCHEDULE & SUPERVISION

Welcome Back New Daily Schedule Starting September 3!

For the 2024-25 school year, Notre Dame Elementary School will have earlier start and dismissal times, as well as a balanced day schedule. The morning bell will ring at **8:10 AM** and the dismissal bell will ring at **2:30 PM**. Our new **school balanced day** schedule is designed to enhance learning, foster healthy habits, and encourage daily physical activity.

For your reference, a typical day at Notre Dame will be as follows:

- ⇒ **8:00 AM - student drop-off**
- **8:10** - 8:20 AM - Student entry and morning routines
- 8:20 - 10:20 AM - 120 instructional minutes
- ⇒ **10:20 -10:40 AM - 20 minute physical activity break** (outdoor recess)
- ⇒ **10:40 - 11:00 AM - 20 minute nutrition break** (indoor lunch)
- 11:00 - 12:20 PM - 80 instructional minutes
- ⇒ **12:20 - 12:40 PM - 20 minute physical activity break** (outdoor recess)
- ⇒ **12:40 - 1:00 PM - 20 minute nutrition break** (indoor lunch)
- 1:00 - 2:20 PM - 80 instructional minutes
- 2:20 - **2:30** PM - School day dismissal routines

The complete 2024-25 School Year Calendar & Meeting Dates can be found on the NCDSB website, or by clicking [here](#).

Student Supervision and Safety

As student safety is our first priority, please keep in mind the following:

Supervision Start/End Times

- **Morning supervision begins at 8:00 AM.**
- **End-of-day supervision ends at 2:40 PM.**
- All students are supervised by school staff during recess and lunch.

Student Pickup and Drop-off

- We ask parents to not leave students at the school before supervision begins at 8:00 AM.
- If alternate drop-off/pickup arrangements are needed due to unforeseen circumstances, please contact the office.
- Students who arrive after the 8:10 AM entry bell are to enter the school through the front door and pick up a late slip before going to their classroom.

Notre Dame on Social Media

Follow Notre Dame on Instagram to get the latest updates: **@notredamenf**

Our Lady of the Scapular Parish Mass Times

- **Saturday:** 5:00 PM
- **Sunday:** 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 AM

Registrations - Join Our Family!

We are always welcoming those families who want to join the Notre Dame Catholic School Community! Please register online on the Niagara Catholic DSB webpage or by clicking [here](#).



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CLASS ORGANIZATION

2024-25 Notre Dame Catholic School Staff

Kindergarten	Mrs. Parillo & ECE TBD	Education Resource	Mrs. Gualtieri
Kindergarten	Mrs. Grove	FSL / FI English	Mme. Solefack
Kindergarten FI	Mme. D'Uva	FI English	Mr. Mangiacasale
Kindergarten FI	Mme. Martineau	K-3 Science & PE	Mr. Kamendy
Kindergarten FI	Mme. Taddeo & Mme. Thekkethala	Music	Mr. Sottile
Grade 1	Mrs. Bartolini	Librarian	Ms. Kaur
Grade 1 FI	Mme. Chambers	Educational Assistants	Mrs. Deacon
Grade 1/2	Mrs. DeMeo		Mrs. Smith
Grade 2 FI	Mme. Della Smirra		Ms. Visca
Grade 2/3 FI	Mr. Robert	Child & Youth Worker	Miss Botell
Grade 3/4	Mr. Barr	Caretaker	Mr. Waters
Grade 3/4	Mrs. Caughlin		Mr. Gasbarrino
Grade 3/4 FI	Mr. MacLean	Secretary	Miss Anderson
Grade 5	Mrs. Mellen	Principal	Mr. Roussos
Grade 5/6 FI	Mme. Jaramillo		
Grade 6/7	Mrs. Cha		
Grade 7/8	Mr. Turner		
Grade 7/8 FI	Mme. Conversano		

First Day of School Arrival

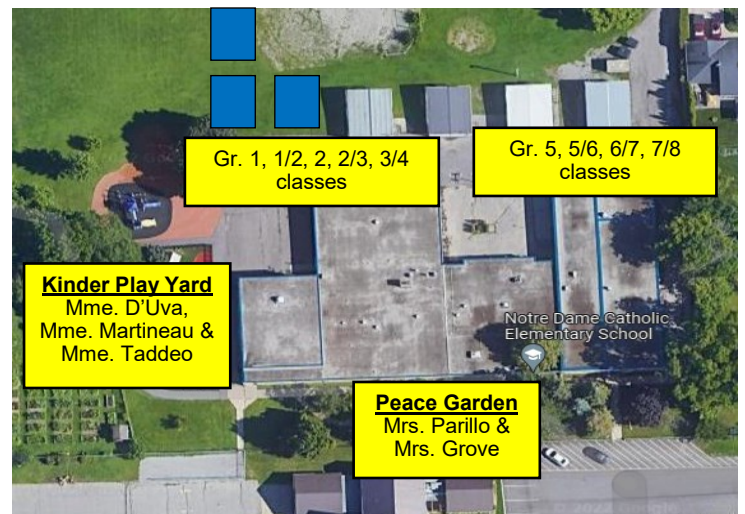
In order to facilitate an efficient and safe drop-off, all staff will be outside on the first day of school to welcome students.

To avoid larger gatherings, we ask that Kindergarten parents who are escorting their children on to school grounds, do so efficiently. Staff will be easily identifiable.

Once your child is in the care of his/her teacher, please be mindful of the excitement that comes with the first day of school and calmly exit the school area.

Please refer to the map to find general locations for your child's teacher on Tuesday, September 3.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.





Notre Dame Catholic School



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Notre Dame Spirit Wear



Notre Dame Catholic School spirit wear has been given a refreshed look. All spirit wear items will be accepted as part of the Notre Dame Catholic School standardized dress code. Families can purchase items directly through our supplier, Big Bear Spiritwear, on their website [here](#).



Elementary Standardized Dress Code



The Niagara Catholic DSB has a Standardized Elementary Dress Code in place for students in elementary schools. All students are to wear navy bottoms and navy blue or white shirts. For more detailed information, please view the NCDSB flyer [here](#).

Nut Free School Lunches, Alternate Lunch Days, Hydration

We encourage student lunches to be healthy and nutritious in order to provide them with the energy to maintain focus and complete classroom work to the best of their ability. **There are students at Notre Dame who have an anaphylaxis allergy, so to ensure the safety of all students, all lunch items sent to school are to be nut-free.**

Alternate lunch days will continue this year. Students will have the option to purchase pizza, subs, pasta, wraps, chicken dishes and salads. Any proceeds from alternate lunch days goes back to the school to pay for student learning materials. The monthly calendar and newsletter will indicate alternate lunch days for that month.

Alternate Lunch days for September are:

- September 19 - Little Ceasar's Pizza
- September 26 - Swiss Chalet

Please make all orders through SchoolCash Online.

Staying hydrated is very important throughout the school day. Studies show that there is a correlation between cognitive processes and hydration levels. **Students are encouraged to bring a reusable water container to school to help them stay hydrated or use the water fountains located in each hallway.**

Leaving School Grounds

Any student who wishes to leave the school grounds during the school day for any reason is required to be signed out by a parent/guardian in the main office. Students will not be permitted to leave school grounds for lunch unless picked up by a parent/guardian.

If there is a change in dismissal routine, a signed note from the parent is required EACH TIME the occurrence happens. This will help the school ensure your child is safely dismissed. Texts from parents, office phone/cell phone usage will not be a regularly accepted form of permission and will only be considered in the case of an extenuating circumstance.

After School Care - Strive Niagara

The before & after school licensed care provider at Notre Dame for this school year is Strive Niagara. To find out more information about Strive Niagara, please visit www.striveniagara.ca. All new families must register through the ONELIST at <https://niagara.onehsn.com/> prior to registering at Strive Niagara in person.



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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Overview of Selected NCDSB Policy Changes and Impacts at Notre Dame

The Ministry of Education issued new requirements for school boards to follow to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of everyone in our schools for the 2024-25 school year. **The revised [PPM 128](#) addresses issues including the use of cell phones and vaping. [PPM 170](#) outlines the Ministry of Education's expectations for communication between home and school.** All schools in the Niagara Catholic DSB will follow these Ministry of Education directives. The updated expectations are outlined in:

- the [Electronic Communications Systems Administrative Operating Procedures](#) for students,
- the [Code of Conduct Policy AOP](#)
- the [Complaints Resolution Policy](#).

The [Niagara Catholic's Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#) prioritizes transparency in communication with families and stakeholders as a key priority. PPM 170 ensures commitments the provincial government made in [Your child's education: A parent guide to our school system](#) are fully addressed.

An overview of the changes are as follows:

Cell Phone Use in School & Social Media Access

To minimize distractions, students who bring their cell phones to school must have the phone stored out of view and turned off or onto silent mode during the instructional day. They may only use it if their teacher permits it for learning, for health or medical purposes, or to support special education needs. Outside of these times, students are expected to keep their phones turned off or on silent and have them stored away.

Social media platforms on school networks and board devices will be disabled. This is intended to limit the number of interruptions in class and to benefit the mental health and well-being of students. Niagara Catholic already blocks access to some social media sites. Now all will be unavailable to students on the board network during the school day.

Cigarettes, vaping, or nicotine, cannabis, or alcohol use at school

To protect the health and well-being of students, the NCDSB will be installing sensors to detect vaping in schools. The Smoke-Free Ontario Act bans the use of any tobacco, nicotine, or e-cigarette (vape) on school property. Anyone under the age of 19 is prohibited from buying or possessing alcohol or cannabis. These substances, and any illegal drug, are prohibited on school property.

Communication Between Home & School—Questions, Concerns or Complaints

The Ministry of Education has given school boards new requirements on how to communicate with parents who have questions, concerns, or complaints. This information will also be shared on the Parents section of the Board website and school websites in time for the start of the new school year. The process is outlined below:

- Parents/guardians should expect a response to a concern within **two business days**.
- If parents have a question about a classroom-related matter, such as curriculum, homework, classroom behavior, or specific incidents, please contact the child's teacher.
- If the parent cannot resolve the issue at the classroom level and/or have a question about school procedures, extracurricular activities, or safety concerns, please contact the school Principal.
- For issues unresolved at the school level or issues related to Niagara Catholic policies, procedures, resource allocation, or other concerns, please contact the Superintendent of Education assigned to Notre Dame Catholic Elementary School.



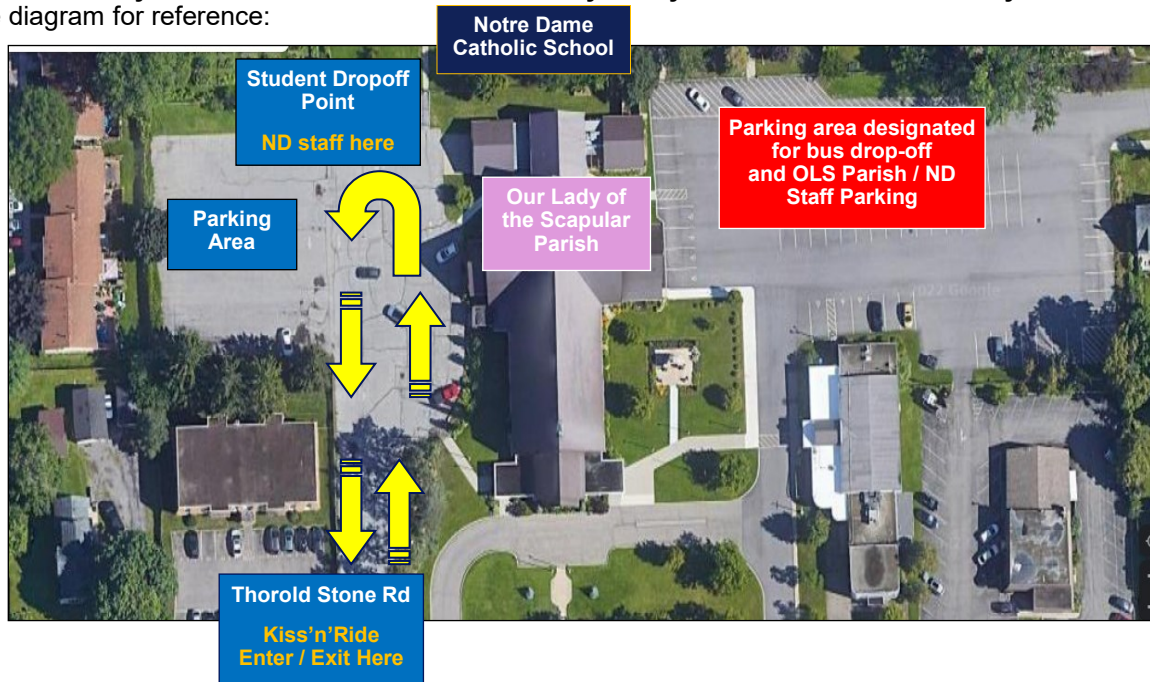
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DROP OFF & PICK UP INFORMATION

Kiss'n'Ride Drop-off

Students who are being dropped off at school by a parent or family member are to use the Kiss'n'Ride area, located in the parking lot closest to the gymnasium. When dropping off your child/children at Kiss'n'Ride, follow the flow of traffic and proceed up to where school staff are present and place your car in park. **A staff member will be present to welcome and escort your child/children onto the walkway safely. There is no need to exit your vehicle.** Please refer to the diagram for reference:



Back to School Bus Transportation Information

Finalized transportation information was made available to families on **Thursday, August 19, 2024**. Final transportation details will be available on August 29 @ 10:00 AM. Please ensure the following:

- Visit www.nsts.ca and sign in to the secure parent portal for 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.
- Families who have not had their child ride a bus in the 2023-24 school year are asked to complete the **Opt-In to Transportation form**. That same form includes the option to **Opt-out of Transportation** for any student who does not require bus transportation this school year. August 30, 2024 is the last day for families to Opt-In to transportation to ensure their child can ride the bus for the first week of school. **Students who rode the bus during the 2024-24 school year do not need to have an Opt-In to Transportation form completed.**
- Unauthorized passengers (ie. Students who are not registered for transportation) will not be permitted to ride the bus.

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



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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Emergency Medical Protocols

At Notre Dame, 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 full 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 while in our care.

SchoolCash Online Payment for School Activities

As activities and educational field trips are being scheduled for your children, we ask that parents sign up for our convenient payment program, SchoolCash 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/>

School Messenger - Safe Arrival

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 the **mobile app**, a **website**, or an **interactive toll-free phone line** to report an absence, late arrival or early departure, in advance. This process allows the school to verify student attendance and notify parents of an unreported student absence efficiently.

If your child is marked absent and the absence hasn't been explained in advance, our SafeArrival system will contact you to get a reason for the absence. Calls will continue until you choose an option to explain your child's absence. **PLEASE** use the following information to report your child's absence: mobile app, online: <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca/#/home> or by calling 1-844-287-6287. It is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Student Aware Internet Filter

This is just a reminder to families that all Niagara Catholic schools use a software program called "Student Aware". This program enables schools to monitor its student internet traffic while using Board internet devices. The "Student Aware" program will be identifying and notifying school staff when students access online websites related to suicide, violence, abuse and/or other dangerous activities that could be injurious to themselves and/or others. When high-risk incidents are identified, the occurrence will be investigated and school administration will respond accordingly to support student mental health and well-being.

Thank you Delta Bingo!

Our students and staff thank you so much for your generosity!!! We look forward to continuing our school fundraising through our partnership. Last year, funds raised through volunteering allowed the school to purchase classroom TV displays, classroom resources and physical education equipment to enhance student learning. **Thank you to Mrs. Thornton and her team of volunteers who donate their time for the benefit of our students - we appreciate all that you do!** The school is looking for parent volunteers to assist during our assigned time at Delta Bingo (Tuesday afternoon). If any parent would like to assist with fundraising, please contact the school.

