

# HOLY NAME CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Welcome back to all our students, staff, and their families. A special welcome to the new families who are beginning at Holy Name Catholic Elementary School or who have moved into the community. I hope that everyone has had a happy, safe, and restful summer.

We are honored and delighted to be a part of this amazing community. Last year we had the opportunity to work with the talented staff, generous parents and wonderful students of Holy Name Catholic and we look forward to another great year helping your children meet their full potential.

We are very proud of the hard work, dedication, and effort that the entire staff has put forth this summer in creating a welcoming learning environment for all of our students. Our students will benefit greatly from the talents of all our staff members as we begin another school year.

The staff at Holy Name Catholic Elementary School are dedicated to fostering the spiritual, academic, social, and physical growth of your children within an environment which has our Catholic Faith Values, and Jesus, at its center. When the church, home, and school work together, we continue to develop as a catholic community. Together, we can all work towards making this year a great experience for all. Your support is always appreciated in all aspects of your child's journey at Holy Name Catholic School.

We are looking forward to an exciting, challenging, and rewarding school year.

Yours In Catholic Education,

Holy Name administration

## September 2024

### PRAYER FOR PARENTS

Father of all, You have given us these children, and entrusted them to our care.  
Help me with Your Heavenly grace to fulfill this sacred duty.  
Teach us what to give, and what not to give; when to correct and when to let go.  
Make us gentle, yet firm; considerate and watchful.  
Grant that both by word and example we may lead them in the ways of true wisdom, holiness, and kindness, and that we may finally be admitted with them to the joys of our true home in heaven.  
Amen

### IMPORTANT DATES

Sept. 11: Info. Sheets due  
Sept 13: Terry Fox Day and Pizza day  
Sept 18: Opening Mass, 10 a.m. at St. Kevin's Church  
Sept 19: Let's Talk Science Gr. 8's  
Sept 20: PD DAY  
Sept 25: Catholic School Council 6pm  
Sept 25: Rowans Law  
Sept 26: Curriculum Night 6pm  
Sept 27: Toonie treat day  
Sept 30: Orange Shirt Day

**St. Kevin Parish Mass times**  
**Saturday 5 PM**  
**Sunday 8:00 A.M, 10:00 A.M, 11:30 A.m**

### School Entry

This year, on Tuesday, September 3th, students will be outside on their assigned playgrounds prior to school starting. Supervision starts at 7:50 a.m. Students should not arrive before this time.

### Dress Code

All students at Holy Name Catholic School follow the [NCDSB Dress Code](#). [Click text for additional details](#)  
[Spirit wear can be purchased at Maddalena's Uniforms](#)

**NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

# HOLY NAME CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## SCHOOL SAFETY

# 2024

### ANAPHYLAXIS POLICY

At the beginning of every school year, we remind all students and parents/guardians of our Board's Anaphylaxis Policy.

At Holy Name Catholic School we have Emergency Procedures, which clearly state what medical procedures must occur for those students who have various life-threatening medical conditions.

We are reminding all students and parents/guardians that we have students in our school who are known to have a potentially life-threatening allergy called Anaphylaxis.

Anaphylaxis is a serious allergic reaction that is rapid in onset and may cause death. While fatalities are rare, anaphylaxis must always be considered a medical emergency requiring immediate treatment.

Symptoms of anaphylaxis generally include two or more of these four body systems: skin, respiratory, gastrointestinal and/or cardiovascular. However, low blood pressure alone (i.e. cardiovascular system), in the absence of other symptoms, can also represent anaphylaxis. Breathing difficulties and low blood pressure are the most dangerous symptoms and both can lead to death if untreated.

Anaphylaxis is an unpredictable condition as signs and symptoms can vary from one person to the next and from one episode to another in the same person.

In Canada, the most common food allergens that cause anaphylaxis are: peanut, tree nuts (almonds, Brazil nuts, cashews, hazelnuts, macadamia nuts, pecans, pine nuts, pistachios, and walnuts), milk, egg, seafood (fish, shellfish, and crustaceans), soy, wheat, mustard and sulphites (a food additive).

Anaphylaxis requires immediate first aid response and immediate medical intervention

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### NUT SAFE SCHOOL

Holy Name is a Nut Safe School. Please be aware that there are children in our school who have severe allergies to nuts and foods containing nut by-products. NASK (Niagara Anaphylaxis Support and Knowledge) recommends parents read and become familiar with food labels and check ingredient contents. Please send only foods that are peanut and nut safe.

### PARKING LOT NEWS

We ask that you exercise extreme caution when driving in our very busy parking lot, especially during the morning and at dismissal at the end of the day. Please "Kiss and Drive" so your vehicle is not blocking the arriving buses. Parents are encouraged to use the East parking lot to pick up or drop off students. Please help us to continue to keep all children's safety as it is our most highest of priorities. Together we can continue to keep our children safe.

### STUDENT EMERGENCY SHEET

Each student has received an "Emergency Information Form". Please review this information, make any corrections directly on this sheet and return it to the teacher by **September 11, 2024**. It is imperative that we have at least two emergency contact numbers other than parents on file so that there is someone available to pick up your child when called, should parents be unable to be contacted. Further to that, please include your cell phone number should you have one. If changes occur during the year, you are requested to keep us updated. Accurate, complete, and current information ensures prompt care for your child. Please also ensure that your email address is correct as most communication from the school is sent out by email.

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## Medication at School

Students who require medication to be administered at school must submit the appropriate forms signed by a doctor prior to them being administered by staff. They are available at this link: [Administration of Oral Medication](#). Medication will be stored in a secure location and tracking sheets will kept in the vice- principal's office.

## FIREDRILLS and LOCKDOWNS

Part of Niagara Catholic's Emergency Protocol is routine fire drills and lockdown drills. The drills are to practice proper procedures that are designed to keep everyone safe. We will be performing a minimum of 6 fire drills and a minimum of 2 lockdown drills per year to meet board requirements.

## Bus Safety

Please review bus safety rules with your child. We understand that your child may not take the bus to school on a daily basis, however, throughout the year, they will be riding a bus. It is important that our students understand bus safety especially in the parking lot at Holy Name.

For more information please visit

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/school-bus-safety>

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## Reporting Student Absences

There are three ways to report an absence:

1. Call the toll free number: 1-844-287-6287
2. Go to the webpage: [go.schoolmessenger.ca](http://go.schoolmessenger.ca)
3. Download the School Messenger App

Thank you for working with us to help keep our students safe!

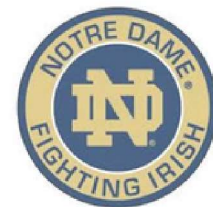
## Working Together

We are looking forward to another great school year!

Please continue to communicate with your child's teacher via emails, phone calls and meetings.

We are here for you and want to work with you to ensure student success.

## OUR PARTNERS IN CATHOLIC EDUCATION



**NOTRE DAME CATHOLIC  
SECONDARY SCHOOL**



**ST. KEVIN PARISH**

# HOLY NAME CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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## **UNDERSTANDING CHANGES COMING TO YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL**

Earlier this spring, 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.

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 Niagara Catholic schools will follow these Ministry of Education directives.

## **CELL PHONE USE IN SCHOOLS**

When the new school year begins in September, new rules will be in place regarding the use of personal cell phones in class.

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.

If a teacher sees a cell phone that is not stored out of view, students will be required to hand in their device in for the instructional day. The cell phone will be placed, by the student, in a secure storage area designated by the Principal.

If a student refuses to hand in their personal mobile device, the Ministry requires that the student be sent to the Principal's office. Consequences for failing to hand in their phone is at the Principal's discretion.

School boards are now required to disable access to social media platforms on school networks and board devices. 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.

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## **CIGARETTES, VAPING, OR NICOTINE, CANNABIS, OR ALCOHOL USE AT SCHOOL**

Another measure coming into effect in September to protect the health and well-being of students is the installation of 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. The changes to PPM 128 strengthen the enforcement of consequences for students who use or share cigarettes or other tobacco products, nicotine products, e-cigarettes (vapes) at school. 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.

The new rules require school boards to develop a policy to handle any prohibited items that are surrendered, if one does not exist already. The policy must comply with federal and provincial regulations. To ensure compliance with the provincial regulations Niagara Catholic's Facilities Services team will install equipment to detect the use of cigarettes or e-cigarettes in schools this year. These expectations are outlined in the Board's Electronic Communications Systems Administrative Operating Procedures for students, and the Board's Code of Conduct AOP.

We ask parents to please speak to your children about these new provincial rules and support your child's teacher(s) and principal in enforcing them.

## **QUESTIONS, CONCERNS, OR COMPLAINTS: UNDERSTANDING THE PROCESS**

Finally, the Ministry of Education has given school boards new requirements on how we communicate with parents who have questions, concerns, or complaints. This new guidance builds upon our established practice for resolving issues, including giving parents a timeline for a response. This is outlined in the process below. 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.

Niagara Catholic's Multi-Year Strategic Plan prioritizes transparency in communication with families and stakeholders as a key priority. Our Complaints Resolution Policy, first passed in April 1998, addresses the steps families must take to resolve an issue at their child's school. PPM 170 ensures commitments the Provincial Government made in your child's education: A parent guide to our school system are fully addressed.

- Parents/guardians should expect a response to a concern or complaint within two business days. If an inquiry needs more time, you will be given an estimated time for a detailed response at the end the second day.
- If you have a question about a classroom-related matter, such as curriculum, homework, classroom behavior, or specific incidents, please contact your child's teacher.
- If you 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's Vice-Principal or 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 your child's school.

In keeping with the Board's commitment to accessibility, parents and guardians have a right to expect information will be delivered in clear, easy-to-understand language.

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