



# Notre Dame Catholic School



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

FAITH ♦ WISDOM ♦ HUMILITY

## October 2024

### Principal's Message

The school year is one month old and staff and students have settled into classrooms and routines, while taking the time to practice emergency drills, take part in our Terry Fox Walk and acknowledge the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. It has been an amazing few weeks! Thank you so much for your support in making the start of this school year a safe and successful one for everyone. As we look ahead to October, we are thankful for all we have been blessed with. Students will get ready for school photos and celebrate Halloween.

On behalf of the staff of Notre Dame Catholic School, we wish all of our families a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday.

All the best,

E. Roussos

### Theological Theme: Called by Name: Follow Me

"My sheep hear my voice" (John 10:27)

Jesus calls us His sheep. He is our shepherd. Like a shepherd cares for his sheep, Jesus cares for us. Like a shepherd searches for a lost sheep, Jesus helps us to repent and come back to him when we get lost through sin. But there is another way that we are like sheep. You see, sheep are completely dependent upon their shepherd. Without a shepherd it is very easy for sheep to be separated from the flock and to get into danger. Jesus reminds us that He is here to help us. He wants to keep us safe from everything that might lead us away from Him. We need Him more than a sheep needs its shepherd. When we rely on Him, we are able to do and be more than we ever thought possible. Jesus, our Good Shepherd, we trust in You!



### 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](#).

**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



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## ON THE CALENDAR

### Alternate Lunch Days

Families will have the option to order lunch for students on select days each month. In October, we will offer the following alternate lunch days:

- **Friday, October 4** - Little Caesar's Pizza Day (school provided snack for all students)
- **Thursday, October 10** - Pasta Fresca Lunch
- **Wednesday, October 16** - Swiss Chalet Lunch
- **Wednesday, October 23** - Carmine's Pizza Lunch
- **Friday, November 1** - Subway Lunch

All orders can be placed through **SchoolCash Online**. Thank you in advance for your participation.

### Curriculum Night

To better understand the routines and topics covered in your child's classroom, families are invited to attend a Curriculum Night on **Thursday, October 3 from 5:30-7:00 PM** at school. The evening will consist of 20 minute sessions where parents can travel to their child/children's classrooms. Teachers will be available to discuss information pertaining to student learning within the classroom.

This evening is intended to be informative, build community and strengthen the bond between school and home. **Parents are encouraged to make an appointment with teachers should they wish to discuss specifics pertaining to their own child's education.**

### Picture Day

Students in all classes will have individual and class pictures taken on **Tuesday, October 22**. More information will be sent home closer to the date.

### Happy Halloween!

On **Thursday, October 31** the students of Notre Dame Catholic School will be celebrating Halloween. This day will be designated as an alternate dress day - students may wear black and orange, or dress in costume.

Students are to arrive at school dressed in costume (or black and orange) as parents will not be permitted within the school. **Please be reminded that all costumes must reflect the moral tone of our Catholic school. Students will walk on the blacktop around the perimeter school for our Halloween parade (weather permitting) at 8:30 AM, shortly after announcements.**



#### **Some notes for your consideration:**

- All costumes should be "student-friendly" so students can independently change if necessary
- A change of clothes could be beneficial if students want to change out of their costume part way through the day

**As per our Health and Safety guidelines, parents are asked not to send any Halloween treats for their child's class, as they cannot be shared with other students. The school will provide a frozen yogurt treat for all students on that day.**

Thank you for your co-operation and understanding.



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## 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](#).

### Notre Dame Catholic School Council

The first meeting of the Notre Dame Catholic School Council took place on Tuesday, September 24. The school thanks all members for taking the time to be part of this important committee. All agendas and minutes will be posted on our school website. For anyone interested in joining our team of parents, it isn't too late. **The 2024-25 Catholic School Council members are:** Erin Lafford (Co-Chair), Jennifer Smith (Co-Chair), Steve Boskovic, Frances Conidi-Martin, Elizabeth Fraser, Maya Kanaan, Giannina Minaya, Melodie Renette, Diana Sanchez, and Tara Thornton.

There is still time to join Catholic School Council! Our next meeting is scheduled for **Monday, November 25 at 6:00 PM.**

### Thank you Delta Bingo!

Our students and staff are thankful for all that Delta Bingo gives back to the school. Students have benefitted from recess and PE equipment, learning materials, as well as classroom technology. We look forward to continuing our school fundraising efforts through our partnership.



**Thank you to Mrs. Thornton for organizing a team of volunteers who represent our school. Thank you to Mr. Senese, Mrs. Fraser, and Mrs. Lafford for donating their time for the benefit of our students!**

The school is always 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.

### Student Consent Forms

As the school year is underway, students will have the opportunity to join in many learning activities here at school or on educational field trips. The school is asking that parents complete the following consent forms ([found on School Cash Online](#)), to ensure the school has the necessary information to keep your child/children safe.

**Parent Consent - Student Personal Information (all K-8 students)** - This form allows us to know parent preferences when it comes to using a child's information (ie. images, etc) in school publications such as social media posts, class photos and the school yearbook.

**NCDSB Athletic Participation /Acknowledgement of Risk Form (Gr. 4-8 students only)** - This form explains risks associated with participation in activities happening on school property and allows parent to indicate preferences regarding a child's participation in day-to-day activities (ie. intramurals, sports team tryouts, etc). Educational Field Trips and activities happening off school property will have a separate consent form sent home.



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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 at <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.

### Our Lady of the Scapular Parish Mass Times

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

### Notre Dame on Social Media

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