



# St. Andrew Catholic School

December 2024

## School Information

**Principal:** Mrs. M. Ruggi Dietsch

**Superintendent of Education:** Mrs. K. Kinney

**Website:** <https://schools.niagaracatholic.ca/standrew/>

**Instagram:** @standrewjags16

**Location:** 16 St. Andrew Street Welland L3B 1E1

**Phone:** 905-732-5663

## Principal Message

In the month of December we prepare to remember and celebrate the birth of Jesus. There are many ways throughout this season of Advent that we can come to know Jesus more fully. It is a time of great excitement and anticipation.



"Do not be afraid...I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day, in the city of David, a saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord."  
(Luke 2:11)

Let us not be afraid this Advent season to get to know Jesus, not only as the baby in the manger, God made flesh, but also as our king and saviour!

The staff of St. Andrew Catholic School is grateful to every family for entrusting the precious gift of your children to us and we wish you all the peace, joy, and love of this most blessed season.  
Mrs. Ruggi Dietsch

# Christmas Angel Tree

Our Angel Tree supporting families in our school community is up in the front foyer. If you would like to purchase a Christmas gift for a person on the tree, please let your child's classroom teacher know how many tags you would like, or you can email Mrs. Levert at [lorena.levert@ncdsb.com](mailto:lorena.levert@ncdsb.com) and she will send home the tag(s).

All gifts are due back to the school by Friday, December 13, 2024.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the school.



Thank you for supporting families within our school!

## Grade 8 Confirmation



Confirmation Registration Package and Fee Due on Friday, December 13, 2024. A reminder that the Confirmation Inscription Mass is on Sunday, January 19th at 11:00am.

## St. Andrew Catholic School Council

Thank you to our St. Andrew Catholic School Council for meeting on Tuesday, November 26th at 6:00 pm in our school library. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, February 18, 2025.

## French Immersion

The Niagara Catholic District School Board is proud to offer parents and students the opportunity to enroll in a French Immersion (FI) Program. This program is designed specifically for students whose first language is not French. French Immersion in the Niagara Catholic District School Board is an optional program.



All 5 French Immersion Catholic Elementary Schools will accept registrations for Grade 1 along with Kindergarten for September 2025.

Listed below are the designated elementary schools that provide the French Immersion Program:

- Notre Dame Catholic Elementary, Niagara Falls – Begins in Kindergarten
- Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Elementary, Niagara Falls - Begins in Kindergarten
- Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary, St. Catharines - Begins in Kindergarten
- Alexander Kuska Catholic Elementary, Welland – Begins in Kindergarten
- St. John Catholic Elementary, Beamsville – Begins in Kindergarten

## Transportation

All students enrolled in the French Immersion Program will be provided with transportation to their local Family of Schools designated French Immersion School site in accordance with the Board's Transportation of Student Policy #500.2. Designated Family of Schools French Immersion schools can be located at the following link [www.niagaracatholic.ca](http://www.niagaracatholic.ca).

## French Immersion On-line Open Pre-Registration

- On-line open pre-registration window for students new to French Immersion in September 2024: **Monday, January 13th, 2025 at 7:30 a.m. through to Friday, January 31st, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.**
- Pre-registrations outside of this window will not be considered.
- There are a limited number of spots available for students wishing to enter the French Immersion Program.
- Pre-registrations are on a first come, first serve basis. Each pre-registration will receive a time-stamp.
- Please visit [www.niagaracatholic.ca](http://www.niagaracatholic.ca) and click the first thumbnail-Registration. Then, click the Let's get you registered! link at the bottom of the page.
- An account must be created first through edsembli CONNECT to access the registration forms. This account can be created ahead of time.

## Selection Process

In accordance with the Board's Admission of Elementary and Secondary Students Policy #301.1, there are a limited number of spots available for students entering the program. Eligible spots will be determined on a first come, first serve basis for each elementary French Immersion school site. Applicants will receive notification by **Monday, March 3rd, 2025** to inform them if their children have been placed in the French Immersion program OR if their children have been placed on the school's waitlist. Applicants who have not received notification by **March 3rd, 2025** are to contact the elementary French Immersion school site directly.

## Called By Name: Follow Me

Our Niagara Catholic's new theological theme for 2022-2026 will be "Called by Name". Our theological theme will direct us through daily prayer, faith formation sessions and school and system faith-centered events for the upcoming years:

2022-2023 Called by Name: You are Mine

2023-2024 Called by Name: Hear My Voice

**2024-2025 Called by Name: Follow Me**

In the Gospel we hear the calling of Jesus' Apostle Matthew. Matthew was a tax collector and, just like now, tax collectors weren't especially popular. But this didn't stop Jesus from calling Matthew to be His disciple. Jesus saw the potential in him and this was enough for Matthew to leave his job and immediately begin following Jesus.

Jesus sees the potential in each of us, despite the mistakes we make. By choosing to follow Jesus, we are turning away from sin and striving to become the saints He calls us to be.



## St. Andrew Balanced Day Schedule

9:05 am Supervision Begins

9:15 am Entry Bell

9:15 am-11:25 am Instructional Block 1

11:25 am -11:45 am Recess

11:45 am -12:05 Nutrition Break1

12:05 am- 1:25 pm Instructional Block 2

1:25 pm - 1:45 pm Recess  
1:45 pm-2:05 pm Nutrition Break2  
2:05 pm - 3:25 pm Instructional Block 3  
3:35 pm Dismissal

## Respectful Interaction at St. Andrew

St. Andrew is rooted in Catholic and Christian values. Our goal is to create a safe, kind and loving environment for all who work, learn, and assist with our school community. Aggressive or hostile behaviour or language toward, staff, students or our community helpers will not be tolerated. While we welcome feedback, concerns and opinions it is the expectation that all staff, students, parents, guardians and community helpers communicate their needs and concerns with one another in a respectful and peaceful manner whether through email, on the phone or face-to-face. Adherence to this expectation is vital in order to create a community which can solve problems and help one another achieve success.

## Cell Phones at 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. This involves the use of cell phones and vaping.

At St. Andrew, students from Kindergarten to Grade 6 will not be required to use cell phones for academic purposes. Therefore, there is no need for these students to bring a cell phone to school. Each classroom as well as the main office, has a telephone for issues that require a more immediate response.

Grade 7 & 8 students who bring their cell phones to school must have the phone stored out of view and turned off during the instructional day. They may only use it if their teacher permits it for learning.

Any student that requires a cell phone for health or medical purposes, or to support special education needs are permitted to use their cell phone as necessary with prior permission.

At St. Andrew, each Grade 7 & 8 teacher will have a place for students to store their phone for safe keeping during non-instructional times. 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.

## Standardized Dress Code

A reminder that students are expected to adhere to Niagara Catholic's Standardized Dress Code. An additional copy of the Dress Code is attached below. According to the Standardized Dress Code, the following items are **not permitted**:

- Black Pants
- T-shirts of any kind (spiritwear exempt)
- Faded or torn Jeans. (Jeans must be dark blue and in good condition)
- Shorts and Skirts must be knee length

Your cooperation is important and appreciated.



# 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 skorts, 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.

## Spirit Wear

# ST. ANDREW JAGUARS 2024-2025 SPIRITWEAR

## Cotton/Poly Jersey Style Polo Shirt

Embroidered  
with  
St. Andrew  
Jaguars Logo  
on Left Chest



White



Navy

Youth #8800B  
\$20.49  
Adult #8800  
\$20.49

Available  
Colours:  
Navy &  
White

## Core 365 Dri-Fit 100% Polyester Polo Shirt

Youth #88181Y

Ladies' #78181

Adult #88181

Embroidered  
with  
St. Andrew  
Jaguars Logo  
on Left Chest



Navy



White



Navy

\$29.95  
Same Price  
for all Sizes

Available  
Colours:  
Navy &  
White

## 50/50 Pull-Over Hooded Sweatshirt, 13.0 oz.

Printed  
with  
St. Andrew  
Jaguars  
Logo  
on Front



Navy



Dark Heather



Navy

Youth  
#18500B  
\$32.95  
Adult  
#18500  
\$34.95

Available  
Colours:  
Navy &  
Dark Heather

## 50/50 Full-Zip Hooded Sweatshirt, 13.0 oz.

Embroidered  
with  
St. Andrew  
Jaguars Logo  
on Left Chest



Navy



Dark Heather



Navy

Youth  
#18600B  
\$39.95  
Adult  
#18600  
\$42.95

Available  
Colours:  
Navy &  
Dark Heather

Order On-Line at [www.bigbearspritwear.com](http://www.bigbearspritwear.com)

No Refunds or Exchanges on Decorated or Personalized Products

Sizing Charts available at each product online | Delivery to your School Option available



6182 Dixon Street  
Niagara Falls, ON, L2G 2L6  
Ph: 905-357-7132  
csr@bigbearspritwear.com



School Apparel - Gradhoodies

Big Bear Spirit Wear, a board-approved supplier for spirit wear items will now supply St. Andrew School Spirit Wear. They offer a wide range of dress-code approved items through their online store at: <https://www.bigbearspritwear.com> Students are allowed to wear the Jaguar hoodie to school and these are a worthwhile purchases for the cold weather months. **Please label all clothing**

items that come to school so that we can return all misplaced items to the correct person. Please note items may not yet be visible on the website.

## ECO Schools

### Waste Free Wednesdays

Every Wednesday is Waste Free Wednesday. Students are encouraged to pack lunches in reusable containers.



International  
Day of  
Persons with  
Disabilities  
3 DECEMBER

### International Day of Persons with Disabilities

International Day of Persons with Disabilities is celebrated every year on **3 December**. The day is about promoting the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities. This day is about promoting the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities at

every level of society and development, and to raise awareness of the situation of persons with disabilities in all aspects of political, social, economic, and cultural life.

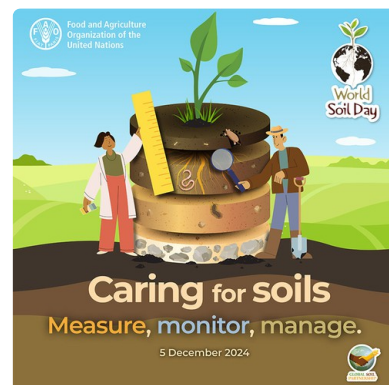
## World Soil Day

On December 5<sup>th</sup> we celebrate World Soil Day! Our planet's survival depends on the precious link with soil. Over 95 percent of our food comes from soils. Besides, they supply 15 of the 18 naturally occurring chemical elements essential to plants.

However, in the face of climate change and human activity, our soils are being degraded. Erosion disrupts the natural balance, reducing water infiltration and availability for all forms of life, and decreasing the level of vitamins and nutrients in food.

Sustainable soil management practices, such as minimum tillage, crop rotation, organic matter addition, and cover cropping, improve soil health, reduce erosion and pollution, and enhance water infiltration and storage. These practices also preserve soil biodiversity, improve fertility, and contribute to carbon sequestration, playing a crucial role in the fight against climate change.

World Soil Day 2024 (WSD) campaign, under the theme [Caring for soils: measure, monitor, manage](#) underscores the importance of accurate soil data and information in understanding soils characteristics and supporting informed decision-making on sustainable soil management for food security.



## Medications & Allergies

Regulations state that school personnel cannot administer any drugs, without written permission from the parent and a doctor. If there is a need for such medication, please contact the school to obtain the forms which must be filled out and signed by both the doctor and the parent. This record is required by School Board Regulations and must be kept on file. Please notify the school if medication distribution stops so that all medication can be returned to the family as soon as possible.

Please remember that St. Andrew School is an Allergen Aware School. Please do not send products with nuts or nut traces with your child.



### Nut Free School Lunches and Tips for Packing Lunches

The challenge for all parents is to send foods that are nutritious and nut free and that will keep our kids energized and alert at school all day. They also need to be tasty, so that our kids will actually want to eat them! Those can feel like competing goals at times. Here are tips for making school lunch easier:

1. Try to include a variety of colours and textures to make the food appealing to kids. You want them to actually eat what you've packed!
2. Use up those dinner remnants. Brown rice can be tossed with black beans and served at room temperature. Cooked pasta can

be transformed into a pasta salad. Chicken can be sliced and wrapped up in a tortilla with lettuce and veggies.

3. Include a sweet treat that is healthier than pre-packaged foods. Homemade granola bars, whole wheat muffins, or even homemade doughnuts are fun treats that are worlds better than anything you can buy at the store!

4. No matter what, always make sure lunch is balanced by including fruit, vegetable, protein, and carbohydrate!

## Student Attendance and Safe Arrival

St. Andrew School and all schools throughout Niagara Catholic use the Safe Arrival program to manage student attendance reporting. The Safe Arrival program reduces the time it takes to verify student attendance by making it easier for you to report your child's absence and easier for staff to respond to unexplained student absences. The Safe Arrival program allows parents to report their child's absence quickly and conveniently in one of three ways:

1) Use the SafeArrival website, <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca>. The first time you use the website, select Sign Up to create your account using your email address. After logging in, select the Attendance tab to Report an Absence.

2) Using your mobile device, download and install the SchoolMessenger app from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store (or from the links at <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca>). Use your new login information to access your account. Select Attendance to Report an Absence. If you would like to receive attendance notifications on your mobile device please enable Push Notifications in the Settings area of the app. The document Using the SchoolMessenger app will give instructions for using the App.

3) The toll-free number 844-287-6287 will allow you to report your child absent without creating an account.

**Please do not call the school to report your child's absence.**

## Niagara Region Public Health School Health Newsletter

### ROUTINE VACCINATION AND IMMUNIZATIONS

Protect your children from vaccine preventable diseases this school year by ensuring their routine vaccinations are up to date.

If your child missed their opportunity to receive any routine vaccine(s), it is important to get them back on schedule.

Learn more about the [vaccinations for children in school](#) and which vaccine(s) your child may need on our [website](#).

All vaccines for children under 18 years of age must be [reported to Public Health](#). Every time your child receives a vaccine, you must report it:

- [Online](#)
- Phone: 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7425

Please note, you do not need to report any COVID-19 or influenza (flu) vaccination details.





## HOLIDAY EXPECTATIONS

The holidays may be a difficult time for your child. A change in routine and different holiday expectations can be stressful and isolating. Here are some tips and resources to share with your child throughout the holiday season:

1. Validate Feelings: Let your child know it's okay not to feel happy during the holidays. Their thoughts and emotions are valid. Encourage open conversations about any concerns.

2. Find Quiet Relief: When things get overwhelming, suggest to your child that they find a quiet place to take a break. This can help alleviate anxious feelings.

3. Explore Support: Help your child discover available support services and guide them in accessing what they believe will be most beneficial.

For more information about the different services available for Youth in Niagara visit:

<https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/schools/youth-services.aspx>

## DISCOVER THE BENEFITS OF YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY!

Looking for a safe and welcoming space to relax, learn, and connect? Libraries offer more than just books—they're a free resource for promoting mental wellbeing, accessing technology, and engaging with your community. Whether you're seeking a quiet spot to unwind, attending a workshop, or discovering new hobbies, your library has something for everyone. Visit your local library today!

Learn more about libraries in your area and the services they offer by visiting: [Public Libraries Niagara](#).



## GIVING BACK

Supporting families in need during the holiday season is a wonderful way for the community to come together and make a positive impact. Here are some charities and organizations in the Niagara Region, or those that have a presence in the area, that you can consider supporting:



[St. Vincent de Paul](#)

[Community Care](#)

[Newark Neighbours](#)

[Salvation Army Community and Family Services](#)

[Pelham Cares](#)

[The HOPE Centre](#)

[Project SHARE](#)

[Grimsby Benevolent Fund](#)

[Port Care Reach Out Centre](#)

[Open Arms Mission](#)

[United Way Niagara](#)

[Niagara Nutrition Partners](#)

**REMINDER- No single serve plastics available**



Parents are reminded to ensure that their child(ren) have the required utensils needed to eat their snacks/lunches as well as a **reusable water bottle** they can fill at the hydration stations. We are no longer permitted to distribute plastic/styrofoam spoons, forks or cups to students that do not have them.

## Indoor Shoes

Please ensure that your child(ren) have a pair of indoor running shoes at school. Students are expected to change their footwear when they enter their classroom. This will not only keep the floors dry but also clean. Students that do not have indoor running shoes will not be permitted to participate in gym.

## Before School Supervision

Please be advised that before-school supervision does not begin until 9:05 am. Also note, if you are dropping off your child after 9:15 am they will need to go in the main entrance.

## Parking Lot Procedures



- Parents dropping off children **are to use the parking lot at the back of the church and walk their child to the gate.**
- Parents are not to block buses.
- Please note that students must enter through their proper entrance at the back of the school unless they are arriving late (**after 9:15 am**).
- If you are walking your child to school please use the gate on the south side of the building (Baseball Diamond). Please do not walk between the buses and the school.

## School Cash Online

Please ensure that use of School Cash online for the purchase/payment of food days, field trips, donations etc. This is a safe and easy-to-use online program that allows you to make convenient and secure payments from the comfort of your own home. To register, please click [here](#)  
All lunch orders are to be ordered through School Cash Online.



**Maria Ruggi Dietsch**

Maria is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

