



Notre Dame Catholic School



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

FAITH ♦ WISDOM ♦ HUMILITY

January 2025

Principal's Message

Dear Notre Dame Families,

Happy New Year! Bonne Année! I hope everyone is enjoying a safe and memorable Christmas Break with family and friends. On behalf of the Notre Dame Catholic School staff, we wish our entire community a blessed new year full of happiness, peace and prosperity.

A Prayer for New Beginnings

Consult not your fears, but your hopes and your dreams.

Think not about your frustrations, but about your unfulfilled potential.

Concern not yourself with what you tried and failed in, but what it is still possible to do.

Now is the time to put aside past and present setbacks and failures and look with confidence to the new day called tomorrow.

~ Pope John XXIII

All the best,
E. Roussos

Theological Theme Called by Name: Follow Me

In the Gospel of Matthew we hear Jesus teaching his disciples saying, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven"



Jesus called the disciples, as He calls each of us, to follow Him by living the Beatitudes. Jesus **IS** the Beatitudes. Looking at Him you see what it means to be poor in spirit, gentle and merciful, to mourn, to care for what is right, to be pure in heart, to make peace, and to be persecuted. This is why he has the right to say, "Come, follow me!" He does not simply say, "Do what I say." He says, "Come, follow me!"

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](#).

Welcome Back!

**We will see everyone
Monday, January 6, 2025!**

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



ON THE CALENDAR

Alternate Lunch Days

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

- January 8 - Little Caesar's Pizza
- January 15 - Subway
- January 21 - Pasta Fresca
- January 29 - Swiss Chalet

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

Grade 8 Grad Photos



Our Grade 8 students will be having their graduation photos taken on **Tuesday, January 21**. Photos will be taken at school. If your child is unable to make this date, please contact Edge Imaging directly for more information.

Family Literacy Day



Family Literacy Day takes place every **January 27** to raise awareness about the importance of reading and engaging in other literacy-related activities as a family. This year, the theme is *Learn to be Green, Together*. Make a pledge as a family to learn ways to be more green. Use less electricity, commute together, and reuse items. Being green together is a fun way to learn as a family while being kind to the environment. For more information and activity ideas for the entire family, click [here](#).

Notre Dame Catholic School Council

The Notre Dame Catholic School Council is part of what makes our Catholic school so special. We will have our next meeting of the year on **January 27** in the Notre Dame school library. If you are not part of our Catholic School Council team and would like to attend the meeting, please contact the school office.





ON THE CALENDAR

Saint Paul High School Transition Activities



Saint Paul High School Transition Activities

Our Grade 8 students have started their transition from being part of the Notre Dame family to joining the Saint Paul family. Students have been visited by school administrators Mrs. Majka, Mr. Folinazzo and Mrs. Pirosko to introduce students to the excellence they can expect when attending Saint Paul. Notre Dame students will begin experiencing the Patriot culture by attending a variety of events.

Advanced Placement & Course Offering Information Session

Saint Paul High School will be hosting a Grade 8 Advanced Placement Information Session on **Tuesday, January 14 from 6:00-7:00 PM**. Parents will be given in-depth information on all programs offered to Grade 9 students - Advanced Placement, De-streaming, French Immersion, Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) and eLearning. The information is designed to help students choose the best path for them as they begin the next chapter of their Catholic Education journey.

Course Selection

Saint Paul staff will visit Notre Dame and present information to students pertaining to course selection for their Grade 9 year on **January 22**.

Kindergarten

Kindergarten Open House

For our community's advanced planning, Notre Dame Catholic Elementary School will be hosting a Kindergarten Open House on **Thursday, February 6** from 9 AM - 6 PM for students starting Year 1 of the Kindergarten program in September 2025. More details will follow next month.



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](#).

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.

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

Each year students 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.

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](#)



Notre Dame Catholic School



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 our students, 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.