



Sacred Heart Spectator



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 Principal: Mr. J. Romeo School Secretary: Mrs. D. Plyley
 Superintendent: Mr. D. Massi Parish Priest: Fr. Stuart MacDonald

January 2025



A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

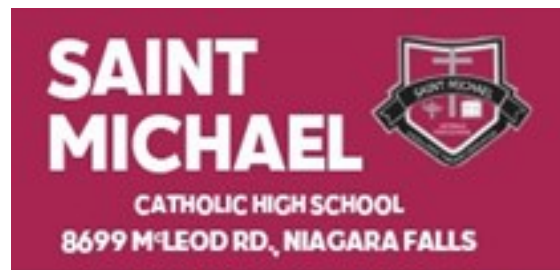
Dear God,
 May my life be of use to You this year.
 May my talents and intelligence help heal the world.
 May I remember how much I have by remembering how much I have to give.
 May I not be tempted by smaller things but serve my larger mission of forgiveness and love. Thus shall I be lifted, God,
 and know joy this coming year and beyond.
 Bless me and work through me to bless the entire world.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

All registrations for Kindergarten 2025 will be completed online. Please visit the Niagara Catholic website niagaracatholic.ca and click on [REGISTER](#) button on the homepage (also linked above)

If you have a child born in 2021, or you know of someone who lives in our boundary area and they have a child born in 2021, they are eligible for Year One Kindergarten.

We will be hosting a **Kindergarten Open House** for those parents who have registered for September 2025 as well as those interested in enrolling their child in Kindergarten for next year on **Thursday February 6, 2025 from 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.**



OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday Jan. 15 • 6PM



SACRED HEART PARISH MASS TIMES

- **Saturday:** 5:00 p.m.
- **Sunday:** 11:00 a.m.

SACRED HEART ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Follow Sacred Heart on Instagram to get the latest updates: [@sacredheartniagara](https://www.instagram.com/sacredheartniagara)

Sacred Heart Catholic Elementary
A proud member of the Saint Michael Catholic High School Family of Schools



Sacred Heart Catholic



ON THE CALENDAR

PA DAY – Friday January 17 2025

Friday January 17, 2025 is a professional activity day. There is no school for students on this date.



HOT LUNCHES & MILK PROGRAM

Hot lunches this month (orders are processed via School Cash Online):

Pizza Day – Thursday Jan 16, 2025 (orders are due Jan 13)

Sub Day – Thursday Jan 30, 2025 (orders are due Jan 27)



FRENCH IMMERSION REGISTRATION

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

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 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.



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WITH MANY THANKS!!!

ANGEL TREE TOY DRIVE

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our very generous Sacred Heart Catholic School community for once again stepping up to lead our community in showing that giving from the heart is indeed a great gift. There were many donations that were brought in throughout the grade levels and they have made their way to the St. Vincent de Paul Society and will end up assisting families during the Christmas season. Thank you Mrs. Maloney and her Gr. 8 class with assisting in the collecting and delivering of these much needed items!





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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

SACRED HEART SPIRIT WEAR

Please note that Bigbear Spiritwear will now be supplying Spirit wear and dress code items that will be available for sale via their website. Please access [Sacred Heart's](#) direct link.



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](#).

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.

WINTER WEATHER AND WINTER RULES

Parents should be advised that going out for recess during the winter season will be a normal thing each day. In extreme weather cases, children will remain indoors. Proper attire must be worn, i.e., boots, gloves, hats, scarf, etc. As is always the case, it is imperative that we all emphasize the dangers of throwing snow in any form. Please make sure your children are aware of the possible dangers of throwing snow at school. No one wants anyone seriously hurt. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated. Please remember that snow is nice to look at, but should be left on the ground.



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.



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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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.

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, extra-curricular 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 Sacred Heart Catholic Elementary

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



January 2025

Niagara Region Public Health School Health Newsletter

January 2025

Access and Update Your Child's Immunization Record


Niagara Region Public Health would like to remind parents and guardians to keep their children's immunization record up to date. This can easily be completed by using [Immunization Connect](#).

Immunization Connect is a quick, confidential, and secure system where you can access your child's vaccination record and report vaccines.

Report every time your child receives a vaccine directly to Public Health with *Immunization Connect*. **Health care**

providers do not do this for you.

Visit niagararegion.ca/vaccines for other ways to report vaccination information to Public Health.



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SCAN QR CODE for more immunization information

Wintertime Well-Being

As the weather changes and days get shorter, many people, including children and youth, may feel more anxious, depressed, or tired. It's essential to be mindful of our emotional well-being. Beat the winter blues and check out these simple activities to boost your and your child's mood.

- [8 feel good tips to boost your mood](#)
- [Easy and Fun Mental Health Activities for Home](#)
- [Active Play ideas - Active4Life](#)

Snow Safety for Kids

Embrace the thrill of tobogganing this winter, but remember, safety comes first! Whether your child is racing down the slopes or enjoying a leisurely ride, follow these snow safety tips to make the most of winter adventures:

1. **Gear Up:** Wear appropriate winter gear such as gloves, and sturdy boots to provide protection from the cold.
2. **Choose Safe Hills:** Pick tobogganing hills that are marked as a safe place and free from objects such as trees, rocks, or traffic. Avoid hills with steep inclines or crowded areas.
3. **Follow Etiquette:** Be mindful of others on the hill. Encourage your child to wait their turn and choose a clear path to avoid collisions. Respect the space and safety of fellow tobogganers.
4. **Think Safety:** Help your child to sit facing forward on the toboggan with their feet first. Remind tobogganers to hold on firmly and avoid standing or kneeling during the ride.
5. **Stay Visible:** If tobogganing in the evening, ensure visibility. Wear bright colours and consider adding reflective elements to clothing.

Remember, tobogganing is all about having fun, but safety ensures that the enjoyment lasts throughout the winter season. So, bundle up, find a safe hill, and make lasting memories with your child and friends in the winter wonderland!

