

St. Andrew Catholic School

January 2025

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

As we welcome the New Year, I want to extend my heartfelt wishes to each of you for a joyful and prosperous 2025. I hope you had a restful and enjoyable holiday season with your loved ones. The start of a new year is always a time of reflection and renewal, and I am excited about the opportunities and experiences that lie ahead for our school community.

Looking forward to 2025, we are committed to continuing our mission of providing a nurturing and enriching environment for our students. We have many exciting events and initiatives planned that will foster growth, learning, and a strong sense of community. Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership. Together, let's make this year one of our best yet!

Let us also begin this year with a prayer:

Heavenly Father, We thank You for the blessings of the past year and ask for Your guidance and protection in the year to come. May Your light shine upon our school community, filling our hearts with love, peace, and joy. Help us to grow in faith, hope, and charity, and to always seek Your will in all that we do. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mrs. Ruggi Dietsch

Thank You! Christmas Angel Donations

Thank you to all that supported Our Angel Tree by donating gifts and gift cards. We truly appreciate your support and Thank you for making Christmas special for the selected families. Thank you for supporting families within our school!



Grade 8 Confirmation



There will be a Confirmation Inscription Mass is on Sunday, January 19th at 11:00am.

GRADE 8 OPEN HOUSE- Notre Dame



**GRADE 8
OPEN HOUSE
2025-2026
SCHOOL YEAR**

**Tuesday, January 14th, 2025
6:30pm**

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Tour the school
- Meet teachers
- Academic highlights and presentations
- Learn about sports and clubs

MORE INFORMATION

- ☎ (905) 788-3060
- 🌐 www.notredamecollege.ca
- 📍 64 Smith St, Welland, ON



St. Andrew Catholic School Council

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, February 18, 2025.

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.

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.



Niagara Nutrition Partners

Niagara Nutrition Partners

Niagara Nutrition Partners (NNP) is a not-for-profit program that was established in 1998 and is a Region-wide initiative that offers support and coordination for student nutrition programs.

At St. Andrew School, we offer snacks to all students throughout the school day. Thank you to our Niagara Nutrition Partners for their support each year!

We are asking parents to consider donating to this great cause so we can continue to sustain and help maintain this program throughout the year. Please Donate through School Cash Online. This will be open on School Cash Online all year.

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 skirts, 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.bigbearspiritwear.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@bigbearspiritwear.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.bigbearspiritwear.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

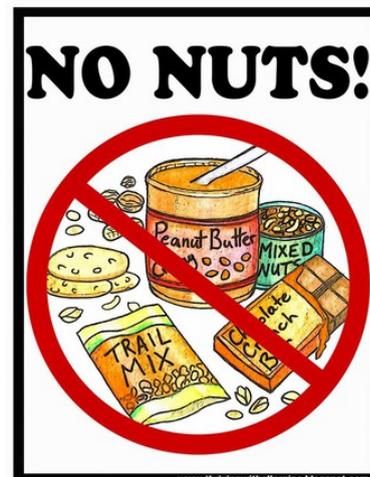
Waste Free Wednesdays

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

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

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

Niagara Region

Help Keep the Classroom Germ Free – Stay Home When Sick

Respiratory viruses like the flu and COVID-19 are spreading in our community. Since these viruses can have similar symptoms, it can be hard to tell what you are infected with based on just symptoms alone.

If your child is sick, they should stay home from school until:

- They have no fever, without the use of fever reducing medication and
- Their symptoms have been improving for at least 24 hours or 48 hours if they have nausea, vomiting and / or diarrhea and
- They don't develop any new symptoms

By keeping your child home when sick, you help prevent them from spreading whatever infection they have to others.

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!

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

