



Welcome to St. Philomena School!

Information General Public - Home of Bulldogs



St. Philomena

<https://schools.niagaracatholic.ca/stphilomena/>



Niagara Catholic District School Board

[Home - Niagara Catholic District School Board](https://www.niagaracatholic.ca/)



Lakeshore Family of Schools

<https://www.lakeshorecatholic.ca/>

Learning & Growing Together – School Motto

School information

Principal: Mrs. A Cybula. **Secretary:** Ms. J Smith

Superintendent: Mr. J Zaroda School

School Email: st.philomena@ncdsb.com

Phone: 905-871-1842 Address: [1332 Philips Street, Fort Erie](https://www.google.com/maps/place/1332+Philips+Street,+Fort+Erie,+ON)

Google Maps: <https://goo.gl/maps/jNYmwhF35EJo9Uw49>

School Hours:



9:15 start,

Nutrition Break 11:30 eating, 11:50 outside,

Nutrition Break 1:30 eating, 1:50 outside,

3:20 Kindergarten Dismissal & Siblings,

3:35 dismissal all students.

9:00 - 9:15 - Arrival time and staff on supervision to greet/supervise students.

Optional Spirit Wear: bigbearspritwear.com

Please ensure we have the current address and contact information on file at the main office. All information is sent through email - school messenger - if you can your email address, we need to update it at the school as well so you can continue to receive this vital information.

Respectful Interactions - Niagara Catholic Schools

St. Philomena Catholic School 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.

Principal Message - May Message

Dear Families,

Welcome to St. Philomena Catholic Elementary School! We are delighted to have your children join our community, from our youngest learners in Kindergarten to our enthusiastic students in Grade 8. At St. Philomena, we are committed to creating a nurturing and engaging environment where every child can thrive academically, spiritually, and socially.

With God
ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE
-MATTHEW 19:26-

Our school is a place where curiosity is encouraged, friendships are formed, and values are instilled. We believe in the importance of a strong partnership between home and school, and we look forward to working closely with you to support your child's educational journey.

For our Kindergarten families, we understand that starting school is a big step, and we are here to make this transition as smooth and joyful as possible. For our older students, we are excited to continue fostering their growth and preparing them for the future. Additionally, we are proud to share that Lakeshore Catholic High School is our feeder high school, ensuring a seamless transition for our Grade 8 students as they move on to Grade 9.

Please feel free to reach out to us with any questions or concerns. We are here to help and ensure that your family's experience at St. Philomena is positive and enriching.
Once again, welcome to St. Philomena! We are excited to embark on this journey together.

Warm regards,
Mrs, A Cybula,
Principal
St. Philomena Catholic Elementary School

Registered Families will receive on-going updates via school messenger.

St. Michael Catholic Church

St. Michael Roman Catholic Church

Pastor: Fr. Patrick Gilmurry

Email: <mailto:stmichaels1@bellnet.ca>

Location: 310 Central Avenue, Fort Erie, ON

Phone: [905-358-3791](tel:905-358-3791)

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/StMichaelRomanCatholicFortErie>

****** Non-Catholic students interested in being baptized Catholic, please call the parish before end of November of the same school year, if you wish to be considered for Sacraments.



Safe Arrival Website & App

SAFE ARRIVAL - REPORTING ASBENCES

Safe Arrival: Parent/guardian must report their child's absence through School Messenger - the safe arrival system before *8:30 a.m. each day*. The system can also inform the school that there is an early pickup during the school day for appointments/etc. This can be done in advance for upcoming appointments. The system will keep calling parent/guardian if an absence from school is not reported to verify the reason why.

**** Please do not email the classroom teacher or the school's email address to report absences, early pick ups and dismissals. All changes to dismissal (end of day pick up) are needed by 3:15 pm to ensure safe departure of your student. The reason is that classroom teachers are focused on the instructional day and may not be able to check emails until after dismissal. We understand**

how busy families are and that last minute arrangements are needed. If you are unable to add this information to safe arrival, please call the school so that Ms. Smith, the secretary can assist you.

Call the toll-free number:

[1-844-287-6287](tel:1-844-287-6287)



Safe Arrival

Student achievement is linked to student attendance. School staff and parents/guardians have a shared responsibility to promote student attendance. Excused and unexcused absences can add up quickly and affect student learning. Niagara Catholic uses the Safe Arrival system to record a student's absence.

🔗 niagaracatholic.ca



Welcome Future Gators and Parents!

- We are proud to be part of the Lakeshore Catholic high school family of schools.
- Our grade 8 students transition easily to Grade 9 into Lakeshore Catholic.
- There are events during the school year where our students visit Lakeshore
- Learn more about Lakeshore by clicking on the logo that will bring you to their website.

Weekly Update

Families will receive regular updates regarding school happenings, fundraisers and events, it is important that you open the link and read over all included information carefully. Please contact the school directly if you have questions or the classroom teacher.



Elementary School Dress Code



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.

Nurturing **Souls** & Building **Minds**

Policy 302.6.10

The elementary standardized dress code shirts, either polo or oxford must be buttoned in a respectable manner. Visible t-shirts worn under the elementary standardized dress code top must be either navy blue or white. In addition, approved sweaters and hoodies embroidered and/or screened with the school logo are permitted to be worn as part of the elementary standardized dress code.

- Footwear: Running shoes are the recommended footwear with a full back and a closed toe. It is recommended that parents/guardians provide a pair of indoor shoes for physical education and indoor wear.
- Socks must be neutral in colour and worn with the elementary standardized dress code items at all times.
- Head Coverings: With the exception of a head covering as part of a religious observance, hats, hoods, are prohibited.
- Piercings and Tattoos: Visible facial piercing (excluding a small nose stud), excessive piercing, ear expanders and visible tattooing and branding containing an offensive message, advertisement, or slogan are prohibited.

Big Bear Spirit Wear - St. Philomena Spirit Wear Items to Order

There are more colour options for students to choose from when ordering Spirit Wear. In keeping with past practices at St. Philomena, student can wear any St. Philomena or Lakeshore Catholic

Spirit Wear items during the school day. These items can be from previous years as well. Check out Big Bear Spirit Wear for some of the new colours to choose.

<https://www.bigbearspritwear.com>

Student footwear and gym class & recess

INDOOR SHOES - Our field is muddy the majority of the school year - please send your child with indoor shoes.

Kindergarten, Gr. 1,2,3: Please bring in an extra set of clothes (socks too!) in a labelled ziplock bag to be kept at the school incase your child needs a change of clothes. Label all clothing, especially dress code items so they don't get mixed up with other students - this also includes shoes, backpacks and footwear.

Outdoor wear: students need to dress for the weather that day. We do go outside when it is lightly raining out as well. Students can wear any items for outdoor clothing - it does NOT have to be dress code colours.

SPLASH PANTS: Are highly recommended during Spring Season. We DO go outside with light rain. Splash pants can help to keep clothing free from mud and also help to keep your child dry.

Friendly Reminder:

Just a quick reminder to make sure you have indoor shoes. Outdoor shoes that have mud on them can not be worn in our gym. We've been seeing all kinds of shoes, but they're not always the best for slippery surfaces or playing in mud. ☺ Running shoes/rain boots help to keep your feet warm, dry, and safe,

Reminders for gym - Outdoor shoes can not be worn in the gym, especially when they have mud on them. To avoid sitting out - please ensure you have indoor running shoes for gym class. We've noticed our students bringing all sorts of footwear to school each day. Among the favourites are those comfy crocs , flip flops (warmer days) and slipper shoes! For gym sessions, we follow OPHEA safety guidelines, which means we kindly ask our students to lace up their trusty running shoes. If, for some reason, they've forgotten to wear the right footwear, no worries! They can still join in but are not actively able to participate.

Pick up and Drop Off

Early Dismissal - during school hours

If you are picking your child up during the school day - between 9:15 and 3:20 pm, you **MUST** park in the designated parking lot (where Kiss N Ride) is and come to the front door to pick up your child. Please do NOT park out front on Phillips Street - this is a no parking zone.

Kiss N Ride Drop off and Pick Up

Drop off Hours: 9:00 - 9:15 am and Pick up Hours 3:20 - 3:40 pm.

- **Kindergarten Pick up time is 3:20 pm - walk up the ramp by the doors in the Kiss N Ride parking lot (side entry door to the school) - staff will dismiss your child from this door with older siblings.**

1. Enter from Phillips Street

2. Park if you are getting out of vehicle to assist a student. **ONLY** cross down the lane closes to Phillips street and use the cross walk to go to the drop off area. Staff will be available to greet Kindergarten students and walk them to the Kindergarten Area.

3. Kiss N Ride Lane - for families NOT getting out of vehicle to assist child. Wait until you are close to the white line (where bright orange traffic markers are near entry doors). Students should exit from the right side of the vehicle.

- Please move up to the white line when their is space for pick up and drop off. All students/children are to exit from the passenger side (curb side) to avoid opening doors in the live drive through lane. This is especially important during peak times (8:50 - 9:20 am and 3:15 - 3:45pm).
- Accessible parking spots are for drivers with a permit. Please do not use this space for convenience if you do not have a permit.
- The **drive-through** lane has the right of way. Check for moving traffic **BEFORE** leaving Kiss n Ride lane to exit the parking lot.
- The drop-off lane moves quickly. Please wait to drive through rather than trying to wedge out to the drive-through lane during the busiest times. Drive slowly as a lot is happening in this area.
- **NO Parking on Phillips Street out-front of the school between 8am and 5pm - City of Fort Erie could ticket any cars that use this area to stop at any time during school hours.**

Bus students, Walkers, bikes and foot traffic

- Families walking kindergarten or other students can go up to the black gate off of Daytona Drive. Please be mindful this is an **ACTIVE** parking lot for **STAFF** only.
- Bus Students are dropped of on Daytona drive and walk over to the school through pathway
- **ALL BIKES, SCOOTERS** are kept in the area designated for these items - they are not able to be kept inside the school during the day. Proper safety gear is highly recommended.
- Walkers can arrive through the gate on Philips street or the main greeting area.
- Families choosing to wait prior to the bell are to stay behind the gate and are not able to go onto the tarmac/field area.

School Cash On-Line -Must Register -permission forms, payments and so much more

School Cash on-line

Please click on the link to register for school cash on-line. If you need assistance, please call the school. For hot lunches, toonie Tuesday's, fundraisers, milk program - all items are ordered through school cash on-line.



SchoolCashOnline.com: Welcome

SchoolCash Online

📄 ncdsb.schoolcashonline.com

NSTS - Bus Information

BUS - TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

Authorized Riders Only

- NSTS informed schools that only students listed on the passenger manifest will be permitted to ride the bus. This has always been an NSTS policy, however, it is even more important to stress now as the passenger manifest will ensure we have accurate student contact information in a time of emergency. Staff are not able to place a child onto a bus they are not assigned to ride.
- Kindergarten families must OPT in to receive transportation.
- Please contact the main office if your address or child care has changed. It takes ONE week from entry into our system for NSTS transportation to be effective.
- All bus students are dismissed at the bell. If your child is a bus student, the student ***will always be on the bus unless we receive a phone call or written communication through email/phone/note.*** If your child verbally tells us they are not taking the bus and we do not receive any communication from the parent/guardian, the student will be placed on the bus.

SCHOOL BUS NOTIFICATION APP - Delay notification

Please download the BusPlanner Delays app to receive notifications directly to your mobile device notifications. 1. Download the free BusPlanner Delays app via the Apple or Android app stores.

2. Choose either your school board or transportation authority:

- Niagara CDSB

3. Select "Specific Schools and all related Bus Routes"

4. Select the school(s) from the list. You will receive notifications for every bus run to the school(s) selected, including all AM and PM runs.

apple devices:

<https://apps.apple.com/ca/app/busplanner-delays/id1217589960>

android devices:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?>

[id=com.busplanner.delaysu0026hl=en_CAu0026gl=USu0026pli=1](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.busplanner.delaysu0026hl=en_CAu0026gl=USu0026pli=1)



Home

nsts.ca

Getting Involved - Parent Council and BINGO Volunteers



CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL - May 13th - Last one for this year

Chair - Michelle Coley

Staff representative - Mrs. Heximer.

Non-Teaching Staff Representative - Ms. Smith

Treasurer/Secretary - Mrs. Cybula - Principal

Parish Representative - Fr. Patrick

Parent Members: Katrina Paradise, Jennifer Crowley, Claudia Flacco, Elizabeth McCooey, Kaitlin Morgante, Leah Schatzline, Laura Van Koughnett, David Vankoughnett, Jamie D'Amelio, Cathrine Ioannoni Jackie Crown, Natalie Benn, Jessica Buttigieg, Adele Hawes

BINGO Parent Volunteer Group

Dear BINGO Volunteers,

We are incredibly grateful for the time, energy, and enthusiasm you bring to our BINGO nights. Your dedication ensures that our events are always a success, filled with fun and community spirit. Thank you for all that you do! With your dedication just under \$30,000 last year to support the students of St. Philomena school.



Thank you once again for your incredible support. We couldn't do it without you! Please email Mrs. Crowley if you would like to volunteer their year or have any questions related to BINGO Parent Group: at <mailto:jenniferlhcrowley@gmail.com>

Contacting Public Health Nurse

Public Health Nurses are available to answer questions and provide reliable advice about pregnancy, nutrition for all ages, child or parental mental health concerns, and provide connections to community supports through [Niagara Parents](#).

Individuals can connect with a Public Health Nurse at [Niagara Parents](#)

Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.:

· Call 905-684-7555 or 1-888-505-6074 ext.7555



- [Email](#)
- [Live Chat](#)
- [Facebook Messenger](#)



SPORT Tournament Dates Junior (4,5,6) & Intermediate (7,8)

Play like a champion! Niagara Catholic Athletics is being organized with a system wide focus this school year. Junior teams participate within Family of Schools and Intermediate team participate in Board Wide Tournaments -specific dates will be sent out once received by Physical Education Consultant. Sportsmanship and respect for all individuals is at the forefront of all sporting events.

Co-curricular activities are a fantastic way to extend the fun and learning beyond the classroom! We believe that creating a positive and productive classroom environment is the foundation for a great school experience. To ensure that everyone can fully enjoy and benefit from our teams, clubs, and activities, we ask that students first focus on their classroom work and positive interactions within the school. Once you've shown commitment and teamwork in the classroom, you'll be ready to shine in your extracurricular pursuits. Come join the excitement and make the most of your school experience!

Inclement Weather and School Closure

When the Director of Education/designate makes the decision to close a school, group of schools, all schools and/or Board facilities due to anticipated or occurring inclement weather, every effort will be made to announce any cancellations by 6am.

- NSTS will post bus cancellations
- Niagara Catholic Website & Social Media will also announce any closures
- A central message will be sent to all Niagara Catholic Families

In the event localized weather during the day occurs, families will be notified if there are any early school closures or further cancellations.

CELL PHONE USE AND EXPECTATIONS NIAGARA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

As we continue to foster a safe and positive learning environment for all students, I would like to remind you of the new regulations regarding cell phone use that have been implemented in Ontario schools.

To minimize distractions and maximize learning, cell phones are only permitted during instructional time when they are being used for educational purposes as directed by the teacher. Outside of these times, students are expected to keep their phones turned off and stored away (locker/backpack, etc). unless needed for documented learning needs and/or health related requirements. We kindly ask for your support in reinforcing this policy with your children and encouraging them to focus on their studies during school hours.

Your cooperation is essential in helping us maintain a healthy and respectful school environment. If you have any questions or concerns regarding these rules, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

ALLERGY AWARE SCHOOL - ANAPHYLAXES - please avoid sending nut products to school

Within our school community, there are several students who have a life-threatening allergy (anaphylaxis) to foods, predominantly to peanuts and tree nuts (e.g. almond, cashew, hazelnut, pistachio). We feel the best way to reduce the risk of accidental exposure to these students is to respectfully ask for the co-operation of the parents/guardians within this school community to avoid sending peanut butter or products with peanuts listed in the ingredients. There is a wide range of nutritious foods available to pack for your child. Visit www.eatrightontario.ca for suggestions. For more information on anaphylaxis, visit www.anaphylaxis.ca or www.aaia.ca We are working hard at preventing accidental exposure. It is also important that we have common routines throughout the entire school. **There are many shared areas (washrooms, fountains, gym, library, computers, etc.) students could come in contact with allergens.** The teachers will explain the importance of the following health and safety routines to the students in their classrooms:

1. Wash your hands with soap and water before and after eating.
2. Do not bring food that contains peanuts/tree nuts.
3. Do not accept food from other students especially if you have food allergies.
4. Snacks are not permitted outside in the schoolyard.
5. Dispose of all food waste properly.



Mrs. A Cybula

Mrs. Cybula is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters