

St. Andrew Catholic School

June 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

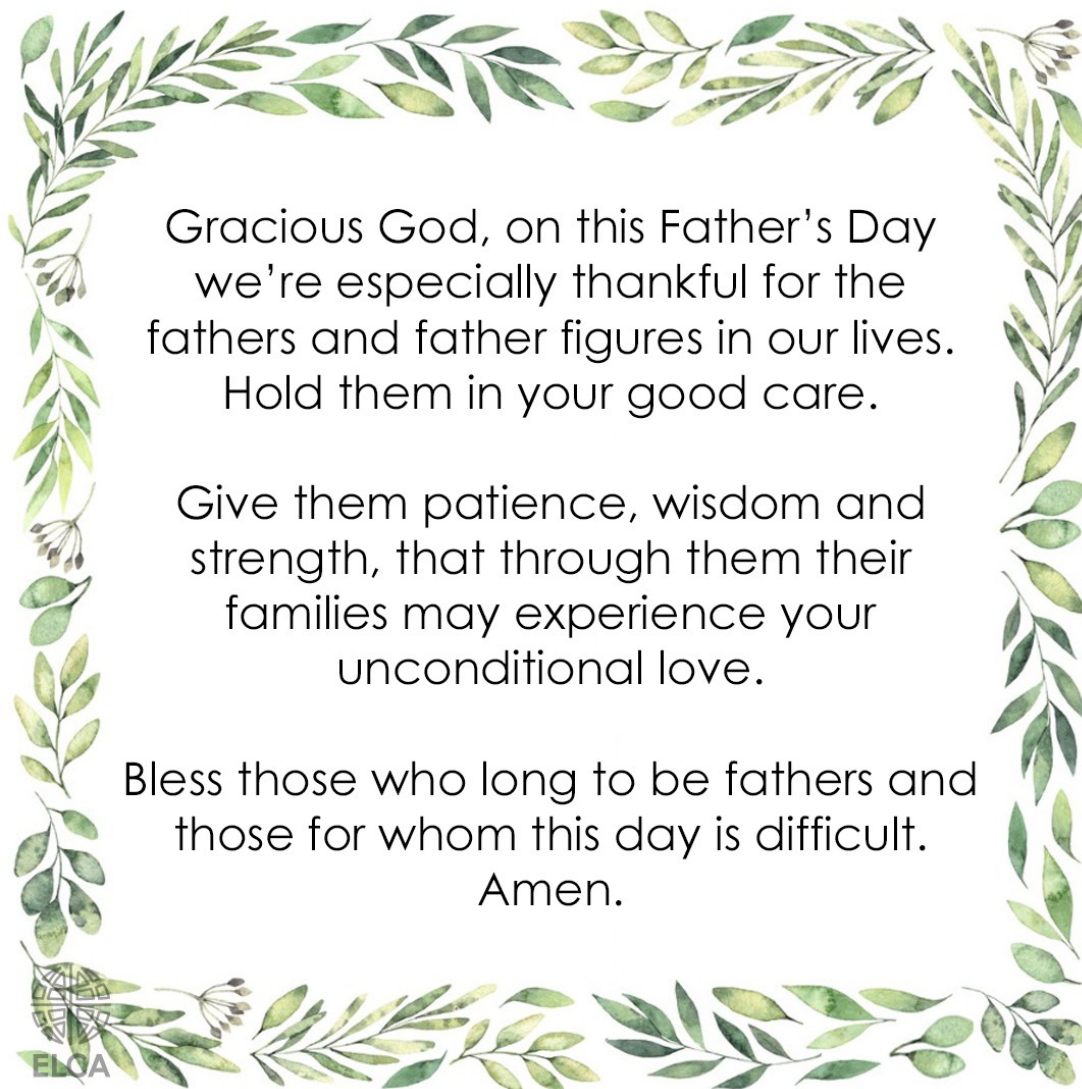
Phone: 905-732-5663

Principal's Message

As we step into the month of June, we are greeted with warm weather and a sense of anticipation. June is a month filled with excitement and celebration, making it a memorable time for everyone in our school community. One of the highlights of June is Father's Day, a special day dedicated to honouring and appreciating our amazing dads, stepdads, grandfathers, and uncles. It's an opportunity to express our love and gratitude for the strong and caring fathers who play such an important role in our lives. Whether it's through heartfelt cards, thoughtful gifts, or quality time spent together, Father's Day reminds us to cherish the bond we share with our fathers and celebrate the positive impact they have on our lives.

The end of June also marks the end of the school year, bringing a mix of emotions for students, teachers, and parents alike. As we bid farewell to another academic year, we reflect upon the growth and achievements we have witnessed within our classrooms. It's a time to recognize the hard work and dedication of our students, the commitment of our teachers, and the support of our families. As we embark on the last month of school, let's take a moment to celebrate the successes, friendships, and memories made throughout the year.

Wishing you all a joyful and fulfilling June!



National Indigenous History Month and Indigenous Peoples Day

Each June, we celebrate National Indigenous History Month and Indigenous Peoples Day (June 21st)—a time to honour the history, traditions, and diversity of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples throughout Turtle Island.

This year also marks a significant milestone in the journey of reconciliation: the 10-year anniversary of the release of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's final reports. On June 2, 2015, The Honourable Murray Sinclair, Chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC), released the TRC's Summary Report. At the forefront of the report is the essential 94 Calls to Action, which aim to guide Canada toward reconciliation. This ignited a national commitment to understanding Canada's harmful past and working together toward a better Canada.

This year, we ask ourselves: how far have we come, and what still needs to be done? Across all sectors considered in the TRC's Calls to Action – education, justice, arts, and governance – progress has been made, but there is still much more to be done.

Class Placements September 2025

Student Placement For September

We understand that student placement is an important topic for families, and we want to assure you that information regarding your child's class placement for September will be shared in August.

A great deal of thought and care goes into creating balanced and supportive classroom environments. Our classroom teachers, resource teacher, and principal work collaboratively, considering a wide range of factors to ensure the best possible learning experience for every student.

Some of the key factors taken into account include:

- Academic ability and individual learning needs
- Behaviour and work habits
- Age and learning styles
- Class size and dynamics
- Social relationships and opportunities for new friendships

Our goal is to create classrooms where all students can thrive.

How Can Parents Help?

You play a vital role in helping your child transition positively into the new school year. We encourage you to:

- Speak positively about the upcoming year
- Emphasize the opportunity to build new friendships and grow in new environments
- Reassure your child that change can bring exciting new experiences
- Thank you for your continued support and partnership in your child's education!

Please note: Once class lists are finalized, no changes will be made.



St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church

Father Paul has introduced a Late Saturday Evening Mass. This Mass is intended to help those who may not have an opportunity to attend Regular Saturday or Sunday Mass due to work or other commitments. Mass will now be celebrated every Saturday at 8:15 pm at St. Andrew's Church.

Weekend Mass Times:

Saturday: 5:00 pm & 8:15 pm

Sunday: 9:00 am and 11:00 am

Confessions - Monday to Friday 8:00 - 9:00pm Confessors include: Fr. Stuart MacDonald, Fr. Jacek Kryn, Fr. Daniel Corso, Fr. Janusz Roginski, Fr. Robert Novokowsky

Saturday: 4:15pm - 4:45 pm

Sunday: 10:10a. - 10:40 am



Niagara Region Public Health School Health Newsletter

Things that Bite!

Ticks, mosquitos, and rabid animals can be a greater risk as the weather warms up.

- Mosquitoes transmit the [West Nile virus](#) to humans after becoming infected by feeding on the blood of infected birds, which carry the virus. To learn how to protect your family, visit [Reduce the Risk of West Nile Virus - Niagara Region](#).
- The blacklegged (deer) tick can transmit [Lyme disease and other tickborne diseases](#) to humans after becoming infected by feeding on the blood of small animals which carry the disease. To learn how to protect you and your pets, visit [Protect and Prevent Ticks - Niagara Region](#).
- [Rabies](#) is transmitted through saliva from bites and scratches, entering an open cut or wound, or from saliva contacting a mucous membrane, such as those in the mouth, nasal cavity, or eyes. To [reduce the risk of rabies](#), it's best to avoid contact with wild animals such as raccoons, skunks, and bats.



For more information and free tick identification, individuals can visit [e-tick](#). General tick information can be found on our [Niagara Region Public Health website](#) or by contacting a Duty Officer directly at 905-688-8248 ext. 7590.



Head safety – for bikes and other wheels

With warmer weather and summer break just around the corner, more kids will be outdoors taking part in activities, such as biking, skate boarding or roller blading. A [properly fitted and correct helmet](#) can cut the risk of a serious head injury by up to 85%. This means four out of five brain injuries could be prevented if every cyclist wore a helmet.

- Bike [helmets](#) should be replaced after five years or a crash where the cyclist has hit their head
- It's not safe to use a [second-hand helmet](#)
- Baseball hats, big hair clips and headphones should never be worn under a helmet

The human skull is just approximately one centimeter thick, so it is important to remind children to always protect their head when being active. To make sure a helmet fits right, follow the 2V1 Rule (image courtesy of [Parachute Canada](#))

Make Immunizations Part of Your Summer Checklist!

As you prepare for the new school year this summer, remember to check if your child's immunizations are up-to-date. If you are unsure, talk to your health care provider or [contact the vaccine team](#) at Public Health. Staying up to date with routine vaccinations helps protect your child from preventable diseases.

If your child needs to get caught up on vaccines, you can:

- Make an appointment with your health care providers
- Visit a walk-in clinic (call ahead to confirm vaccine availability)
- Check availability of Public Health vaccination clinics. Call 905-688-8248, extension 7425 (Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.)

Don't forget to report your child's vaccines to Public Health!

Every time your child receives a vaccine, it must be reported to Public Health. Doctors, child care facilities, and schools don't do this for you.



The fastest and most convenient way to report vaccines (except COVID-19 and flu shots) or request records is through [Immunization Connect \(ICON\)](#), a secure online system for tracking and reporting immunizations.

For more information on vaccines needed for school, visit: [Baby, Children and Youth Vaccinations](#)



Bike to School Week 2025

Walking or biking to school is a great way to help kids stay active, healthy, and focused throughout the day and get them out in their communities! Regular physical activity boosts mood, improves fitness, and supports learning by helping kids concentrate better in class. It also helps create safer, less congested school zones by reducing traffic and pollution.

From June 2–6, families across Ontario are encouraged to participate in Bike to School Week! Invite your child to ride with friends or family, and join in creating a healthier, happier community. To learn more, visit the [Bike to School Week](#) webpage and see how your school can get involved!

Called By Name

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

2025-2026 Called by Name: Go and Make Disciples

In the Bible, Jesus invites us with the words "Come, follow me." This means He wants us to join Him on a journey of love, kindness, and faith. Just like a good friend who shows us how to be our best selves, Jesus is asking us to follow His example. When we help others, show compassion, and make good choices, we're following Him and living the way He taught us. It's like being part of a special team where everyone works together to make the world a better place. So, when we hear "Come, follow me," it's Jesus asking us to be His helpers and to spread His love to everyone we meet.



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.

ECO News

Our ECO Team wants to help better the environment and try to reduce waste and single-use plastic. Each Wednesday we are encouraging our St. Andrew community to pack a waste free lunch! This may include a reusable water bottle, packing snacks in containers or using reusable cutlery. These small initiatives can help protect our Environment! Thank you, from the ECO Team.

Easy Litterless Meal Ideas



1. Store sandwiches in reusable food containers.
2. Pack a Thermos with leftovers.
3. Cut up veggies and fruit and put them in a reusable container.

Celebrate Pollinator Week with us!

Pollinator Week 2025 will take place June 16-22, 2025.

Pollinator Week is an annual celebration in support of pollinator health that was initiated and is managed by Pollinator Partnership. It is a time to raise awareness for pollinators and spread the word about what we can do to protect them. The great thing about Pollinator Week is that you can celebrate and get involved any way you like! Popular events include planting for pollinators, hosting garden tours, participating in online bee and butterfly ID workshops, and so much more. However you choose to celebrate this year, be sure to register your event on the map below, and share your story with us by tagging us on social media using the hashtag #PollinatorWeek.

Pollinator Week 2025 is a celebration of the vital role that pollinators play in our ecosystems, economies, and agriculture. Under the inspiring theme "Pollinators Weave Connections," this year's event urges us to appreciate the essential role pollinators play in creating and expressing human culture, in all of its forms. These essential creatures, including bees, butterflies, moths, bats, beetles, and hummingbirds, are the unsung heroes behind the food we enjoy and the beauty that surrounds us. As we reflect on the interconnectedness of our world, let's unite in a collective effort to protect and preserve these crucial pollinators. By understanding the impact of our actions on their habitats and embracing sustainable practices, we can pave the way for a flourishing future. Join us in celebrating Pollinator Week 2025, and let's cultivate a world where both nature and humanity thrive in harmony. Explore our resources, learn about pollinator-friendly initiatives, and be inspired to contribute to the vision of a greener and more sustainable tomorrow.



Niagara Nutrition Partners

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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!

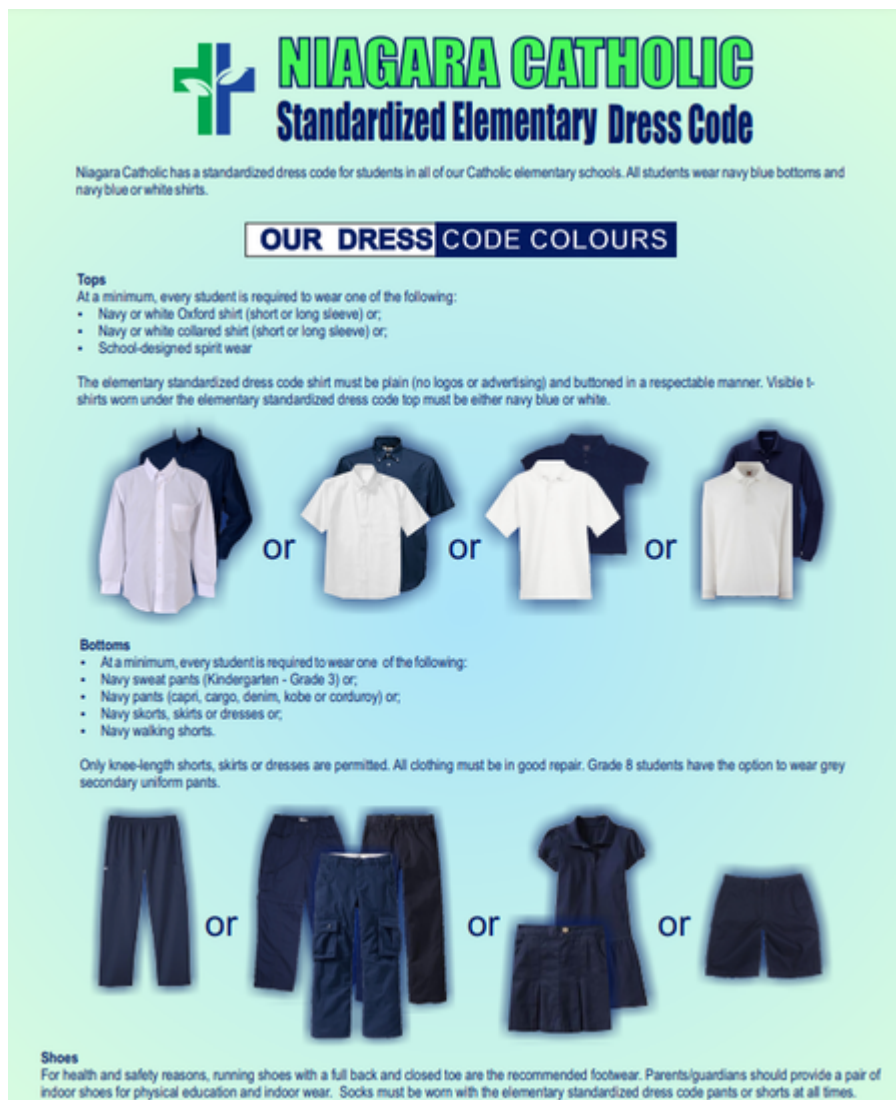
We are asking parents to consider donating to this great cause so we can continue to sustain and help maintain this program throughout the year. Please Donate through School Cash Online. This will be open on School Cash Online all year.

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.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.

Grade 8 Grads- 2026

You can order your GRAD HOODIES today- see the flyer below:

St. Andrew Jaguars Catholic Elementary School

Class of 2026 GRADHOODIE

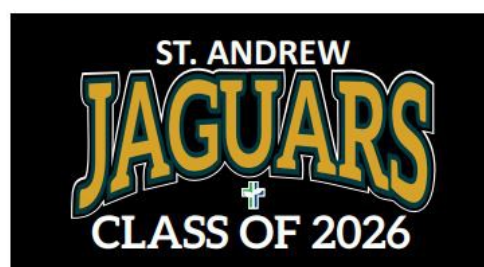
2025 Price:
Sizes XSM-3XL
\$58.98 + tax

Order On-Line at www.bigbearspiritwear.com

Cotton/Polyester Premium Pull-Over Hooded Sweatshirt



Hoodie
Colour:
Black



FEATURES:

- Embroidery & Old Gold Twill Appliqué Decoration on Front
- Embroidery & Old Gold Twill Appliqué GRAD on Back
- Name Options:
1/2" High Embroidered Name on hood or sleeve. Included in price of the Gradhoodie
- At Big Bear Spiritwear we don't have minimums, deadlines, or surcharges for late orders, you can order your Gradhoodie online anytime.
- 3 Shipping Options Available:
a) Pick up in store, no charge.
b) Delivery to your school, \$3.50 plus tax per order.
c) Delivery to your home, Canada Post rates, typically \$20.00 in the Niagara Region.
- No Refunds or Exchanges on Decorated or Customized Products



You can also order in person at: 6182 Dixon Street, Niagara Falls, ON, L2G 2L6 | Ph: 905-357-7132 | email: csr@bigbearspiritwear.com

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.

Student Supervision

Students are able to come into the school at 9:00 am. Please note that supervision is not provided prior to this time.

Safety - Drop Off & Pick U

Morning Drop-Off: Please be advised that parents are not to use the front driveway for drop-off until after 9:20 AM. This restriction is necessary to avoid congestion and ensure the safety of our students and staff, as it allows our buses to operate without obstruction. Additionally, students should not be using the front door in the morning; they are to go to their assigned doors for entry until 9:20 AM.

Afternoon Pick-Up: If you need to pick up your child between 2:45 PM and 3:30 PM, kindly park on the road. This will enable our special education buses to maneuver in and out of the driveway without any issues.

Your cooperation in following these guidelines is greatly appreciated and will contribute to a safer environment for everyone.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

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 Catholic 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 muns, 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 Catholic 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.

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.



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](#)



Maria Ruggi Dietsch

Maria is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters