



Notre Dame Catholic School



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

FAITH ♦ WISDOM ♦ HUMILITY

Summer 2025

Principal's Message

Dear Notre Dame Families,

The school year passed very quickly, so I encourage us all to reflect on the special memories from this year as we rest and recharge over the summer. Don't let the absence of school and work routines cause you to take the love of God for granted. We offer this prayer for everyone:

My soul glorifies The Lord,
My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour

In the freshness of morning,
And the strength of this family,
Be with us, Lord.

In the quiet of our hearts
And the work of this day,
Be with us, Lord.

In the needs of the poor
And the gifts of creation,
In joy and in sorrow,
Be with us, Lord,

Now and forever. Amen

Best Wishes

A fond farewell to staff members who will be leaving Notre Dame Catholic School - Mrs. Caughlin, Mrs. Grove, Mrs. Kaur, Mr. MacLean, Mrs. Mataya, Mrs. Perri, Mrs. Shany, Mme. Solefack, Mme. Thekkethala, Mr. Turner, and Miss Visca. We thank them for the time and energy they dedicated to our students. We wish them well as their journeys continue at new schools. They will be missed!

We thank Fr. Greg and Fr. Ronnie for their continuous invitation for each of us to be an active participant in our faith. Best of luck as they leave this summer to lead new communities.

Thank you to all our families for your continued support throughout the school year. Your commitment to your children's education and well-being allow for there to be a strong connection between school and home.

We wish all the best to our Grade 8 graduates as they start a new chapter in their Catholic education journey in September. May they be blessed with all the successes life has to offer. We will miss all of their unique personalities here at school. They will always be a part of the Notre Dame family!

We hope all of our staff, students and families have a safe and blessed summer. Enjoy a relaxing summer break full of family, friends and amazing memories! I look forward to seeing everyone back at Notre Dame in September.

Wishing you all the best!

E. Roussos

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



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Spring Social Raffle Basket Fundraiser

The Spring Social was a fun evening that brought our community together. We appreciate all the support of our students, staff and Catholic School Council to make it happen. Thank you to all the families who donated items to our raffle baskets and/or bought tickets at the Spring Social. **The school raised close to \$1,100.** The funds will be put towards equipment for our Physical Education program. Students and staff are blessed to be a part of such a generous community.

Term 2 Provincial Report Cards

Term 2 Provincial Report Cards and Kindergarten Communication of Learning were uploaded to the parent portal on **Monday, June 23**. The **Niagara Catholic Parent Portal** can be accessed [here](#). Please select Notre Dame and login with your username (email account on file with the school).

Welcome Back - Tuesday, September 2, 2025 Daily Schedule

For the 2025-26 school year, Notre Dame Elementary School will have the same start and end times to the school day that parents and students had this past school year.

Our **school start and end times** are reviewed each year by NSTS to ensure transportation services are the most efficient. The morning bell will ring at **8:10 AM** and the dismissal bell will ring at **2:30 PM**. Information on pick-up and drop-off times for students will be made available by NSTS on their portal in mid-August.

A typical **Monday to Friday School Day** at Notre Dame Catholic Elementary School will be:

- ⇒ **8:00 - student drop-off** (this may vary based on bus arrival times)
- 8:10 - 8:20 AM - School day startup and morning routines
- 8:20 - 10:20 AM - 120 instructional minutes
- ⇒ **10:20 - 10:40 AM - 20 minute physical activity break** (outdoor recess)
- ⇒ **10:40 - 11:00 AM - 20 minute nutrition break** (indoor lunch)
- 11:00 - 12:20 PM - 80 instructional minutes
- ⇒ **12:20 - 12:40 PM - 20 minute physical activity break** (outdoor recess)
- ⇒ **12:40 - 1:00 PM - 20 minute nutrition break** (indoor lunch)
- 1:00 - 2:20 PM - 80 instructional minutes
- 2:20 - 2:30 PM - School day dismissal routines

After School Care - Strive Niagara

The before & after school licensed care provider at Notre Dame for the next school year is Strive Niagara. To find out more information about Strive Niagara, please visit www.striveniagara.ca. All new families must register through the ONELIST at <https://niagara.onehsn.com/> prior to registering in person.

Class Placements for 2025-26

Class placements will be available in the Niagara Catholic DSB Parent Portal during the last week of August. Creating a successful learning environment for all students is a goal we aim to achieve. Some of the factors considered include: individual needs, behaviour, work habits, age, learning styles, class size and friendship. Please note: once class lists have been created, changes will not be made. We are not accepting friend requests at this time.



Notre Dame Catholic School



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Elementary Standardized Dress Code

Niagara Catholic has a Standardized Elementary Dress Code for students in elementary school. All students wear navy bottoms and navy blue or white shirts. For more detailed information on our Dress Code, please visit the [NCDSB FAQ](#) page.

Notre Dame Spirit Wear



Notre Dame Catholic School spirit wear is accepted as part of the school's standardized dress code. Families can purchase items directly through our supplier, Big Bear Spiritwear, on their website [here](#).



2025-26 Graduation Hoody



The Grad Hoody is an important part of a student's final year in elementary school. It is a part of the school dress code that elevates our Grade 8 students to make them identifiable as school leaders.

The **2025-26 Grad Hoody** is now available to be ordered for our Grade 8 students from our supplier Big Bear Spiritwear. Visit their website for [Grad hoody ordering information](#). All orders will be completed and delivered in early September.

Kindergarten Meet & Greet

Our 2025-26 Kindergarten students are invited for a brief "meet and greet" with their teacher on **Wednesday, August 27** from **11-1 PM**. Parents and students can visit their child's classroom, meet their teacher and place belongings in their assigned locker in preparation for the start of school on September 2. No appointment is necessary. More information will be communicated to families closer to the date.

Back to School Transportation Information

In mid-August, Niagara Student Transportation Services (NSTS) will post preliminary back to school transportation arrangements for each student enrolled, if they meet policy eligibility for transportation, including bus route numbers, stop locations and times. Finalized Transportation information will be available in late August.

To create an account or login, visit <https://nsts.ca>. **Parents/Guardians must login or create an NSTS portal account using the email address on file with the school.** Please ensure all students are listed on the account.

For parents: [Updates for the 2025-26 School Year](#)

Please complete the Opt-In/Opt-Out to Transportation form in the parent portal to notify NSTS if you intend to have your child(ren) ride the bus.

Eligibility information is also available through the portal, including pedestrian directions if your child lives within the non-transported zone of the school and is not eligible for bus service. **Changes to home, pick-up or drop-off addresses must be made through the student's school.** During the summer you may notify NSTS of address changes so a bus stop is available for your child to start the school year; however, NSTS is not authorized to change student address information.

Please contact NSTS if you have questions regarding your child's transportation arrangements.



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.

Payment for School Activities

As activities and educational field trips are being scheduled for your children, we ask that parents sign up for our convenient payment program, SCHOOL CASH ONLINE. This is an excellent way to pay for student activities without sending money to school.

To register, please go to:
<https://ncdsb.schoolcashonline.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: <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca/#/home> or by calling 1-844-287-6287. It is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Thank you Delta Bingo!

Our students and staff thank you so much for your generosity!!! We look forward to continuing our school fundraising through our partnership. Last year, funds raised through volunteering allowed the school to purchase classroom TV displays, classroom resources and physical education equipment to enhance student learning



The school is looking for parent volunteers to assist during our assigned times at Delta Bingo (Tuesday afternoon). If any parent would like to assist with fundraising, please contact the school.