



Committee of the Whole Meeting

September 9th, 2025

Welcome & 2025-2026 School Year Update

All data presented is as of September 9, 2025





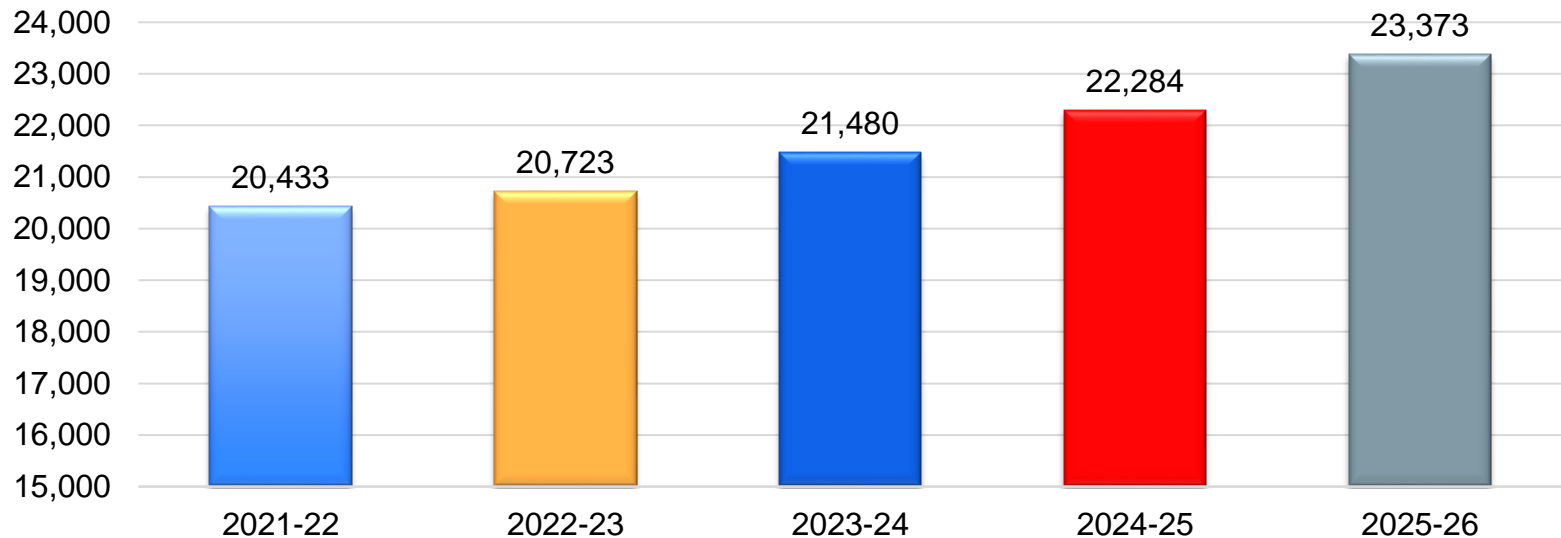
Pat Rocca

Superintendent of Education
Committee of the Whole Report

AVERAGE DAILY ENROLMENT

	2024-2025	ORIGINAL ESTIMATES JUNE 2025	SEPTEMBER 2025	CHG JUNE vs SEPT	CHG 2024-2025 vs SEPT 2025
Elementary Panel	15,368	15,619	15,691	72	323
Secondary Panel	6,916	7,315	7,361	46	445
Total ADE	22,284	22,934	23,373	118	768

TRENDING ENROLMENT



Elementary Staffing

	MINISTRY REQUIREMENT	NCDSB COMPLIANCE STATUS
KINDERGARTEN JK/SK	CLASS AVERAGE CANNOT EXCEED 26	CLASS AVERAGE OF 24.38 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	90% OF CLASSES AT CLASS SIZE LIMIT OF 29	90.6% OF CLASSES AT CLASS SIZE LIMIT OF 29 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	10% OF THE CLASSES CAN BE UP TO 32 (BETWEEN 30 AND 32)	9.4% OF CLASSES UP TO 32 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	100% OF CLASSES BELOW 32	100% OF CLASSES BELOW 32 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
PRIMARY GR. 1-3	100% OF CLASSES SHALL HAVE 23 STUDENTS OR FEWER	100% OF CLASSES HAVE 23 STUDENTS OR FEWER <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	90% OF CLASSES SHALL HAVE 20 STUDENTS OR FEWER	90.2% OF CLASSES HAVE 20 STUDENTS OR FEWER <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRADES 3/4	100% OF CLASSES AT 23 STUDENTS OR FEWER	100% OF CLASSES AT 23 STUDENTS OR FEWER <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
JUNIOR/INTERMIDATE GR. 4-8	AVERAGE CLASS SIZE SHALL NOT EXCEED 24.5	AVERAGE CLASS SIZE OF 24.5 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Program and Innovation Services

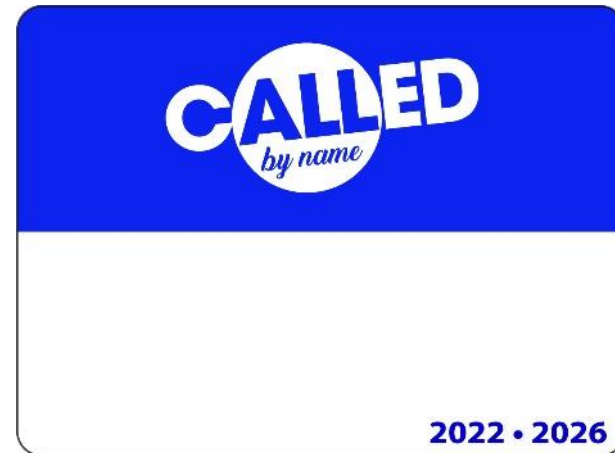
Kim Kinney
Superintendent of Education



Theological Theme 2022-2026

2025-2026

Called by Name: Go and
Make Disciples



Summer 2025

Summer Learning – Grades 1-8

- Niagara Catholic Teachers provided targeted literacy and numeracy instruction to help support the transition to the next grade level, build confidence and enjoyment of learning.
- Small group instruction focused on more time and exposure to foundational concepts in literacy and numeracy to students in grades 1-8.
- The program was offered from July 7th-25th at three sites: St. Teresa of Calcutta, St. Mark, Holy Name and transportation was provided for students.
- Niagara Catholic Teachers attended two days of professional learning prior to the start of the Summer Learning Program.

Some feedback from parents:

- Do you feel this program helped your child's ability to read? 88.2% YES
- Do you feel this program helped your child's ability to understand math concepts? 100% YES

Summer Writing

- Common Assessment Grades 1-10 using Digital Math Tool - Knowledgehook
- Teacher Resource Guide to support Mathematics instruction
- Niagara Catholic collaboration with educators across the province to develop a comprehensive document focused on Artificial Intelligence.



Supporting Niagara Catholic Students, Staff, System

Gino Pizzoferrato, Superintendent of Education
Committee of the Whole, September, 2024



NIAGARA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Supporting Student Transitions for a New School Year

- Coordinators, PRTs, MDTs, BRTs, IPRTs, ABA, SSF, SSF-AT supported students returning to class for September
- Focus:
 - Creating/reviewing visual schedules/graphics,
 - review inventory and access to equipment/technology
 - Review/Create BSP/Safety Plan checks
 - Participate in agency transition meetings, SBRS, OHAH
 - review/conduct environmental assessments
 - Facilitate parent/staff meetings & assessments

	2024-2025	2025-2026	LDANR Programs
Elementary Students	135	327	28
Secondary Students	136	100	9
TOTAL	271	427	37



Behaviour and Communication Services

Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) Transition to School Program

	2024-2025	2025-2026
Elementary Students	16	38

Staff involved:

- Behaviour and Communication Services Lead
- Behaviour Analysts (4) and ABA Facilitators (6)
- Principals (2) and Educational Assistants (5)

Summer Speech/Language Assessments to address Waitlist

- 10 Speech-Language assessments were prioritized from our wait list and were completed during the months of July and August by our Board Speech and Language Pathologists
- This helped to address the current assessment waitlist





Joseph Zaroda **Superintendent of Education**

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Updates for 2025-2026



- Overseeing all 8 secondary schools.
- **eLearning** - 80 Sections of eLearning for this school year.
- **International Education** – we had 35 Students from Colombia visit with Niagara Catholic for the month of July. ([news article](#))
- **Secondary Staffing** – total of 23.17 new secondary permanent hire contracts as of September 4, 2025.



*DOMENIC
MASSI*

SUPERINTENDENT OF
EDUCATION



VIOLENT THREAT RISK ASSESSMENT TRAINING

VTRA training equips school and community professionals with the foundational skills to assess and respond to threats of violence in educational settings. It is designed to promote early intervention and collaborative, trauma-informed responses to potential threats.

Key Components of the Training:

Multidisciplinary Approach:
Participants learn to work within multi-agency teams

Three-Stage Framework:

Stage 1 – Initial Data Collection & Immediate Intervention
Stage 2 – Risk Evaluation
Stage 3 – Data-Driven Intervention Planning

Understanding Threats

Training emphasizes that serious violence is often preceded by identifiable warning signs.



PROJECT CONNECT

Purpose

Establish a sustainable partnership between the Niagara Catholic District School Board and The Niagara Regional Police Services, where police officers engage with students through regular visits, information sessions, mentorship programs, and community-building activities. The goal is to promote safety, trust, and understanding while addressing misconceptions and reducing fear or mistrust of law enforcement.

Program Pillars

Education and Awareness

Relationship Building and Trust

Positive Community Engagement

Proactive Intervention & Conflict Resolution



Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells



Niagara Catholic Mental Health and Well-Being Action Plan 2025-2026

The Action Plan is based on the five priorities from the Niagara Catholic 2024-2027 Mental Health and Well-Being Strategy

The Strategy and Action Plan are posted on the Board website under the [Mental Health and Well-Being](#) section.

P1 Embed wellness promotion and social emotional learning into everyday school culture

- **NEW:** SNAP – “Stop Now and Plan” - Training with Child and Youth Workers for implementation in elementary schools
grades 2-6
- **NEW:** “Coaching Boys into Men” – 16 secondary coaches are trained for implementation in secondary schools
- **NEW:** Exploration of partnership with Eating Disorders Ontario
- **NEW:** Support of data collection involving community SEL programming

P2 Increase educator understanding of mental health and well-being from a culturally responsive, identity affirming and trauma informed lens

- Addition of Indigenous Social Worker to SW Team
- SafeTalk and ASIST training; School Mental Health and Well-Being Champions
- School Mental – Health Ontario (SMH-ON) Resources: [Tier 1](#)
- **NEW:** Focus on community partnerships and communication to ensure that classroom presentations are culturally responsive, identity affirming and trauma informed to meet the needs of all students

Niagara Catholic Mental Health and Well-Being Action Plan 2025-2026

P3 Expand mental health awareness and promotion to better engage student and family voice:

- **NEW:** Review of the Mental Health and Well-being section on the Board website for students and families to reflect student and parent/caregiver voice

Ensure that Mental Health and Well-Being school activities, Student Senate meetings, Project Plaid, NCPIC and Catholic School Councils reflect student and parent/caregiver voice.

P4 Sustain and strengthen equitable pathways to care both internally and externally

- **NEW:** VTRA training for school administrators and Manager of Mental Health and Well-Being and Supervisor of Clinical Services, in collaboration with Safe and Accepting Schools
- **NEW:** Violent Threat Risk Assessment Community Protocol has been updated for school application
- Social Workers and Measurement Based Care: Tier 2
- **NEW:** Right Time Right Care Protocol – Community partnership (Pathstone Mental Health)- Tier 3

P5 Develop, implement and improve communication of comprehensive holistic employee well-being plan and program

- **NEW:** “The Working Minds” training in collaboration with Human Resources Services
- **NEW:** Niagara Catholic Staff Wellness Survey for all employees in collaboration with Human Resources Services

Niagara Catholic 2024-2025 Social Worker/Psychotherapist Data

TIER 2 SUPPORT

- ❖ 324 Social Worker/Psychotherapist referrals– 70% from elementary, 30% secondary, approximately 600 students
- ❖ Top 3 reasons for a referral – interpersonal struggles , anxiety, and dysregulation
- ❖ Social Workers/Psychotherapists-receive 4-6 referrals per month
- ❖ Waitlist – varies across the region

TIER 3 SUPPORT- Community Support

- ❖ Mental Health and Addictions Nurses (MHANs)
- ❖ Pathstone, Cason, Quest
- ❖ Kristen French Child Advocacy Centre: Summer Camp 2025 for elementary students





*Giancarlo
Vetrone*

**Superintendent of Business and
Financial Services**

Committee of the Whole Report

SCHOOL BUDGET ALLOCATION

Niagara District School Board is allocating approximately \$3.2M to our schools this fiscal year. This allocation was primarily based on an estimated enrolment number of 23,000 pupils for the start of the 2025-2026 calendar school year and the \$3.2M is the largest allocation.

- Endpoint Devices Support - \$12.50 per pupil \$400,000
- Parent Account Elementary \$108 per pupil from \$89 per pupil
- Parent Account Secondary \$175 per pupil \$157 per pupil
- Central Ergonomic Plan \$ 50,000

Additional Allocations:

Transportation from School to Church Distance

Transportation extracurricular Activities \$2.00 per pupil

Building Upgrades Elementary \$2,000 and Secondary \$3,000

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

Student Achievement Plan Process Enhancement
Staffing+ Position Audit Web Application
Insignia Project – implementation from legacy software Destiny
High School Website Migrations
IT Infrastructure Operations
Vape Detectors - St. Michael HS, Blessed Trinity HS

Telecommunication Platform Replacement Project 2025-2026
Vape Detectors 2025-2026 - Three more High Schools
Active Directory and Position Control Hierarchy

Bitsight analytics and reporting

Niagara Catholic has now achieved its **highest all-time security rating** for Internet perimeter security



CAPITAL PROJECTS COMPLETED

Notre Dame HS Chapel & Auditorium renovations
St. Therese front entrance, windows and administration
Our Lady Of Holy Rosary Exterior wall improvements
Denis Morris Gymnasium renewal
St Christopher - six classroom renovation



CAPITAL PROJECTS 2025-2026 \$20M

CATEGORY	ESTIMATED AMOUNTS
ACCESSIBILITY UPGRADES	\$1.75M
ASPHALT	\$1.2M
EXTERIOR UPGRADES	\$2.6M
HVAC	\$1.5M
INTERIOR UPGRADES	\$6.59M
OUTDOOR IMPROVEMENTS / KINDERGARTEN PLAYAREA	\$3.5M
ROOFING	\$1.6M
SECURITY / VAPE DETECTORS	\$700,000

International Welcome Centre – Holy Cross \$250,000

Telecommunications Refresh - \$500,000

Press Box Notre Dame College – Donated Alumni

CAPITAL PROJECTS 2025-2026 \$20M

MARY WARD CATHOLIC E S Exterior Wall Upgrades Exterior Wall Upgrades \$2,500,000

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC E S Interior Upgrades Gym floor. Also LED lighting upgrades in hallways, main office and some classrooms \$ 800,000

ST PATRICK CATHOLIC E S (N) Accessibility Upgrades HVAC system and Elevator Installation \$1,300,000

OUR LADY OF HOLY ROSARY CATHOLIC E S Interior Upgrades Gym is in need of extensive renovations - lighting/painting/hardwood floors re-done/etc.; theatre and change room retrofit, music room conversion \$1,300,000

ST NICHOLAS CATHOLIC E S Kindergarten Playground Kindergarten outdoor play area needs to be updated. Play area is either asphalt or dirt, very little to no grass. \$300,000

OUR LADY OF FATIMA (G) 1 Outdoor Site Improvements Exterior Wall Upgrades \$700,000

HOLY CROSS SS Interior Upgrades Manufacturing lab (Phase 2 of the innovation center) \$1,300,000

ST MICHAEL HS Asphalt Expansion of parking lot, more parking spaces are needed for staff and student drivers. \$600,000

ST MARY CATHOLIC E S (W) Kindergarten Playground Kindergarten playground- curb appeal, floods, no play structures, potentially covered outdoor class area \$300,000

NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SOUTH NIAGARA FALLS ARCHITECTURAL RENDERING



A stylized green plant graphic with large, rounded leaves and a central stem, set against a background of flowing, layered blue and green waves. The overall aesthetic is clean, modern, and professional.

Julia Tiessen

Human Resources Services

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A few highlights...2024/2025

51 elementary permanent FTE. 22 secondary permanent FTE. 123 Occasional teachers

Working Minds for Leaders

Committee – Prevention of Student Aggression Committee

Launched our integrated online reporting tool

Launched Cross functional joint health and safety committee training

Launched Niagara Catholic Health and Safety Podcast and Safety Videos

Health, Safety and Wellness training for Leaders

Several Wellness Challenges through out the year

Human Resources Specialists in school program

Annual Casual Support Staff Job Fair – Caretakers, ECE and EA's.

Attract, Retain, Engage the best talent grounded in our Values

Looking Forward....**2025/2026**

Continue the Prevention Student aggression committee work with EA's

Refresh of our recruitment socials

Expand the online reporting tool to include policy review, coaching etc

Job specific highlight stories - CommUNITY

PPM 171 – Attendance Support Program

Job Fairs – in house and through our partnerships

New hire onboarding – safety programming

Launch our Safety, Health and Wellness share point for all staff

Attract, Retain, Engage the best talent grounded in our Values