

Father Hennepin January 2023

Home of the Huskies - Niagara Catholic school



Father Hennepin Catholic School Information

- Principal: Mrs. A Cybula
 - Secretary: Mrs. L Iuliano
 - Superintendent: Mr. D Massi
- Email: fr.hennepin@ncdsb.com
Website: niagaracatholic.ca
Location: [6032 Churchill Street, Niagara Falls, ON, Canada](https://www.niagaracatholic.ca)
Phone: (905)354-4469
Twitter: [@FrHennepin](https://twitter.com/FrHennepin)

Saint Michael high school - Family of Schools <https://www.saintmichaelmustangs.com/>

Please Keep Us Updated with Contact Information

It is very important that we have the most updated contact information for your child, especially if we need to get ahold of someone quickly in case of an emergency. Please forward to Mrs. Iuliano any information that has been changed, such as phone numbers, emails and emergency contacts. Thank you in advance for helping us keep everyone safe.

BELL TIMES & LUNCH 2022 2023 school year

8:15 - 8:30 - supervision starts - student drop off time
8:30 Morning Bell - students arriving after this time will be considered late.
10:00 - 10:15 - AM Recess
11:15 - 11:55 - LUNCH Break
1:35 - 1:50 - Recess
2:30 instruction ends get ready for dismissal
2:40 End of school day



Our Lady Of Peace Parish - Pastor Fr. Michael

Email: olp@vaxxine.com

Location: [6988 Stanley Avenue, Niagara Falls, ON, Canada](#)

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

Non-Catholic students interested in becoming Catholic : *Please call OLP and to speak with Father Michael.*

School Mass & Sacrament Dates:

Mass - Sunday's @ 10am.

- Feb 7 2023 - Confirmation Grade 8's @ OLP 7pm - must be baptized Catholic and have already received Sacrament of First Holy Communion.
- Feb 22, 2023 - Ash Wednesday Prayer Service @ school
- April 12 2023 - Grade 2 students - Sacrament of Reconciliation Grade 2's receiving First Communion @ 9:15 am at school. Students must be baptized Catholic.
- April 30th 2023 - Grade 2 Sacrament of First Holy Communion @ OLP - 1pm
- June 21st 2023 - Closing Mass @ OLP Church 9:15 am.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Loving God, this New Year we thank you Lord for the gift of hope you have poured out on us in Christ. May it shine in all that we do, and help awaken those around us to the gift of Your love. We make this prayer to you in the name of Jesus. Amen.

As we start a New Year together with many resolutions, may we keep the light of Christ upon us and shine his light in all that we do each and every day.

Bell Lets Talk - January 25, 2023

Bell Let's Talk funding supports organizations large and small in communities nationwide. We have partnered with more than 1,300 organizations providing mental health supports and services throughout Canada, including hospitals, universities, local community service providers and other care and research organizations.



The positive impact of your efforts | Bell Let's Talk

Bell Let's Talk is about sharing stories that have a positive impact and discovering organizations

Grade 8 Confirmation Update - February 7, 2023

God is present and active in our daily lives, and with that in mind, catholic students are welcomed to the celebration of the sacrament of Confirmation. On February 7, 2023 students who are baptized Catholic and have also received the Sacrament of Holy Communion are invited by Our Lady of Peace Parish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Grade 8 students must already be baptized Catholic and have received Sacrament of First Holy Communion. For specific questions regarding the Sacrament and documentation, please contact Our Lady of Peace Parish. Confirmation preparation occurs in the classroom, under the guidance of the classroom teacher – it is also part of the Grade 8 Religious Education Curriculum.

As the candidate prepares for this Sacrament, please reference the following information:

- Confirmation Date – February 7 2023 @ 7PM – Our Lady of Peace Parish
- Students will be wearing a Confirmation Gown that is rented - fee is \$15.00 per student through school cash on-line.
- Bishop Bergie will be presiding over the Sacrament and anoint each confirmand.
- Confirmands are to arrive between 6:35 & 6:55 pm.
- Confirmands are selecting a sponsor to witness the sacrament.
- The sponsor must be at least 16 years old, already confirmed in the Catholic Church, (often a Godparent is chosen), parents/guardians may not be sponsors.
- Students will be wearing Confirmation Gowns this year over their clothing. Students are encouraged to “dress up” for the sacrament.

Grade 8 Graduation: June 23, 2023 5:30 - 7:30 pm @ Saint Michael high school

WINTER IS HERE - RECESS FUN! Indoor shoes recommended.

Winter is here and it is also that time of year where students are able to enjoy the snow during recess time. We ask that all students in K to Grade 3 wear snow pants/splash pants, boots and other winter items for playing in the snow. This will ensure the students stay warm and free from wet clothing. Students in grade 4 to 8 need to wear boots to be able to go into the field area to play in the snow. The reason for this is that running shoes and other footwear are very slippery in the snow.

Dress for the weather - we go outside all recesses unless extreme cold weather alert is issued, or there is other inclement weather present.

All students in Grade K to 8 are recommended to have a second set of shoes at the school. This will help to reduce the small puddles of water under students' desks when they come inside after recess from the snow melting and avoid having slippery wet surfaces in the classroom.

Christmas Gift Basket Fundraiser raises close to \$5500

Thank you for all of the families for their generous donations and for participating in purchasing ballots for our Christmas Basket give away. There were many amazing prizes to win and the



success of our fundraiser was possible because of everyone help! Congratulations to Peter who won the iPad 10th generation Grand Prize as well. \$550 will be donated to Niagara Nutrition Partners as part of our commitment to always give back to the community.

Routine Vaccinations Public Health

Protect your children from vaccine preventable diseases this school year by ensuring their routine vaccinations are up-to-date.

If your child missed their opportunity to receive any routine vaccine(s), it is important to get them back on [schedule](#). Connect with your health care provider to check which vaccine(s) your child may need. Learn more about [where to get your child vaccinated](#) and the vaccination [schedule](#) for children in school on our website.

All vaccines for children under 18 years of age must be [reported to Public Health](#). Every time your child receives a vaccine, you must report it:

- [Online](#)
- Phone: 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7425 or
- Fax: 905-688-8225

FRENCH IMMERSION

The Niagara Catholic District School Board is proud to offer parents and students the opportunity to enroll in a French Immersion (FI) Program. This program is designed specifically for students whose first language is not French. French Immersion in the Niagara Catholic District School Board is an **optional** program.

All designated French Immersion Catholic Elementary Schools will accept registrations for Grade 1 along with Kindergarten.

Listed below are the designated elementary schools that provide the French Immersion Program:

- Notre Dame Catholic Elementary, Niagara Falls – Begins in Kindergarten
- Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Elementary, Niagara Falls - Begins in Kindergarten
- Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary, St. Catharines - Begins in Kindergarten
- Alexander Kuska Catholic Elementary, Welland – Begins in Kindergarten
- St. John Catholic Elementary, Beamsville – Begins in Kindergarten

On-line open pre-registration window for students **new** to French Immersion in September 2023 is **Monday, January 16th, 2023 at 7:30 a.m.** through to **Friday, February 3rd, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.**

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. Pre-registrations outside of this window will **not** be considered.

An account must be created first through [easyRegister.ca](#) to access the pre-registration forms.

Please visit [www.niagaracatholic.ca](#) and click:

Then, click the *French Immersion* tab for information about the program. Additional pre-registration details will be posted on this site as they become available. Please check the site before the pre-registration window opens.

Inclement Weather - Cancellations and Closures

Please check niagaracatholic.ca at 6am for updates regarding school closures and bus cancellations. Depending on the severity of the weather, there could be system wide or partial closures and cancellations. In the event schools are closed, there will be asynchronous work posted through Niagara Catholic's website.

BINGO VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!

Calling all parent volunteers!

Each year we are able to be blessed with the \$5000 - \$7000 raised through the BINGO volunteer group and Delta Bingo. This would not be possible without the parent volunteers.

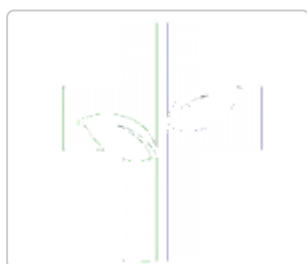
We are in high need of volunteers, without them are at risk of losing this great financial support for items students need at our school. Volunteers commitment is about 2 -3 times per year.



Please call/text Mrs. Ostrihon if you can help - 289-969-2879 or email her at melissaostrihon@gmail.com

Kindergarten 2023 - 2024 school year

Families are welcome at any time of the school year to register their child for Kindergarten for the 2023-2024 school year. Your child must turn age of 4 prior to December 31, 2024 to be able to start school in September. Please register at niagaracatholic.ca - the link is also below. Please contact the school if you have any questions.



Elementary - Niagara Catholic District School Board

Niagara Catholic has 50 Catholic elementary schools for students in Kindergarten through Grade eight, including the Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Centre, which offers elementary students in the Indigenous community and alternative learning site. Niagara Catholic elementary schools offer before and after-school care to children between the ages of four and 12.

📧 niagaracatholic.ca





Home

nsts.ca

Weekly Reminders

Below are reminders that will be included in weekly news going out to families.

Send your child with a refillable water bottle daily! Dropping off Lunches

Please send your child with a refillable water bottle for refills of filtered water at our hydration station. Some fountains are now able to be used to directly drink from however the filtered water is only accessible through the use of a refillable water bottle.

If you are dropping off a lunch please ensure it is clearly labelled with the student's name and is delivered no later than 11:35 am.

Student Cell Phone Use While in School

This is a reminder that cell phones or other technologies are not to be used at school unless directed by the classroom teacher and under the classroom teacher's supervision. Cell phones, computers, chromebooks, tablets are not to be used during recesses or lunch breaks. Pictures/videos are not to be taken by students pertaining to any aspect of the school day unless directed by the classroom teacher. Students should never upload photos/videos related to the school day to a personal social media site or other digital platforms. Father Hennepin school will be sharing happenings/photos through Instagram and Twitter following privacy permissions provided by parent/guardian.

If an emergency arises and a parent needs to get a hold of their child, a call to the school's direct line can be made and Mrs. Iuliano will forward the message.

Father Hennepin Catholic is not responsible for any lost or damaged cell phone/technology that is brought to school. Cell phones are to be kept turned off for the duration of the instructional school day unless the classroom teacher approves the use for educational purposes.

Sport Dates Grades 4 to 8 - Mark your Calendar

Below are a list of dates for sporting events we hope to participate this year. Some dates are approximate and will be confirmed via note sent home to all students who make the teams.



- Jan 25th 2023 - 7/8 Girls Basketball team, Jan 26th 7/8 Boys Basketball team
- March 7 2023 - 4-6 Girls Handball team AM , March 8th AM 4-6 Boys Handball team
- March 28 - 7/8 Badminton Girls AM, Boys PM
- April 18th Coed Flag Football - Large Schools
- Tentative dates - April 27th Grade 4-6 Girls soccer team, April 28th 4-6 Boys soccer team
- June 5th Track and Field Grades 4-8

Playground items, Birthday Celebrations & Toys from Home

We are receiving requests to bring in cupcakes and other items in celebration of a child's birthday. While this gesture is appreciated, these items are best used with events planned at home or after school. We do assist in handing out birthday invitations and also celebrate the child's birthday on morning announcements. Some classes also sing Happy Birthday to the student in the classroom now that we are able to sing again. Thank you for keeping these food/gift items at home as they will not be distributed to students.

Please keep personal toys or trading cards at home; especially in the primary grades. They are best kept at home as they are typically a distraction at school. As with past practice for many years at Father Hennepin, staff will help a student use strategies to return to "green zone" if they are upset if a toy was lost, stolen or broken however in most circumstances will not be investigating what happened.

Drop off times start at 8:15 - School starts at 8:30 am

Supervision is provided between 8:15 am and 8:30 am and between 2:40 pm to 2:55 pm.

*Students **MUST** only arrive or be dropped off between: **8:15am and 8:30am - staff will be outside and in school hallways providing supervision.** Any student arriving or being dropped off outside of these times are being left **WITHOUT ANY ADULT SUPERVISION** and are accepting responsibility for the risks involved in doing so.*

Families arriving in the Kiss n Ride are asked to wait until staff come out for supervision before allowing their child to leave the vehicle.

Arriving after 8:30- please make sure your child enters the main doors - there is no staff at other doors to let them in.

Parents/guardians who need care prior to 8:15 am have the option of contacting Boys and Girls Club Niagara or YMCA to set up child care.

KISS N RIDE - stay in vehicles if using kiss n ride drive thru lanes



Parents/guardians or the adult using the Kiss n Ride drive thru area **are to stay in their vehicle**. When the driver gets out it causes a lot of hazards and slows down the drop off area.

- ensure backpacks are ready to go with the child and not stowed in a trunk.
- Students exit the right side of the vehicle.
- Staff will assist with baby seats for youngest students.
- If you want to get out of your car to assist your child, you will need to park your vehicle

This is particularly for the first group (Kindergarten).

* Remain in your vehicle until your child is brought out to the Kiss N Ride, this will help if we need you to drive around.

* if you are FIRST in the Kiss N Ride - be prepared to "go around" to allow the cars behind you who have already received their child to exit the Kiss N Ride.

* Some of our younger students need to be strapped into car seats which could cause a slight delay. From time to time you may need to drive around the car in front of you to safely exit the Kiss n Ride. Please do so with caution.

* Adhere to the one-way signs.

* if you do not want to drive around another car to exit the Kiss N Ride - please use one of the parking spots. You can then get out of your car and greet your child in the grass area.

Educational staff's primary focus is the students they are dismissing, there may be many occasions where they are unable to help direct the flow of traffic.

Staff have been directed by the City of Niagara Falls that they are not to direct the flow of traffic by walking into the middle of the crosswalk to stop traffic. It is important that vehicles follow the pedestrian crosswalk arrows and not enter the crosswalk area until people have crossed the road safely.

NCVLE app for Parents/Guardian to get updates from teachers

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Niagara Catholic has launched **Brightspace for Parents** - a portal that can help you stay connected to your child's learning experience. Educators will be able to share information with parents through our Niagara Catholic Virtual Learning Environment (NCVLE). This Parent Portal allows you to sign up for daily or weekly summaries about your child's classroom.

All classroom teachers will be communicating using **Brightspace for Parents**. Please ensure that your current email address is registered with the school if you are interested in accessing this platform. Please contact **Mrs. Iuliano (secretary)** if you need to update your contact information.



Parents can access the Brightspace Parent Portal by going to:

<https://niagaracatholic.elearningontario.ca/>, or by downloading the "Brightspace Parent & Guardian" app from the [Apple App Store](#) or the [Google Play Store](#).

Please Note: If you are accessing the Brightspace Parent Portal via the app, you will be asked to identify the school first. Please type in **Niagara CDSB**.

To log in you will be presented with the image on the left.

Please use the **“Guest Login”** option at the bottom of the page.

The username is the email address that you have provided to your child’s school.

The first time you access this, you will need to click **“forgot your password”** to receive an email with a password reset link. Once you have created a password you will be able to access the site and see your child’s class information.

Clicking on your child’s name will enable you to see evidence of learning that has been shared by the teacher. You will be able to see posts by the teacher in this virtual space and portfolio evidence that has been shared. Individual assignment grades and feedback may be shared by teachers in this portal.

This is **not** your child’s grade in the course. Overall course achievement and reporting are made available through our [Maplewood Parent Portal](#).

Communication through these platforms is **one-way only**.

[This Video](#) will show you how to navigate Brightspace for Parents.

Brightspace for Parents can be accessed on phones, tablets, and desktops – so you can stay connected wherever you are. We are excited to provide you with this virtual seat in the classroom. Parents requiring support for the app can email supportON@d2l.com or phone 1-800-222-0209 for support.

If you have any questions regarding this platform, please contact us at **905-354-4469**.

Allergy Aware School



ALLERGY AWARE SCHOOL – NUT SAFE – ANAPHYLAXES

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.

Supports for Students

Kids Help Phone, offers 24/7 counselling and referral services across the province. To use this free resource, children can call 1-800-668-6868, or text CONNECT to 686868.

School Mental Health Ontario also has a number of great resources for students, parents and families on their website at www.smho-smsso.ca.

In Niagara, Pathstone Mental Health (1-800-263-4944) is the local mental health agency for mental health support. It is closed to walk-in service until further notice, but you may call the number above to either speak with a Pathstone counsellor; or to make a video counselling appointment use #you are not alone #kidsmentalhealth#COVID19.



Parents' Support Hub

<https://niagaracatholic.elearningontario.ca/d2l/login> Although it's neither supported, nor endorsed by Niagara Catholic District School Board, many parents have chosen to use the Facebook app "Messenger for Kids" which is a messaging app for kids to interact with friends and family. Using the Parent Dashboard from their Facebook account, parents can manage their child's contact list, monitor their activity and change their account settings.

🔗 sites.google.com



DRESS CODE REQUIRED FOR ALL STUDENTS

Niagara Catholic Elementary students wear a dress code. The details can be found at Niagara Catholic website under policies. Please make sure your child has a navy or white polo style shirt (must have a collar) and **navy bottoms; not black** (pants, skirt, dark jeans). Student can wear any type of shoes; we do recommend a second set of shoes/slippers for indoor use. If your child arrives to school out of dresscode - we may provide the student with items to wear for the school day. If you need assistance with dresscode items, please notify the school.



School Apparel - Gradhoodies

Father Hennepin Spirit Wear.

Families can order Grad Hoodies and Father Hennepin spirit wear through the Big Bear Spirit Wear Website. Usually the orders are delivered to the school to hand out to students. All orders are to be done by going to Big Bear Spirit Wear website.

Father Hennepin Catholic School – Big Bear Spiritwear

🔗 bigbearspiritwear.com

Safe Arrival - Reporting Absences using School Messenger



All parents/guardians are required to report child's absence prior to 8:15 am each day. If an absence is unverified, the automated system will continue to contact you until your child's whereabouts is known; safety is our top priority. We may need to contact the Niagara Regional Police for assistance with unverified absences.

Absences can be reported by using school messenger or by calling the toll free number. If you have questions regarding school messenger, please contact the school and Mrs. Iluiano (secretary) will assist you.

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 (blue logo) 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 that in the Settings area of the app.

3. The current toll-free number 844-287-6287 also allows you to report your child absence. The system is available 24hrs each day.

SafeArrival

niagaracatholic.ca

Pedestrian Crossover.pdf

Cross Walk - MOT Exceptions

[Download](#)

308.6 KB

Pedestrian Crossovers | City of Niagara Falls, Canada - City of Niagara Falls

Pedestrian crossover / cross walk information in the City of Niagara Falls

niagarafalls.ca



KISS – N- RIDE – FRONT PARKING LOT

- Parents who use the Kiss – N- Ride are asked to follow the following safety guidelines:
- **Pedestrian Crossover (NEW) by City of Niagara Falls. See attached PDF for Driver expectations regarding fines and demerit points. Stop before the white triangles on the road when students are crossing in the crosswalk**
- Kiss N Ride - ONE WAY traffic

Students are ready to exit vehicle and vehicle are always attended by a driver in the Kiss N Ride. Parking spots are available if you wish to get out to assist your child.

- If you are holding up a line of cars wishing to exit we will ask you to go around.
- Students should exit vehicles in the right lane (closest to the curb) and on the right hand side of the vehicle for safety purposes.
- At the end of day 2 lanes are used for families waiting.

No stopping in Safety Zones by Schools

Safety before convenience - City of Niagara Falls

SAFETY BEFORE CONVENIENCE – CITY PARKING RULES TO KEEP BUS AND FIRE LANES SAFE IN SCHOOL ZONES

The City of Niagara Falls continue to monitor the safe zone in all schools across Niagara. Please do not stop to let your child out of your vehicle between the hours of 8am and 4pm. Drivers who choose to ignore this safety rule may be ticketed. Ticketing is now done electronically – your license plate will be scanned and your will receive a ticket in the mail. There is some parking across from the school, the Kiss N Ride for drop off and the side street.



Mrs. A Cybula

Mrs. is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters