



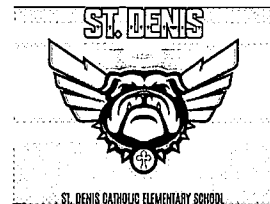
## St. Denis Catholic Elementary School

175 Carlton St., St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 1S1

Phone: 905.682.4156

Mr. K. Lamb

Principal



April 2, 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians:

It has come to the attention of St. Denis Catholic Elementary School and the Niagara Catholic District School Board that there is a scheduled provincial walkout of students, on Thursday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 1:15 pm, to "protest proposed changes to education" recently announced by the provincial government. This is a student-led, provincial initiative that was brought to our attention by students to voice their concerns regarding some of the upcoming provincial changes to education which include an increase in class size, mandatory e-learning and the banning of cell phones.

Information on the Ministry of Education's proposed changes can be found at [Education that Works for You](#).

The Niagara Catholic District School Board recognizes the importance of Catholic schools in creating a stronger democracy and the right of students to advocate for important causes. Parents/guardians need to be informed of the potential for a student walkout and to be able to talk to their student about the issues, in advance.

While we support student voice and engagement, parents/guardians should be aware that a student walkout is not a Board-sanctioned event. Students who choose to participate will NOT be supervised by teachers or administrators. Parents/guardians whose children are considering participation in the walkout are encouraged to speak to their student about alternative forms of voicing an opinion.

If a student is absent from school, parents/guardians are responsible for reporting their student's absence:

- 1) using the SchoolMessenger app, or
- 2) calling 1-844-287-6287, or
- 3) visiting [go.messenger.ca](http://go.messenger.ca)


Students whose absences are not reported will be followed up using routine school procedures.

The Niagara Regional Police Service has been notified of the potential walkout, in the interest of the health and safety of participants and the surrounding community.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you for your continued support of Catholic education in the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

Sincerely,

  
Mr. Kevin Lamb  
Principal

- c. Ted Farrell, Superintendent of Education, Secondary Schools  
John Crocco, Director of Education