



NIAGARA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Friday, March 13th, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians:

On Thursday, the Government of Ontario, through a Ministerial Order, announced that effective March 14th, all publicly funded Ontario schools will be closed until April 5th, 2020 to prevent the spread of COVID-19. At this time, schools are scheduled to re-open on Monday, April 6th.

We are providing parents and guardians with this letter, as we know that this three-week closure may require you making significant changes to your schedule. However, we understand and support the government's goal to keep citizens healthy by doing its best to prevent the spread of COVID-19. We encourage parents to make alternative child care arrangements for the duration of this closure, to provide opportunities for children to review learning or complete assignments and to continue to guide your children on their Lenten journey while they are away from school.

For the period of March 14th through April 5th:

- All elementary, secondary and Continuing Education and alternative education sites will be closed to students.
- Parents/guardians will not be required to call in absences.
- The Catholic Education Centre, Maintenance Centre and St. Thomas Centre will be closed with staff performing critical services as determined by their supervisor.
- Niagara Student Transportation Services (NSTS) bus transportation will be cancelled.
- All childcare services operated on school sites which include infant/toddler/pre-school and school aged care and camps will be cancelled.
- All Board-operated EarlyON Child and Family Centres will be closed.
- All community use of schools permits will be cancelled as of 6.00 p.m. March 13th.
- All OFSAA events, athletic, co-instructional, cooperative education and dual-credit placements at Brock University and Niagara College are cancelled. Students are not to report to work sites or placements.
- OSSLT will not be conducted on March 31st. Further information to be provided.
- The April 1st SEAC Meeting, Catholic School Council Meetings and school events, including Student-Parent-Teacher Conferences will be rescheduled with advanced notification.
- Confirmations scheduled during this time will be rescheduled.
- Journey Retreats will be modified to a one-day retreat.
- The end date for the Careers and Civics courses will be adjusted.
- More information will be forthcoming from the Ministry regarding Online Learning Resources that will be available to students and families.

This is unprecedented in the history of education in Ontario. We thank you for your patience and understanding, and be assured that we will continue to provide you with information as it becomes available on our Board website, social media platforms and through our School Messenger service. We also ask you to join us in praying for all those affected by COVID-19, and for all those tasked with making decisions to help stop the spread of this disease.

Sincerely,

Frank Fera
Chair of the Board

John Crocco
Director of Education