

WELCOME

Welcome to the Niagara Catholic Virtual Elementary School. We are very excited and blessed to have you join us in the Niagara Catholic Virtual School. Although the start of this year may look very different, we have been working very hard to ensure that the 2020/2021 will be a year to remember in Catholic Education.

As parents, you have chosen for your child to work remotely to start this school year which is going to look very different from the spring of 2020's at home learning experience. What will not be different is the expectation that we will work together as a cooperative team of school, home and Church to ensure that your child's Catholic education will continue to be successful.

DAILY ROUTINES

Daily routines of Virtual school will follow a very similar schedule of your face to face counterparts. All Curriculum requirements will be expected to be met by your teachers including instruction in French, Physical and Health Education as well as the Arts and Sciences. Unlike the experience during the closure period, the day will more closely mirror the conventional school day and all students will be engaged in live teaching and learning, taking all subjects in the curriculum in elementary, and credits in secondary. Please note, teachers assigned to these classrooms may not be the teachers from your child(ren)'s home school, nor is the assigned principal.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Students with Special Education needs will continue to receive support through the classroom teacher as well as an ERT and EA. All accommodations and modifications as outlined in their IEP will continue to be addressed.

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Niagara Catholic will continue to support all student's social and emotional well-being with the full support of our Mental Health and well-being staff both through in class teacher lead lessons and practices as well as School Based Social Worker support through our intervention and support model.

SYNCHRONOUS and ASYNCHRONOUS LEARNING

Daily learning will include a combination of synchronous and asynchronous learning each day. As defined by the Ministry of Ontario Synchronous Learning is learning that happens in real time. Synchronous learning involves using text, video, or voice communication in a way that enables educators and other members of the school- or board-based team to instruct and connect with students in real time. This includes live lessons, small group instruction, individual conferencing and scheduled teacher support when students and parents can access the classroom. Synchronous learning supports the well-being and academic achievement of all students, including students with special education needs, by providing educators and students with an interactive and engaging way to learn. It helps teachers provide immediate feedback to students and enables students to interact with one another.

Asynchronous Learning is defined by the Ministry of Education as learning that is not delivered in real time. Asynchronous learning may involve students watching pre-recorded video lessons, completing assigned tasks and independent learning.

STUDENT/PARENT EXPECTATIONS

Expectation of Students:

- attend each session prepared to learn;
- actively engage in all sessions;
- be punctual;
- adhere to all NCDSB policies including but not limited to:
- NCDSB– ([Student Code of Conduct](#))
- NCDSB - ([Electronics Communications Systems Use - Students](#)), and
- adhere to classroom expectations as established by the teacher.

Expectations of Parents:

- supervise students at a level appropriate to their age, development, and independence;
- report the absence of your child to the Virtual School [Safe Arrival](#)
- ensure students have the tools necessary for learning (e.g., device, place to work);
- engage in ongoing communication with the school;
- inform the school of any issues that their child may be experiencing with remote learning, following the process that will be communicated by the NCDSB Virtual School Principal.
- encourage and support your child’s learning; and,
- collaborate with the teacher to assist in supporting your child to gain independence in their use of the learning management system.

ATTENDANCE AND SCHEDULES

Regular attendance is a key element to your child’s success. Attendance will be taken twice daily in both elementary and secondary classes. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of period 1 and after lunch. Parents will be required to use the Safe Arrival system to record absences as is the case in the in-class school.

Sample schedule can be found below:

Division	Grade Level of Students	Daily Minimum Synchronous Learning Time Requirement*
Elementary	Kindergarten	180 minutes
	Grade 1-3	225 minutes
	Grade 4-8	225 minutes

Sample Elementary Schedule (specific schedules will be communicated by your teacher)

8:45 - 9:15	Opening Exercises: Prayer, etc. Religion and Family Life	Synchronous
9:15 – 9:45	Literacy	Synchronous
9:45 - 10:00	Recess	
10:00-10:30	Literacy (50% synchronous/50% asynchronous)	Synchronous/ Asynchronous
10:30 - 11:00	Mathematics	Synchronous
11:00 - 11:30	Mathematics	Synchronous
11:30 - 12:30	Lunch	
12:30 - 1:00	Social Studies Science and Technology	Synchronous
1:00 - 1:30	Social Studies Science and Technology	Asynchronous
1:30 - 2:00	French	Synchronous
2:00 - 2:15	Recess	
2:15 – 2:45	Health and Physical Education The Arts: Music, Visual Arts, Dance, Drama	Synchronous
2:45 - 3:15	Health and Physical Education The Arts: Music, Visual Arts, Dance, Drama	Asynchronous

We will continue to provide information as it becomes ready and available. Your patience as we venture in new waters has been very much appreciated.

If you require any further information or assistance, please feel free to contact us:

Mr. Chris Boyer- contact for Elementary- christopher.boyer@ncdsb.com

Ms. Adele Filice- contact for Secondary- adele.filice@ncdsb.com

We look forward to a successful Virtual School experience.

Mr. Chris Boyer

Principal

Ms. Adele Filice

Vice-Principal