



Thursday, June 30, 2022

Dear Niagara Catholic students and families:

Earlier this month, our Board Chaplain shared a prayer with us about the passage of time. It notes that although each measure of time is the same, there are instances where time seems to fly by, while other times when it seemingly stands still. As we look back on the past school year, I am sure we can find examples of both. Long stretches when the COVID restrictions prevented so many events and activities, and the fleeting days and weeks of long weekends and holidays.

This year has definitely been a different one than we experienced last year, and I sincerely hope that we are working our way back towards a more normal school year for 2022-2023. I am so grateful for the many ways that you continued to rise to the occasion during the challenging times. Time and again I heard from very proud teachers and principals about the creative ways students dealt with online learning and with managing group work when they couldn't be together. I heard many stories about the ways in which students raised each other up and supported each other, and about the ways parents supported students and staff this year.

As Director of Education, it is gratifying to me to hear these stories of students and families being living examples of our faith, and it affirms for me just how incredibly blessed I am to be a part of Niagara Catholic.

To the students whose first years of school have been defined by the pandemic, I hope you have enjoyed your first true school experience, working with classmates and teachers once we were able, and I am sure that you have many wonderful years ahead to learn, make friends, and wonderful memories.

To those who can recall a time in school before the pandemic, I am sure you are as excited to be returning to what is comfortable and familiar.

And to those whose last years of your formal education were far different than what you expected when you started high school, let me tell you how very proud of you your teachers, principals, and our senior staff are of you for continuing to be leaders in your school despite the obstacles COVID presented.

To all of the parents and guardians, thank you again for everything you have done to make this past year as normal as possible for everyone, even as many of you navigated your own work or family challenges. I am grateful to each of you and want you to know how truly valued you are as partners in Catholic education.

As we break for summer, I pray you have days filled with laughter and joy that feel like they go on forever, and that you appreciate the beauty and wonder of the gifts God has given us in Niagara, whether it is in the simplicity of a sunrise or sunset, or it is the awesome power of the falls. I also wish you God's blessings for good health this summer, fun times, and the opportunity to reconnect with family and friends. Relax, have fun, and stay safe. To our graduates, best of luck on what lies ahead, and to everyone else, we will see you in September.

God bless,

Camillo Cipriano
Director of Education