

NIAGARA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD



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We are a
CHRIST-CENTERED
CATHOLIC FAITH community

that celebrates diversity

and fosters SPIRITUAL GROWTH,

inspiring ALL to REACH

their FULL potential in

MIND, BODY, & SPIRIT

ENCOUNTERING SOULS
AND OPENING MINDS

SO that all students

SUCCEED

Niagara Catholic Receives Outstanding Contributor Award From Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara

The Niagara Catholic District School Board is pleased to announce that the Board has received the Outstanding Contributors Award from the Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara Region (LDANR).

The presentation was made at the Association's Appreciation Event April 12.

Niagara Catholic was recognized for its partnership with the LDANR's SOAR Secondary (SOAR) and TIPS for Post-Secondary (TIPS) programs which focus on supporting students with learning disabilities during significant transition periods. The SOAR program supports Grades 7 and 8 students who are preparing for the transition into high-school, whereas the TIPS program supports Grades 11 and 12 students who are planning to attend college or university following high-school.

The addition of the TIPS and SOAR programs to the current offering of supportive programming in place for students who have learning challenges offer critical support through transitional times in their learning journey.

Both programs aim to equip students with learning disabilities with the necessary skills to navigate their new school environment. Students work on developing self-advocacy and coping strategies, and learn about the resources available to prepare them for a positive transition to high-school or post-secondary education. Students in these programs feel better prepared with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to prosper in the next chapter of their academics.

"Niagara Catholic is a valued community partner of the LDANR. Over the past year, we have had the privilege of strengthening our relationship with Niagara Catholic's Special Education Department to support students with learning disabilities through our transition programming." says Samantha Sendzik-Sinclair, Executive Director of the Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara Region. "The transition to high-school or post-secondary education is daunting for all students, but it is a particularly challenging time for students with learning disabilities. These students are not only adjusting to a new learning environment and more demanding expectations, but they must also learn how and where to access the supports that they require, and demonstrate more independence in their self-advocacy skills.

"When not properly supported, these students encounter numerous barriers that often result in school drop-out. The SOAR and TIPS programs aim to circumvent this outcome. This award was our way of thanking Niagara Catholic for recognizing the importance of this support; a testament to their continued commitment to ensuring students with learning disabilities can reach their full potential."

Family of Schools Superintendent of Education Gino Pizzoferratto, who is also responsible for Niagara Catholic's Student Support Program, said the Board is grateful for the recognition and praised all those responsible for making the programs so successful.

"It is truly a privilege for Niagara Catholic to be the recipients of the Learning Disability Association of Niagara Region's Outstanding Contributors Award," Mr. Pizzoferratto. "Our team is incredibly dedicated to the students they serve, and work tirelessly to ensure that they are successful in school to the very best of their abilities. This recognition truly reflects the commitment of this team, as well as classroom teachers, principals, and support staff across Niagara Catholic who believe in the guidance set out in our mission statement to inspire all students to reach their full potential of mind, body, and spirit."

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