

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 Asks Ministry to Support Technology Programs through Capital Funding

Niagara Catholic's Board of Trustees has sent a letter to Education Minister Stephen Lecce, calling for the provincial government to do more to support providing technology education to students.

"The Niagara Catholic District School Board supports the Ministry's continued focus on trades, technology, and workplace pathways for Ontario students," the letter signed by Chair of the Board Danny Di Lorenzo on behalf of the Niagara Catholic Board of Trustees reads. "The Ministry of Education's recent announcement about the Technological Credit requirement for all students entering school in September 2024 affirms the importance of technological education.

We support this initiative and look forward to hearing more details on this program."

The letter was penned after discussion at the April 11 Committee of the Whole Meeting, when staff presented on technology education to the Board. Trustees expressed concern about the expectation that schools will continue to add technology programs in schools without ensuring students have equal access to programming.

Another challenge that we face," the letter continues, "is that our schools, built in the 20th century, are not fully equipped to provide the technology and resources to prepare our students for the jobs and careers of tomorrow. For Niagara Catholic, this means significant investment in renovations to our schools with available space to include dedicated makerspaces for technology programs to ensure we continue to meet the current and emerging needs of 21st century learners."

The letter also addresses the critical need for teachers.

"Like school boards across Ontario, Niagara Catholic continues to see the need to hire more teachers, particularly those experienced in the trades, so they can teach, mentor, and share their knowledge with the next generation in order to support the projected growth and development in the Niagara region, and throughout Ontario."

The letter concludes by calling upon the provincial government to approve capital project initiatives requested by the Board, recognizing the often-dueling priorities of fiscal restraint with investment in the future.

"Niagara Catholic recognizes that this will involve a balance between financial prudence and making investments in students today for the betterment of Ontario tomorrow. To this end, we ask the Ministry to strongly consider our Capital Project Initiatives that support both the Board and Ministry goal of increasing technology learning for students. In addition, we invite both the Minister and our local MPPs to learn more about Niagara Catholic's innovative technology programs and to engage with us in a roundtable discussion about how Niagara Catholic can provide meaningful technology education to our students in this decade and for years to come."

The letter was sent to the Premier and all local MPPs as well as the Education Minister, the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association, and local partners in our Niagara Launch Centre at Seaway Mall.