



St. John Paul II Catholic Elementary School

2130 Kingsridge Drive, Oakville ON L6M 4Z2

Website: <https://elem.hcdsb.org/stjohnpaulii/>

T: 905-827-8894

Principal: Mrs. Cathy Choma

Secretary: Mrs. Maria Pirruccio

Important Dates

September 7

Students in Grades 1-8 with A-K surnames
Kindergarten Orientation Virtual Interviews

September 8

Students in Grades 1-8 with L-Z surnames

September 9

Regular in-class instruction begins for ALL Grade 1-8 students
All Year 2 Kindergarten Students and half the Year 1 Kindergarten Students

September 10

ALL Students in Grades 1-8
All Year 2 Kindergarten Students and half of Year 1 Kindergarten Students

September 13

All Students at school

PA Days 2021-2022

October 8, 2021

November 26, 2021

January 28, 2022

April 25, 2022

June 6, 2022

Administrator's Message

I would like to sincerely welcome all new and returning students to St. John Paul II Catholic Elementary School. Whether your child is returning for face-to-face instruction or if you have chosen remote online learning, our school staff and online staff will continue to care for your children and they will be encouraged to fulfill their potential toward our goals of achieving, believing and belonging.

We thank you for your continued support this year as work together to make St. John Paul II CES a place where students strive to achieve high academic standards in a safe and welcoming Catholic environment. The health and well-being of our students, families and staff is our first priority. Our school board is working very closely with Halton Region Public Health to ensure health and safety protocols are in place and followed so that our students and staff can enjoy a safe and healthy learning environment again this year. Please continue to follow the advice of our Public Health professionals by monitoring for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and keeping your child(ren) home from school if they are sick.

The mental health and well-being of our students is as important as their physical health, and we will continue to build and strengthen mentally healthy classrooms, both in our schools and in our remote learning spaces. Our staff are looking forward to welcoming our students back to instruction and remain committed to providing a quality Catholic Education that is flexible and engaging. Despite the challenges we will continue to face this school year, we look forward to creating and maintaining a strong sense of community and welcoming spaces in our schools and in our virtual classrooms. Working together, we will ensure a safe, healthy and happy return to school for all.

We will be using our school website: <https://elem.hcdsb.org/stjohnpaulii/> (for weekly updates, featured stories, staff directory, board news etc.), e-mail, and classroom online platforms as our main communication tools. Announcements and forms generated from the office will be sent to your e-mail address. If you have not received emails, please call the school so we can confirm your correct e-mail.

We extend our wishes for a healthy, successful and fulfilling school year; one in which we continue to grow together and enjoy the wonders of learning.

God bless and take care,
Cathy Choma

St. John Paul II Catholic School Council 2021-2022

Role of Catholic School Council: Ontario Regulation 612 states that every school must hold elections for the School Council within the first 30 days of each school year. The term of office is one year. We want to encourage every parent to consider volunteering to sit on the School Council this year. The school needs active and interested parents to maintain the quality of the school community we enjoy and to address the challenges the community will face in the future. **Nomination forms will be emailed out upon request and will be posted on our school website beginning Wednesday, September 8th.**

Please note: Should we receive less than 8 nominations and candidates satisfy the requirements outlined in the regulations, they will be acclaimed.

Nomination Forms Due: Friday, September 24th

First Council Meeting: Monday, October 4th at 6:00 pm.

All parents are welcome to attend regular Council meetings. Meeting dates will be posted on our school web page. The meetings will begin at 6:00 p.m. and will be held virtually via Teams online.

First Day Procedures

Arrival

On September 7-8, at 8:30 am, Grade 4 to 8 students will be welcomed into school and asked to enter via their assigned doors. Students will proceed directly to their classrooms. Staff will be on site to supervise and assist students as necessary.

Grade 1-3 students will be greeted on the back pavement by their teachers. Parents are kindly requested to refrain from entering the yard, however, with the appropriate physical distancing, and wearing a mask, you will have the opportunity to meet the teacher briefly as you drop your children off.

Kindergarten Students: Staggered Entry – JK interview dates and times were confirmed. Please use the online link provided for your child’s virtual orientation interview on Teams.

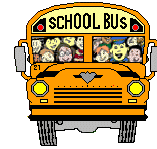
As of September 13, ALL children will proceed directly to their classes upon their arrival at school. **Just a reminder that students are to arrive NO earlier than 8:30 am.**

Dismissal

The school will start dismissal procedures 15 minutes before the end of the day:

- Kindergarten students will be dismissed at 3:00 pm
 - Intermediate (Gr. 7-8) students will be dismissed at 3:05 pm
 - Junior (Gr. 4-6) students will be dismissed at 3:10 pm
 - Primary (Gr. 1-3) students will be dismissed at 3:15 pm
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Bus Transportation



Bus Transportation

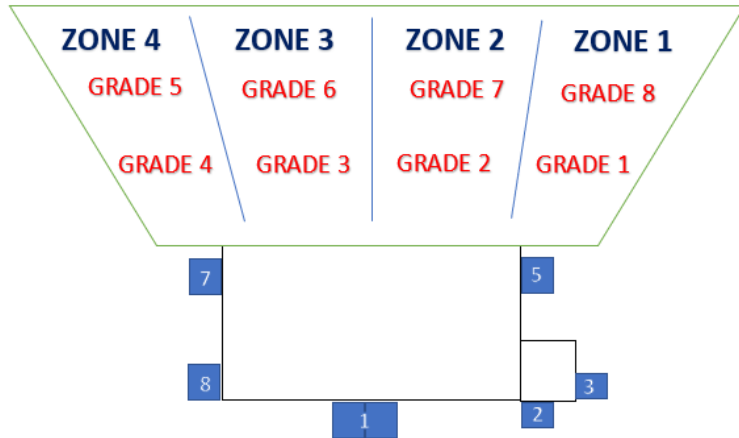
If your child qualifies for bus transportation, you can now review their bus details through the Halton Student Transportation Services online Parent Portal

at <https://haltonbus.ca/sign-in/> You will need your child’s 9-digit Ontario Education Number (OEN) to access the parent portal. This can be found on a copy of any of their report cards.

If your child has not yet been assigned an OEN (i.e. Kindergarten student) and is eligible for transportation, you will receive a phone call with busing information from Halton Student Transportation Services between August 23 and 27. If you do not receive a phone call, please contact Halton Student Transportation Services between 8:00am and 4:30pm at 905-637-4009 or Toll-Free: 1-888-803-8660. For specific information about COVID-19 Safety Protocols that are in place for students while travelling on the bus, please visit www.haltonbus.ca/covid-19-return-to-school-transportation/

Please note that if your child qualifies for bussing and will not be riding this year please contact the main office.

**Courtesy Seats are on hold for now a request for courtesy seat list will be reviewed once protocols allow.*



ASSIGNED DOOR ENTRY

Door 7:

- 3/4 – Doherty
- 4A – Grano
- 4/5-Bryla

- ESC-Pilozzi
- 5A – Morrison
- 6A-Mercanti
- 6B- Mesich
- 8B-Molder

Door 5:

- 1A – Lubanszky
- ½-St. Jean |
- 2A-Medeiros
- 2/3-Fletcher
- 3A-larossi

- 6/7-Hoover
- 7A - Kayemba
- 7B – Lourenco
- 8A - Kay
- 8C – Steer-Thackray

Door 2:

- FDKA – Hozjan/Coles

Door 3:

- FDKB – Pelletier/Mucci

Board Prayer

Jesus, our Saviour and Friend,
 You have shown us so much love.
 You are gentle with us, You heal us, You
 died on the Cross for us.
 Now You ask us, "Do you love Me?"

As we come to know You better, and see all
 that You have done for us,
 May our hearts be filled with love for You.
 Make us eager to always do what You ask
 of us,
 And to see Your face and love You in
 everyone else we meet,
 Especially those we may find it hard to love.

It is Your love which turns our lives around.
 By trying to love as You have loved us, we
 become more and more like You.
 Guide us always on our way,
 Show us each day how to love You more.

Spirit of the living God, fill our hearts!

Amen.

HCDSB Calendar

September 6, 2021	Labour Day
September 7, 2021	First Day of Instruction
October 8, 2021	PA Day (Elementary & Secondary)
October 11, 2021	Thanksgiving Day
November 26, 2021	PA Day (Elementary & Secondary)
December 20, 2021 – December 31, 2021 (Inclusive)	Christmas Break
January 27, 2022 – February 2, 2022 Tentative dates to be confirmed	Secondary Exam Period (5 days)
January 28, 2022	PA Day (Elementary)
February 4, 2022	PA Day (Secondary)
February 21, 2022	Family Day
March 14, 2022 – March 18, 2022	March Break
April 15, 2022	Good Friday
April 18, 2022	Easter Monday
April 25, 2022	PA Day (Elementary & Secondary)
May 23, 2022	Victoria Day
June 6, 2022	PA Day (Elementary)
June 21, 2022 – June 27, 2022 Tentative dates to be confirmed	Secondary Exam Period (5 days)
June 29, 2022	PA Day (Secondary)
June 30, 2022	Board Designated Holiday

Concussion Protocol

Recent research shows that a concussion can have very serious implications on a child's cognitive and physical abilities. Parents and guardians are reminded that a comprehensive protocol, based on current research and best practices, has been developed to help parents, students, and staff prevent, recognize, and respond to a concussion. More information, including a [Parent Fact Sheet](#) and a [Student Fact Sheet](#) can be found on the Board's website at: <http://bit.ly/HCDsBConcussion>.



Family Information and Consent Forms

Family Information/Consent Forms and the Registration Verification form will be completed electronically by all families this year. Information including the link will be forwarded to all families next week. The Physical Education Information Form will be sent home on the first day of school and should be found in your child's agenda or backpack. A copy of the St. John Paul II Code of Conduct can be found in the front of your child's agenda and also on our website: <https://elem.hcdsb.org/stjohnpaulii/>

Please complete and the physical education form to the school no later than September 18. **Students cannot participate in physical education classes until this form is returned**

Safe Arrival Program

SafeArrival Student Absence Reporting is here
<https://elem.hcdsb.org/stjohnpaulii/report-student-absence/>

The safety and wellbeing of our students is our highest priority, and we are happy to announce we are using the new automated student attendance management system called **SafeArrival**. The SafeArrival system is available 24/7, allowing you to report your child's absence in one of three ways:

1. using the *SchoolMessenger*® **mobile app**
2. by logging into the *SchoolMessenger*® **web site**
3. by calling into an **interactive toll-free phone line**

SafeArrival enhances our existing student attendance procedure, making it more convenient for parents to report a child's absence, and more efficient for our school office staff to follow up sooner on

School Hours 2020-2021

8:45 am	School Start Time
10:15 - 10:30am	Recess (Gr 1-4)
10:55 - 11:10am	Recess (Gr 5-8)
11:50 - 12:50	Lunch
1:50 - 2:05 pm	Recess (Gr 1-4)
2:10 - 2:25 pm	Recess (Gr 5-8)
3:15 pm	Dismissal

Yard Supervision begins at 8:30 a.m. For the safety of your child(ren) we request that your child NOT be on school property until a supervisor is on duty. For safety, please see that your children leave home with ample time to ensure that they are in the schoolyard when the bell rings. Encourage your children to use appropriate crosswalks and walkways. Establish routines at home that will assist your child to arrive on time. Please be aware that the volume of traffic in the parking lot increases significantly just prior to the entry bell.

Children arriving late for school must first report to the office.

Prescribed Medication



If your child requires medication to be given during the school day please contact the school and the appropriate documentation will be sent to you to complete. Advil, Tylenol etc. will not be dispensed unless a permission form and parental signature is provided.

Daily Confirmation of COVID-19 Self-Screening

As you know, the Ministry of Education has directed all schools to implement daily confirmation of COVID-19 self-screening for all students attending school in person. This will be in place for the first two weeks of the school year, unless otherwise directed by the Ministry of Education.

The following are the instructions that will be provided to parents in an email going out this evening:

1. Parents and guardians are asked to complete the [COVID-19 School Screening Tool](https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/) for each child every day before leaving home for school: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>
2. Confirmation of the daily screening must be provided to the classroom teacher in one of the following formats:
 - o Email results to classroom teacher;
 - o Show “pass” confirmation on a personal device;
 - o Show printed copy of the screening tool indicating the current date and a “pass; OR
 - o Complete *Confirmation of Daily COVID-19 Student Screening Log*, which students will bring back and forth to school each day and will be provided for them on the first day of school in the agenda. (See last page for template)



Danger! Anaphylaxis Warning

Please be aware that St. John Paul II School strives to be a **nut aware** environment. We have students with life threatening allergies to nuts and other allergens. No peanut butter or other nut

products are allowed. Please check labels before sending items in school lunches and for snacks. Even a trace of nut oil from one child’s fingers to a desk surface can cause a deadly reaction. **Please note that Wow Butter (soy product) is not allowed as well since we cannot distinguish between it and peanut butter.**

Pizza & Hot Lunch Programs

We will not be running these lunch programs to start the year. However email communication will be sent home with more information once these commence.

Lunch

For the health and safety of our students and school community, it is strongly recommended that all elementary students remain at school for the full duration of their lunch periods. **Students will not be permitted to go out for lunch with their friends.**

As we limit visitors to our school throughout the day, **lunch drop offs will not be permitted during the school day.**

Parents and guardians are asked to provide their child(ren) with lunch in the morning before students enter the school building.

Considerations for Lunch Prep:

- Lunches should be prepared as individual meals and snacks.
- Sharing food items will not be permitted.
- Reusable water bottles are encouraged.

Thank you for your understanding as we limit the

number of visits and contacts to our school community to protect the health and safety of our students and staff.

School Supplies

In an effort to limit the sharing of classroom items, we suggested items that you may choose to purchase for your child. These items will be for your child ONLY at school. Please refer to the communication emailed from the school on August 30th for the suggested lists.



Physical Education

All students are expected to participate in physical education classes. Running shoes need to have white or no-mark soles to prevent damage to the gym's rubberized floor. Please note that aerosol deodorants and colognes are not allowed at school. There is a **permission form** to fill out before they can participate in activities. As much as possible, teachers will hold physical education classes outdoors. Gym equipment has been purchased to create classroom kits to avoid sharing between cohorts.

Student Agendas

School agendas are available for all students from Grade 1-6 to support their learning and to assist with the planning and organization of their school year. The agendas also contain expectations for student behavior. This year, students will use the agenda to write out their homework and reminders, but staff will not be signing. A teacher may elect to use a stamp to signal they've seen it. Teachers have been encouraged to establish an online communication system between home and school via their chosen online platform. Thank you for supporting us with this important communication tool. Agendas will be distributed during the first week of school at a cost of \$8.00 per

agenda. Agendas can now be purchased on SchoolCash Online.

Skateboards, Scooters, Roller-Blades, Wheelies

Please note that under board policy No.Iv-5c Playground Safety, skateboards, scooters and roller-blades are prohibited for use during the instructional day. Students will be allowed to use the roller-blades, wheelies, scooters and skateboards as a method of transportation to school as they would a bicycle. However, the same rules apply. They must ride them to the edge of school property and then walk. They are not allowed during recess breaks and they are not allowed on the bus.

Bicycle Safety

If your children ride bicycles to school, we remind you to ensure that your children's bicycles are roadworthy, that your children are familiar with the rules of the road, and that their bicycles conform to local municipal by-laws with respect to licensing, operation and equipment. All students need to wear helmets when riding a bicycle.

To ensure the safety of other students, cyclists must **walk their bicycles on school property at all times. Bikes need to be locked at the bike rack that will be installed later in the month.**

Visitors to the School

This school year, in an effort to minimize contacts and help prevent the potential spread of COVID-19, we are limiting visitor access to our school.

All visitors, including parents and HCDSB staff who are not assigned to our school, will require approval and pre-screening before entering our building. **Only visits that are deemed absolutely essential will be approved** – e.g. visits by the Fire Marshal's office or by public health. Where

possible, meetings or visits will be conducted virtually.

Visitors who are granted approval will be required to complete an online screening form prior to arriving at our school. Once inside, all visitors will be required to wear masks.

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we do all we can to ensure a safe and healthy return to school for all.

An online Visitor Request Form and Screening Form will be sent electronically upon its completion.

Student Drop Off

Students being dropped off in grades 1-8 need to reference the assigned entrance doors. Parents are asked to use the Kiss and Rides on either side of the school to drop off, or park in a marked spot and walk their child to the play yard. **Please do not park in the Kiss and Ride, it is for drop off only.** Be advised that cars have been ticketed for parking in the fire route in front of the school. The JK/SK Kiss and Ride is located on the west side of the building. The front of the school is reserved for Bus access only. Supervision begins at 8:30 am. Please do not bring children any earlier as there will be no one to supervise them. Parents are reminded that they are not allowed to enter the school or be in the yard.

Parking

Parents are reminded to be mindful when parking, and when they are leaving their parking spot in their vehicles, to do so by driving out in a forward fashion instead of backing out. Driving out in a forward direction helps create a safer parking lot environment. Please do not leave your car in the kiss and ride loop – we ask that you quickly and safely drop off/pick up your child and proceed out. Due to the volume of traffic, families are

always encouraged to walk to school when possible.

Late Drop Offs / Early Pick Ups

The school strongly encourages all of our students to arrive before the start of instruction at 8:45 a.m. and to be dismissed at 3:15 p.m. at our regular time. In the event that you must drop off your child after the entry bell, OR pick up before dismissal due to an appointment or special family circumstance, PLEASE call ahead to inform the office & classroom teacher.

Students benefit most from classroom learning, following routines, and building discipline, responsibility and resiliency when arriving on time and remaining in school for the full duration of the day. We understand there will be occasional times when appointments or special family situations necessitate a late drop off or early pick up; however, it is preferred to avoid interrupting classroom instruction when possible. Your cooperation and understanding is appreciated.

Please note that once a student leaves for the day, they should not return.

PLEASE do not use the bus loop. This is especially important between 8:30 - 9:00 a.m., and between 3:00 – 3:30 p.m., or whenever a bus or emergency vehicle is present in the bus loop. The bus loop is a designated emergency vehicle/bus only lane. Buses cannot enter/depart the lane if other vehicles are present.

Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations

The **Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations** outline what students are expected to know, to do, and to value by the END of secondary school. Teachers use these expectations when planning for their classrooms at all grade levels across the curriculum. They are

foundational guidelines to how Jesus wants us to treat others and how we live our lives in community both at school and at home. As a school community, we recognize students who demonstrate and exemplify these expectations throughout the year. We present a medallion to one student from each classroom for each of the seven expectations as follows:

October – **A Discerning Believer** - *“I am a believer!”*

November – **An Effective Communicator** - *“I have a voice!”*

January – **A Reflective, Creative and Holistic Thinker** - *“I have ideas!”*

February – **A Self-directed, Responsible Lifelong Learner** - *“I am a learner for life!”*

March – **A Collaborative Contributor** - *“I am a team player!”*

April – **A Caring Family Member** - *“I care!”*

May – **A Responsible Citizen** - *“I have responsibilities!”*

As Catholic educators, we nurture each learner in body, mind, and spirit. The **Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations** encompass not only knowledge and skills, but also values, attitudes and actions. We encourage you to discuss the **Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectation** for each month at home and to find authentic ways to connect them to your family and your community.

Child Protection & Duty to Report

All school staff, by law, are required to report any suspicion of abuse or neglect to the appropriate child protection service. It is the role of the Children’s Aid Society to determine if the suspicion is warranted and to investigate if appropriate. Should a report be made to the CAS

please understand that staff are complying with Ontario Law.

If your child is bruised or marked as a result of an accident you may wish to let the teacher know the circumstances.

Cell Phones & Electronic Recording Devices

Students who bring cell phones to school will be asked to turn them off and store them in their backpacks. They may be used for educational purposes only under the direct supervision of the teacher. Cell phones and all other forms of electronic video or audio recording and or transmitting devices are not to be activated on school property during the school day and school sponsored events. This includes recess and lunch. Recording devices of any kind are to be used only with staff member’s permission and only for special class events. Please note that Grade 7 & 8 students phones will be collected and locked up in the classroom.

St. Matthew Parish News



St. Matthew Parish will focus on sacramental preparation for our Grade 2 students who will celebrate their First Communion this year, and Grade 7 students for their upcoming Confirmation celebration. Information packages are being prepared for parents of these children.

If you have any specific questions, please contact Fr. Allan Varlaki directly at avarlaki@hamiltondiocese.com or by telephone at 905-825-0219 (Ext. 225).

For information about the parish and the mass schedule, please check out www.saintmatthew.ca.

Class Placements for Students in Grade 1-8

All schools are currently finalizing elementary class placements and making adjustments based on new registrations coming in this week. Final placements will be available today, **Friday, September 3rd after 3:00 p.m.**

- Parents and guardians will be able to access the class placement for each child, using your child's Office 365 email and password. You will not require your child's OEN number. [See step-by-step instructions.](#)
- If your family is new to HCDSB, your child(ren) will not yet have an Office 365 email. In this case, you will receive an email from your school with your child(ren)'s class placement(s).

NOTE: Due to the timing and complexity of the process this year, schools will not be able to accommodate requests for changes to class lists.

Students with Medical Conditions

Medical condition packages were provided to families in June so that individual student information and medical plans can be updated for the start of the school year. Thank you to many families that returned these packages already. Please drop off updated medical packages and medication to the front office staff no later than your child's first day of school.

After-School Clubs

If your son/daughter attends an after-school club (e.g. A Tae Kwon Do studio or daycare) that intends to pick up from the school, please notify the main office. Kindly provide the address and phone number for the location and the days on which your child will attend.

Lunchtime Supervisors

If you are interested in being a paid Lunchtime Supervisor at St. John Paul II (from 11:50 – 12:50), please contact the school and we will email you an application package.

Digital Citizenship

As Digital Citizens, users recognize the rights, responsibilities and opportunities of living, learning and working in an interconnected digital world, in which they act in ways that are safe, legal and ethical. Students are required to demonstrate digital citizenship through the appropriate use of technology as outlined in our code of conduct. Our school's Code of Conduct can be found on our school website here (<https://elem.hcdsb.org/stjohnpaulii/code-of-conduct/>) and in student agendas.

To ensure the safety and well-being of all students, please review these student expectations and our board policy: [Use of Technology and Digital Citizenship - HCDSB](#)

Students are expected to:

- Treat other students and school staff with dignity and respect.
- Represent only themselves online. Students should never pretend to be someone else or allow someone else pretend to be them.
- Complete all work assigned to the best of their ability while adhering to rules around plagiarism.
- Always protect their password(s) and schoolwork so others cannot take advantage.
- Use appropriate and encouraging language when posting opinions, critiquing others and chatting on school platforms.
- Immediately contact the teacher if they are having issues with class platforms (e.g., password no longer working, difficulty submitting work, concern about cyber-bullying, etc.)
- Notify their teacher should they feel their work has been compromised, copied or used without their permission.
- Be aware that inappropriate behaviour online could result in disciplinary action as per our Progressive Discipline policy
- Follow the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations while engaging in distance learning

We are committed to working with you to ensure a safe and productive learning environment for all members of our school community. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the school.



The future starts today, not tomorrow.

-St. John Paul II

Confirmation of Daily Covid-19 Student Screening Log

Parents/guardians/students must complete the [Ontario School Screening Tool](#) each morning prior to or upon arrival for each student.


Confirmation of the daily screening must be provided to the classroom teacher upon entry into the school.

Student Name: _____ **Class:** _____

(Please Print)

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ **Date:** _____

(Please Print)

Verify in writing:	Verify electronically:
I/we confirm the student (above) received a "pass" on the COVID School Screening Tool. _____ Parent/Guardian Name (Print) _____ Parent/Guardian Signature	https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/  Students may alternatively complete screening on their own device, where age appropriate, and present on arrival.

Please initial each morning prior to attending school.

By initialing below, I/we confirm the Ontario COVID-19 School Screening has been completed for my child and my child has passed the screening.

Date	Parent/guardian initials
September 7, 2021	
September 8, 2021	
September 9, 2021	
September 10, 2021	
September 13, 2021	
September 14, 2021	
September 15, 2021	
September 16, 2021	
September 17, 2021	

