



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 Office Assistant: Mrs. Jean Arnold

Important Dates

September 6

Regular in-class instruction begins for ALL Grade 1-8 students

Kindergarten Orientation Interviews

No school for Kindergarten Students

September 8

All Year 2 Kindergarten Students and half the Year 1 Kindergarten Students attend

September 9

All Year 2 Kindergarten Students and half of Year 1 Kindergarten Students

September 12

All Kindergarten Students attend

PA Days 2022-2023

October 7, 2022

November 25, 2022

January 27, 2023

February 17, 2023

April 24, 2023

June 5, 2023

Administrator's Message

I would like to sincerely welcome all new and returning students to St. John Paul II Catholic Elementary School. We thank you for your continued support this year as we work together to make St. John Paul II CES a place where students continue to strive to achieve high academic standards in a safe, inclusive and welcoming Catholic environment. The health and well-being of our students, families and staff is our first priority. The HCDSB Return to School Plan clearly outlines our commitment [HCDSB Plan](#). Our school board will continue 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 in our school. 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. We look forward to creating and maintaining a strong sense of community and welcoming spaces in our school. 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 office 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 2022-2023

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 7.**

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 23rd, 2022

First Council Meeting: Monday, October 3rd 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 in the school library.

First Day Procedures

Arrival

On September 6, 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. Parents are asked to not enter the building.

Grade 1-3 students will be greeted on the back pavement by their teachers. (Door 5). Parents are kindly requested to refrain from entering the yard, however 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 arrive at the school a few minutes before your scheduled time. You are asked to please enter via the front doors

As of September 12, 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 3:05 pm
- Intermediate (Gr. 7-8) students will be dismissed at 3:10 pm
- Primary (Gr. 1-3) & Junior (Gr. 4-6) students will be dismissed at 3:15 pm

Bus Transportation



Bus Transportation

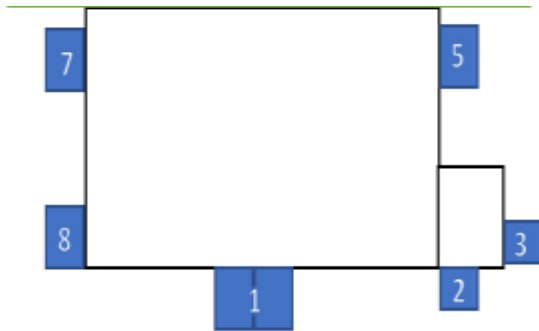
If your child qualifies for bus transportation, you can now review their bus details through the Halton Student Transportation Services online Parent Portal

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.

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

Morning Entry and End of Day Dismissal Doors



ASSIGNED DOOR ENTRY

Entry Door

| Door 7 | Door 5 | Door 2 |
|------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 3/4-Burrows | 1-St. Jean | K-Pelletier |
| 4-Grano | 1/2-Mendiola | K-Hozjan/Bernal |
| 5-Morrison | 2/3-Iarossi | |
| 5-Medeiros | 3-Fletcher | |
| 6-Hoover | 7-Kayemba | |
| 6-Steer Thackray | 7-Mercanti | |
| 8-Molder | 7-Mesich | |
| | 8-Kay | |



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.

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 in the next couple of weeks. 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 return the physical education form to the school no later than September 16. **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 unexplained absences.

School Hours 2022-2023

| | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 8:45 am | School Start Time |
| 10:10 - 10:25 am | Recess (Gr 1-4) |
| 11:45 - 12:45 | Lunch |
| 1:50 - 2:05 pm | Recess (Gr 1-4) |
| 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 COVID-19 Self-Screening

Parents and guardians are asked to continue to complete the [School Screening](#) for each child every day before leaving home. Please note that confirmation of the screening is no longer required.

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

Once again we will be offering Pizza and Hot Lunch Programs to all of our families. Families will receive an email from School Cash Online once these items have been posted for your optional purchase

Lunch

Students are permitted to go out for lunch with their friends. We ask that these plans be made beforehand and not the day of. Students must have permission from a parent/guardian to leave school property at lunch.

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 is not be permitted.
- Reusable water bottles are encouraged.

School Supplies

Below is a list of suggested items that you may choose to purchase and provide for your child at school. Please note that these are not mandatory and that the school will provide school supplies that students will need to learn.



All Grade 1-8 Students

- Pencil Case
- Pre-sharpened Pencils
- Erasers
- Glue stick
- Pencil crayons
- Scissors
- Sharpener with enclosure for shavings
- Markers
- Labelled re-usable water bottle

Primary Grade 1-3 specifically

- Small ruler
- 2 different coloured hi-lighters
- Crayons

Junior Grade 4-6 specifically

- Geometry set
- Crayola thin-tip markers
- Calculator
- Hi-lighters
- Black/blue pens
- Package of 8 dividers (Grade 6 only)
- 2 binders 1.5-2 " (Grade 6 only)

Grade 7

- 4 1" different coloured binders
- 2 packages of dividers
- Blue or black pens
- Thin black sharpie
- Hi-lighters
- Scientific calculator
- Geometry kit
- 1 2-pocket folder (Grade 7 only)
- Personal novel (Grade 7 only)

Grade 8 Teachers will communicate directly to parents/students

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. Gym equipment has been purchased to create classroom kits for outdoor recess play.

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. Parents are encouraged to communicate to the teacher via the agenda. A teacher may elect to use a stamp to signal they've seen it or their initials. 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.

Lockers

All Grade 1-8 students will be assigned a locker. **Combination locks are allowed but are not mandatory for our Grade 7 & 8 students ONLY.** Please note that the combinations must be shared with the homeroom teachers. No key locks are permitted as keys can be lost and/or forgotten.

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.**

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 write a note in your child's agenda, enter into school messenger and/or 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 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



BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Schoolchildren and their families are busily preparing for a return to instruction this September. It’s always a good idea to seek God’s blessing on the new school year and all those contributing to it. We’ll have a special blessing at all our Masses on the weekend of September 10 & 11. We’ll try something new this year too: Students are invited to bring their backpacks and school supplies with them. We’ll have a special area in the narthex where they can be placed for blessing after Mass.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

The return of the school year brings a new cohort of aspiring First Communicants and Confirmandi each year, usually around 400 in total. This important programme is always directed and administered by the parish and is supported by Catholic educators at your child’s school. Parents and caregivers are expected to register their child’s participation through the parish website; teachers and school staff cannot register your child for sacramental preparation. Visit our dedicated webpages for these sacraments, registration links are already up and running.

www.saintmatthew.ca/communion
www.saintmatthew.ca/confirmation

Class Placements for Students in Grade 1-8

As previously communicated from the HCDSB, class placements for the 2022-2023 school year will be finalized and accessible to families as of Friday, September 2, 2022. **Parents/guardians will be able to access their child's class placement through Power School as of Friday, September 2, 2022**, by visiting our HCDSB website at www.hcdsb.org/schools/school-listing/ and clicking on the blue button. You will not require your child's OEN number to access this information, only your child's Microsoft Office 365 email and password. Please check your child's school work or agenda from last year for their login information; if you do not have your child's Microsoft Office 365 email and password please contact the school and/or email Mrs. Pirruccio at pirrucciom@hcdsb.org. Please note due to the intense planning and thoughtful consideration that have gone into creating balanced classes for the 2022-2023 school year, class placement changes **will not** be considered. Thank you for your understanding.

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.

School Year Calendar

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Thursday, September 1, 2022 | Mandatory Provincial PA Day |
| Friday, September 2, 2022 | HCDSB Designated Holiday for students and educators |
| Monday, September 5, 2022 | Labour Day |
| Tuesday, September 6, 2022 | First Day of Instruction (Grades 1-12) |
| Friday, October 7, 2022 | PA Day (Elementary & Secondary) |
| Monday, October 10, 2022 | Thanksgiving Day |
| Friday, November 25, 2022 | PA Day (Elementary & Secondary) |
| Friday, December 23, 2022 | HCDSB Designated Holiday for students and educators |
| December 26, 2022 – January 6, 2023 (Inclusive) | Christmas Break |
| Thursday, January 26, 2023 – Wednesday, February 1, 2023 | Secondary Exam Period (6 days) |
| Friday, January 27, 2023 | PA Day (Elementary) |
| Friday, February 3, 2023 | PA Day (Secondary) |
| Friday, February 10, 2023 | PA Day (Elementary & Secondary) |
| Monday, February 20, 2023 | Family Day |
| Monday, March 13, 2023 – Friday, March 17, 2023 | March Break |
| Friday, April 7, 2023 | Good Friday |
| Monday, April 10, 2023 | Easter Monday |
| Monday, April 24, 2023 | PA Day (Elementary & Secondary) |
| Monday, May 22, 2023 | Victoria Day |
| Monday, June 5, 2023 | PA Day (Elementary) |
| Thursday, June 22, 2023 – Wednesday, June 28, 2023 | Secondary Exam Period (5 days) |
| Thursday, June 29, 2023 | Last Day of Instruction (Secondary) |
| Friday, June 30, 2023 | Last Day of Instruction (Elementary) |
| Friday, June 30, 2023 | PA Day (Secondary) |



The future starts today, not tomorrow.

St. John Paul II