

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



St. Clair Catholic
District School Board



St. Patrick's Catholic High School September Newsletter 2021

Principal Welcome

What a first week! I am so impressed with how our students made the transition back to in-person learning. Thanks to all students for making an effort to follow school and Covid-19 health protocols in order to keep everyone safe. Special thanks to all staff for their hard work in preparing the school and classrooms for the new school year. As a school team, we look forward to working with families and the community to make a difference in the lives of our students - academically, socially, mentally and spiritually. Please feel free to reach out to any staff member at any time if you have questions or concerns.

This year, we expect to be a school community of approximately 1270 students with about 45 of our students learning at the Virtual School. On that note, I am thankful for our great team of staff members who share their commitment and creativity to provide many opportunities for our learners. Their influence, leadership and care is such a tangible part of our school community that makes us as close to a family as possible. It is because of this foundation that I am confident we will have another excellent school year despite the challenges of the last few years.

Again, on behalf of our administrative team made up of Mrs. Lobsinger, Mrs. Moffat Sharpe, Mrs. Johnson and myself, we thank you for all your support and your commitment to our Catholic school community.

Please visit our school website daily for information about our school community.

<http://www.st-clair.net/sph/home.aspx>

F. Torti - Principal

St. Patrick's CHS Administration

Ms. K. Lobsinger – Extension 20407 - Students with last name A to G
Mrs. E. Moffat Sharpe - Extension 20404 - Students with last name H to O
Mrs. T. Johnson – Extension 20406 - Students with last name P to Z

St. Patrick's CHS Guidance Counselors

Mr. B. Braekevelt- Extension 20413 - Students with last names A to G
Mrs. J. Stewart- Extension 20416 - Students with last names H to O
Mrs. T. Dizon- Extension 20409 - Students with last names P to Z

St. Patrick's CHS Special Education Teachers

Mrs. S. Meza - Extension 20896 - Students with last names A to G and T to Z
Mrs. J. Matthews- Extension 20874 - Students with last names H to S

Bus Information

For School Bus Information, visit <https://cklass.ca/services/student-transportation/>

Late Bus

Late busing will commence on Monday, Sept 13th. [Late Bus Schedules](#)

Lifetouch

School pictures were originally scheduled for Tuesday, September 14th. However, picture day has been postponed and a date will be set in the near future.

Attendance

If your child will be away from school, it is imperative that you inform the Attendance Office before 8 am by leaving a message (519-332-3976 ext 20700) or by emailing sphattendance@sccdsb.net from a parent email address. Please leave the student name, parent name and reason for absence.

St. Patrick's Catholic School Advisory Council

Parents who are members of the School Council support our school in an advisory role concerning many aspects of school life at St. Patrick's. Their commitment of time and energy makes St. Patrick's a better place for students, staff and families. Please consider becoming a member of this year's council to help shape the future of St. Patrick's. **Our first meeting will be held virtually on Tuesday, September 21st at 7:00 pm.**

Please email Mrs. Wendy McLean at wendy.mclean@st-clair.net to be added to the invitation list for the meeting.

From Chaplain Mrs. Ann Clarke



It is wonderful for us to be back to in-person learning following this past year and a half with its various disruptions and challenges. I want all of our students and families to know that one of the services I offer as the chaplaincy leader is individual pastoral care to all members of our school community. Pastoral care is the unconditional caring response to a person by listening, understanding, and sometimes advising. Pastoral care also includes being respectful of an individual's beliefs and practices. So that means I am available to everyone - not just Catholics, not just Christians but everyone here at St. Pat's. Examples of people who may benefit from meeting with me include those who are experiencing stress, conflict, decision making, sickness, grief, isolation, hurt, loss, and life or family transitions. Students or parents and guardians can reach me directly by email: ann.clarke@sccdsb.net or by phone at x20417 and we can set up a time to meet. May God bless you and all your family and loved ones.

Ann Clarke, Chaplaincy Leader

Parking Lot Safety / Student drop off and Pick Up

As always, our paramount concerns when organizing our parking spaces, bus loading areas, and drop offs are guided by safety. Please review the pieces below, in particular if you plan to be picking up and or dropping off your child. Parking is available for staff, students and guests in North Lot, with entrance off The Rapids Parkway. No parking passes are required.

No parking is allowed in the South Parking lot that is close to St. Francois Xavier (limited spaces

for staff only). All school buses will unload in the “**bus loading and unloading area**” in front of the school (East Side of Building), which runs parallel to the Rapids Parkway. We have identified the bus loading areas on our school website for your information, and also on asphalt outside school. Only school buses, drop off of students in Special Education programs, those who need accessible parking and emergency vehicles may enter this area. **NO dropping off or picking up of students may be done in this area.**

Students may be dropped off and picked up on school property by entering the parking lot through our entrance off the Rapids Parkway, north of the school, and following the directional arrows and lines. Drop offs and pick-ups can be made outside the North West entrance to the school; (Entrance leading to the gym) however, **please note that this area is not a parking zone, but simply a drop off and pick up area.** Please follow the arrows and lines out of the parking lot by exiting from the north entrance as well. No school buses will be loading or unloading in this area which adds to safety for all. We do ask that all drivers pay close attention to the safety of all walkers, as this will be a busy area at the beginning and end of the school day. We appreciate your patience and suggest that you allow for additional time for pick-ups and drop offs.

Bike racks will be available for students in our parking lot area, opposite the football field. We do have security cameras in this area; however, we strongly advise that all bikes be properly locked each day.

Thank you for your attention to these safety processes and continued support.

Uniform Focus - Parent Message Notice

At St. Patrick’s High School all **students are required to wear a school uniform** and meet the specifications of the uniform policy. The vast majority of students meet this requirement daily and should feel affirmed. Some students, however, have found creative ways to circumvent the uniform in subtle ways (Example: non-uniform pants or sweatshirts in school colours, t-shirt under their uniform that is a colour other than white or black, rolling up shorts, etc.). Other students, more boldly, violate the uniform by wearing a ball cap or being completely out of uniform.

Our past practice has been to politely remind them of the uniform policy and ask the student to change. For the most part, this has worked very well yet we are still having a number of issues. Moving forward we will politely remind students of the **uniform expectations**, ask the student to change and **assign a detention**. Please take this opportunity to discuss with your student any barriers they may have to uniform compliance. In the event of **unforeseeable circumstances** please have the student **report immediately to the office** upon arriving at school and we will help the student get through the day in uniform.

Fair Notice Communication Regarding Violence Threat Risk Assessment Protocol

The St. Clair Catholic District School Board is committed to providing safe learning environments for all students, staff, school visitors and community members. When a student behaves inappropriately, principals will most often employ progressive discipline strategies to help a student take responsibility for their actions, learn from their mistakes and make better choices in the future.

In more extreme cases however, when a student's behaviour poses a potential threat to their own or others' well-being, the Community Violence Threat Risk Assessment Protocol (VTRA) supports principals in taking further steps to safeguard everyone.

The VTRA protocol outlines how a school responds immediately to threatening incidents including but not limited to: possession of a weapon or replica weapon, bomb threat or plan, verbal or written (including electronic) threats to harm oneself or others, other threats of violence, and fire setting.

The initial response team is likely to include the Principal/Vice Principal, police and board staff. Should conditions warrant, a Community Threat Assessment Team will be convened. This community team includes representatives of community agencies who work with schools and boards to keep our students and staff safe, such as local police and children's mental health organizations.

Parents and guardians will be notified if their child will be discussed through the Community Violence Threat Risk Assessment Protocol. If parents/guardians cannot be reached, or if they choose not to provide consent, but a concern for safety still exists due to threatening behaviour, the threat assessment may still proceed. Personal information shared throughout this process will respect and balance each individual's right to privacy with the need to ensure the safety of all.

As always, student safety is our first priority. This notification is being provided via avenues such as school newsletters and school and board web sites as fair notice to parents and guardians of the existence of the VTRA Protocol and its application if situations warrant. If you have any questions regarding the St. Clair Catholic District School Board Community Violence Threat Risk Assessment Protocol, please contact your school principal as the first step.

Consent for Release of Student Information

In April 2017, the St. Clair Catholic District School Board adopted a new Social Media and Electronic Communications policy and procedures. The new policy can be found on the Board website at <http://www.st-clair.net/policies.aspx> Go to Section B – Administration.

Under the policy, signed parental consent is required for release of student photographs, videos, classroom work, etc. for various publications, including Board websites or social media sites, school yearbooks, newspapers, television and radio newscasts.

Once consent is obtained, it remains in effect for the student's entire school career. However, if at any time for any reason parents/guardians wish to revoke consent, you are asked to please contact the school.

Responsible Use of Technology

The St. Clair Catholic District School Board's policy addressing expectations for the acceptable use of technology applies to all trustees, administrators, academic and support staff, students, parents, volunteers, visitors and other persons in relation to Board computer equipment, networks as well as personal devices while on Board property or in relation to Board business or Board-related activities. To review the policy and procedures document go to <http://www.st-clair.net/policies.aspx> and click on Responsible Use of Technology under Administration.

Scent Awareness

The St. Clair Catholic District School Board, in collaboration with our Joint Health & Safety Committee, has developed a Scent Awareness Procedural Guideline, to guide staff, students and volunteers in this important area of wellbeing.

Fragrance can have a strong impact on the health and productivity of some individuals. Exposure to strong scents and fragrances in the environment can cause a range of effects, from mild discomfort to triggering an asthma attack, which directly impacts the health of those individuals. The purpose of the new procedural guideline is to promote an environment which supports

teaching and learning for all staff, students, volunteers and visitors to our buildings. To that end, the guideline directs individuals to refrain from wearing or using scented products on Board premises and during Board-sanctioned activities.

Scented products include but are not limited to:

- Personal hygiene products (e.g., shampoo, conditioner, hairsprays, deodorants, colognes, after-shaves, fragrances, perfumes, lotions, soaps, cosmetics and creams);
- Industrial and household chemicals and cleaners;
- Air fresheners (e.g., deodorizers, potpourri, oils and candles)

The Board has worked with the public health units in the development of these new procedural guidelines, which have in recent years become common in public spaces. Signage is posted in all St. Clair Catholic buildings.

As always, thank you for your support and cooperation, as together we work to keep as a top priority the health and wellbeing of our staff, students and visitors to our buildings.

Student Accident Insurance

The St. Clair Catholic District School Board does not provide accident insurance coverage for student injuries that occur on school premises or during school activities. Accidents can and do happen, especially during sports activities. Some injuries incur medical, dental or other expenses that are not covered by provincial health care or employer group plans. As a parent or guardian you are responsible for these expenses.

Under the Education Act, the Board is empowered to make available an Accident and Life Insurance Program for students. Participation in such a program is voluntary and the costs are to be paid by the parent or guardian.

For your convenience, the Board has arranged for a Student Accident Insurance Policy exclusively through the Reliable Life Insurance Company. The "insuremykids Protection Plan" provides peace of mind, and is an inexpensive and comprehensive way to protect families from financial hardships they may face as a result of an accident. All plans, with various options offered to better suit you and your family's needs, provide coverage for accidents 24 hours per day every day during the full policy term. Because of the number of claims which have occurred during non-school activities and

summer holidays, parents may want to give special consideration to subscribing to a plan. Reliable Life recommends the Platinum Plan as it offers the best value in accident insurance coverage for your child (Family Rates Available). University/College and mature students must apply individually for specified plans indicated and not part of a family plan.

The insurance agreement is between you and the Reliable Life Insurance Company. If you wish to subscribe, please complete the application portion of the “insuremykids Protection Plan” brochure that has been sent home with your child or you can apply directly on-line at www.insuremykids.com. Any questions should be directed to the Reliable Life Insurance Company toll free at: 1-800-463-KIDS (5437)

The St. Clair Catholic District School Board is not compensated in any way by Reliable Life Insurance Company regardless of the number of students participating in the insurance program. Our only interest is to protect our students and their families, resulting in healthier and financially secure communities.