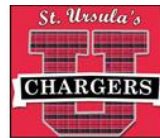




<http://www.st-clair.net>



Director: D. Crawford
Superintendent: L. Callaghan



Principal: Mrs. L. Gibson
Secretary: Mrs. T. Adams



Board Chair: J. VanHeck
Trustee: D. Argenti

Principal's Message

September 2019

Dear Families,

Welcome to a new school year! We are embarking on a new adventure with the joining of the St. Joseph and St. Ursula communities and we also welcome students and staff from other schools to create one new St. Ursula community. Each of us brings our God-given set of gifts and talents to contribute the faith community of learners.

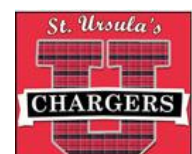
Our school community will deepen our faith through examining the Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations each month. Classroom and school family activities will explore these expectations through authentic tasks. These expectations define our purpose as Catholic educators & learners. They provide a compass for our students as they develop through their elementary and secondary education. We are called to nourish the giftedness of each individual and to protect the dignity of the whole person. We work, live and believe in an atmosphere of inclusiveness and we are taught to cherish our role as global stewards. Families can see a visual representation of the expectations when you visit the school in the front foyer.

Our school community will continue the relationship building started in June, through the transition activities, with our #OneBody Wellness campaign. St. Teresa of Avila shares her faithful words that we are Christ's hands and feet on earth. We are called to act compassionately and justly in our interactions with others. Our Wellness Team student leaders will work with the students and staff to lead activities to encourage students to show kindness, act with compassion and demonstrate justice with one another to contribute to a positive, faith-filled and inclusive community.








The staff of St. Ursula Catholic School is committed to fostering conditions for a high quality Catholic education. We hope that through a positive partnership with home and church, our students will grow and succeed. We have masses, sacramental prep and Liturgy of the Word planned with our parish partners this year. Please watch for these events in the monthly calendar. Working together, we will form an effective team.

I am very excited to join the St. Ursula family. We are looking forward to connecting with families throughout the year. Please take advantage of every opportunity. The staff and myself encourage open communication with families. Please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you for choosing the gift of Catholic education for your child(ren).

Sincerely,
Mrs. Gibson
Principal



Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations

	<p>A Discerning Believer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ I believe that God is an awesome God ○ I believe in and have faith in God ○ I believe that God is always with us ○ I believe that we can talk to God anytime and anywhere, through prayer ○ I believe in the stories in the bible ○ I believe in the stories of Jesus' life, death and resurrection ○ I believe in the Church community, in celebrating Mass and in the Seven Sacraments ○ I believe in forgiveness
	<p>An Effective Communicator</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ I speak write and listen as Jesus would want me to ○ I care about others and speak up for them ○ I am honest ○ I think carefully before I react or speak ○ I respect all people and their languages ○ I listen to the Word of God
	<p>A Reflective, Creative & Holistic Thinker</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ I have thoughts and opinions that matter ○ I make good choices ○ I have hope for the future ○ I solve problems with knowledge, understanding and prayer ○ I know we are all equal
	<p>A Self-Directed, Responsible, Life-Long Learner</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ I use my gifts and talents given to me by God ○ I always do my best ○ I build on my strengths and know my weaknesses ○ I set goals ○ I accept change ○ I am proud of the good things I do ○ I am thankful for the gifts of others
	<p>A Collaborative Contributor</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ I cooperate with others in all that I do ○ I value everyone's work ○ I respect and listen to others ○ I think of others before myself ○ I follow rules of fair play ○ I work hard in school so that I can build my community and make it a better place
	<p>A Caring Family Member</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ I love God, myself and my family ○ I care about and respect my "family" at school, at church, in my community and the world ○ I care about and respect God's creation and everything in it
	<p>A Responsible Citizen</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ I am a peacemaker ○ I am fair ○ I follow rules and do my share ○ I help the poor and care for people in need ○ I stand up for what is right ○ I know that all life is precious ○ I respect and protect the world and all that is in it



Catholic School Advisory Council

First Meeting of the Year:
Monday September 30th 6:30p.m.

A School Council Parent Self Nomination Form is included with this newsletter. If you would like to declare yourself for an elected position (Chair, Secretary) or if you would like to be a member at large please fill out the form and return to school. All parents are welcome as we will vote and establish council on this night. Visit <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/council/council02.pdf> for a description of roles and responsibilities.

Physical Education

Please ensure your child has proper footwear for physical education classes (non marking running shoes for the gym). For safety reasons and maximum participation, flip flops, sandals and crocs are not suitable for physical education classes both indoors and outdoors. Also, students in grades 5-8 need a change of clothing.

ABSENCES & LATES

Please call the school before 9:15 a.m. if your child/children will be absent or late. For your convenience, an answering machine will take calls 24/7. If you leave a message, *please state the reason why* your child/children is/are absent. If they are absent more than one day, please call the school every day or send a note indicating the reason prior to their absence. If it is more convenient to email Tracy please do so at tracy.adams@st-clair.net thank you for your support!



Co-Curricular and Sports Scene

September is a very busy month for co-curricular activities.

Senior Boys Volleyball – Mr. Bruhlman, Mrs. Wierenga

Senior Girls Volleyball – Mr. Spence, Mrs. Chickowski

Cross-Country – Mrs. McCaffrey-Lachine, Mr. Spence, Mr. Segeren, Mrs. Chickowski, Mrs. Bennett

We thank these staff coaches and staff leads who contribute their time and talent to work with the students. For all parents who will contribute to these activities by transporting children to and from locations at various venues, please remember to complete a Volunteer Driver form. Insurance coverage is not mandatory for students who participate in extra-curricular sports activities this year but is recommended.

Healthy Snack Program

I'd like to introduce the Healthy Snack Program. We are evolving the breakfast program into a healthy snack program provided to all students (for those who wish to participate). The breakfast program will no longer operate before school. The Healthy Snack is prepared by our Educational Assistants in the morning and our Wellness Leadership Team



will deliver to classrooms starting at (9:05 a.m.) The snack program offers a variety of proteins, healthy carbs and healthy fats. All students have access when they enter the classroom at the beginning of the day. The Healthy Snack program assists students maintain their stamina for learning to feed our bodies promoting optimal learning conditions. The snack program will be an additional opportunity (in addition to lunches from home). We thank OSNP and Al Davies for helping to facilitate this program for us. Throughout the year, we hope to access other special grants to complement this program.

Warm Welcome Entry

Starting on Wednesday Sept. 4, students will enter their classrooms when they arrive at the school in the morning. This is called a Warm Welcome Entry. Many schools in our board participate in this beginning of the school day entry. It has many benefits.

The students will not stay outside to wait for the 9:15 a.m. bell as previously done at St. Ursula. Kindergarten students will enter through their regular door where Mrs. Bennet or Mrs. Chickowski will meet them. Adult supervision is in place for both Kindergarten classes. Students in grades 1 & ½ will enter through the primary doors. Students in 2/3 – 8 will enter through the intermediate doors. These specific doors will be unlocked at 9:00 a.m. Students will proceed directly to their classrooms.

Teacher supervision is provided, similar to an indoor recess, providing close proximity in designated classrooms of the school. There are 4 teachers on duty for grades 1 -8, rotating among their assigned classrooms. The K classes are supervised by the RECE or an EA in the classroom. Students choosing to arrive before 9:00 a.m. will be waiting outside until 9:00 a.m. Please be reminded supervision does not start until 9:00 a.m. (15 minutes before the instructional day begins). This is why the doors are unlocked at 9:00 a.m. There are many benefits to a Warm Welcome Entry. Some include:

- Learning can begin promptly at 9:15 a.m. which is the beginning of our school day – instead of lining up at 9:15 a.m. then proceeding to their classroom which takes away from learning;
- Students have an opportunity between 9:00 – 9:15 a.m. to get settled for their day. Educators have established classroom routines. This is ideal to provide structure;
- Students can participate in the healthy snack program upon entering the room;
- For some students arriving shortly after 9:00 it can be quieter in the school and/or classroom which some find reduces anxiety;
- When agreed upon, students can arrange to meet teachers for extra help when the teacher is available.

Any questions, please contact the office.

Responsible Use of Technology

The St. Clair Catholic District School Board's policy addressing expectations for the acceptable use of technology was updated in April 2013. The policy 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.

Family & School Open House & Book Fair **Thursday, September 26th**

Families are invited to an open house to meet your child's teacher and have your child introduce you to their learning environment. Drop – in style beginning at 4:30 p.m. and wrapping up at 6:00 p.m. We are looking forward to seeing everyone!

Home & School Communication, EDSBY??

After this month, all school communications including newsletter will be sent to you through email via the CASL email system. Please ensure that your email address is up to date with the school office. A paper copy of the monthly calendar will continue to come home in paper form for you to hang on the fridge!

Students from K – Gr. 6 will have notebooks where communication between home and school is recorded and school items. Students in grade 7 & 8 will use electronic means of keeping organized –to be negotiated between the students and their teacher OR they can purchase their own agenda of choice. All classroom teachers will send home instructions for EDSBY. Or other form of communication. The night of the Open House there will be an opportunity to get assistance to sign up if needed. I strongly encourage parents to sign up for the opportunities provided. The St. Ursula Family Handbook includes information from the board level and will be sent home via CASL email during the second week of September.

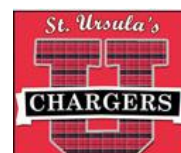
Keeping Our Schools Safe

The St. Clair Catholic District School Board has installed remotely controlled door locking systems, including cameras and intercoms, at all elementary schools. Parents and visitors are required to identify themselves at the door and sign in at the office as they enter the building. It is important to note that there may be times when our school secretary will be away from her desk for a moment and visitors may have to wait. Alternatively, parents and visitors should consider the following:

1. Call and let us know when you are coming.
2. Let us know if you want to pick your child up so that we can arrange to have him/her ready for you. Ideally, send a note to your child's teacher.

Thank you in advance for your patience and your support. The security of our schools and safety of our students and staff is always our number one priority.

If you have any questions, please contact the principal.



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, 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.

Health Canada Advisory Regarding Drawstrings for Children's Upper Outerwear

Health Canada advises that some children's clothing products can pose a danger. The products listed as potential hazards for children include upper outerwear in sizes newborn to 12 years that have drawstrings in the hood and neck area.

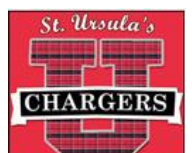
"Children's upper outerwear" means upper body clothing, such as jackets and sweatshirts, generally intended to be worn over clothing. Drawstrings on these garments can become caught on playground equipment, fences or other objects and result in strangulation; or, in the case of a vehicle, a child being dragged. Parents should ensure that purchases of children's clothing have alternative closures to drawstrings, including elastics, buttons, velcro or snaps.

Soy-Based Peanut Butter Substitutes

It is the practice of the St. Clair Catholic District School Board not to permit soy-based peanut butter substitutes in schools, where students are known to have peanut butter allergies. This is a position which has been reviewed with the Medical Officers of Health for Lambton County and Chatham-Kent, and which they support. The Board's Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) also supports the Board's position.

The difficulty is this. Although the product itself is perfectly safe, it mimics another product which is deadly for students who are anaphylactic to peanuts. The substitute looks, smells, spreads and tastes like peanut butter. It's packaged like peanut butter; and, it's sold on grocery store shelves in the peanut butter aisle. Once it's out of the jar, you can't tell the real thing from the substitute and that's what makes it so dangerous for students with nut allergies.

Therefore, St. Clair Catholic will err on the side of caution. In school communities where anaphylaxis to peanut products is an issue and soy-based peanut butter replacements are coming into the school, parents should be advised that the substitutes are not acceptable food items. Parents should also be advised that if the product is sent to school, the child will be provided with a healthy alternative or asked to eat in a location that will ensure there



will be no contact with students who are allergic. Parents of students who bring soy-based peanut butter substitutes to school should be reminded of the reasons why it is not an acceptable food item and asked to seek an alternative.

In our Catholic school communities, it is the responsibility of each of us to safeguard the well-being of all of us. We look out for each other. A danger to even one child is a threat that we must all take seriously. Sometimes that means sacrificing what we may perceive as our right in order to meet the needs of another. In instances where a child's life may be at risk, the choice is simple.

Scent Awareness

Recently, the St. Clair Catholic District School Board, in collaboration with our Joint Health & Safety Committee, 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.

Food Days & Milk

The milk and food day program will begin on Monday, September 30th. Both chocolate and white milk will be available to purchase for the month. Pizza will be every Tuesday. As well as we exploring other vendors that meet the Food & Beverage Policy to offer more opportunities to provide variety for lunch while raising funds for student activities and excursions. All profits are used for student activities & services (i.e. subsidized bussing costs for special events, outdoor play equipment, classroom materials, etc.). All food and milk orders will be posted to School Cash Online for your convenience. Watch your email for notifications! CSAC will continue to sponsor food days throughout the year as well. I'd thank the parents who organize and help with food days. It is very IMPORTANT money and orders are in the office by the due date. The vendors rely on that date.

