**August 2023**

Welcome Back Catholic Academy Families!

I am so happy and excited to embark on this school adventure with you this year!

We have spent the summer freshening up the school, preparing for the start of a new school year with adventure and kindness as our themes, and creating a welcoming and safe learning environment for all staff and students.

Your choice of Catholic education for your child is an indication of your commitment to seek the best.  You have chosen a school that offers a strong academic skills program.  Our staff of dedicated teachers is trained to meet the special learning needs of each individual student.

Ready to welcome your child(ren) to Catholic Academy of Niagara Falls are the following staff members:

Family Pastor Fr. Jim Kirkpatrick

School Chaplain Fr. Mario

Principal Mrs. Johanna Richards

Administrative Assistant Ms. Jennifer Pyrczak

Receptionist & Fundraising Coordinator Ms. Michele D’Angelo

Business Manager Mrs. Maxine Menshon

Pre-K 3 Miss Allison

Pre-K 3 Aides M-W-F Miss Vicki & Miss Lynne

Pre-K 3 Aide T-Th Miss Lizzy

Pre-K 4 Miss Maria

Pre-K 4 Aide Miss Dimpy

Kindergarten Mrs. Edel

Grade 1 Miss Dispenza

K Aide Miss Alberta

Grade 2 Mrs. Zeller

Grade 2 Aide  M-W-F Miss Lizzy

Grade 3 Mr. Magil

Grade 4 Ms. Jones (formerly Polatis)

Grade 5 Mrs. Matheis

Grade 6 Homeroom/LS/MS Science Mrs. Connolly

Grade 7 Homeroom/MS Religion & Spanish Mrs. McDonell

Grade 8 Homeroom/MS ELA & S.S. Mrs. Bieniek

Technology/MS Math Mr. Dzielski

Art/Music Miss Meranto

Physical Education Mrs. Croom

School Counselor Ms. Castiglione

Latchkey Coordinators Mrs. Edel & Miss Allison

School will begin for all grades on Wednesday, September 6th. Classes begin at 8:00am.  All grades will have a full day session the first day of school**. Please refer to the attached sheet for arrival and dismissal.**

We will be having a school wide Welcome Back to School Food Truck Picnic (& Supply Drop Off for Grades K-8) on Thursday, August 31st from 4:30-7:30pm. Please drop off supplies in the cafeteria at designated grade level tables. The food trucks will be located in our back parking lot. Please bring your own chairs and blankets to enjoy dinner and have the chance to mingle with your favorite Catholic academy families and teachers. Don’t forget the Backpack Blessing at 5pm!

The children will need school supplies right away in order to start the year out properly.  **Please refer to the supply lists previously sent home or on our website.**

**Uniforms** for Grade K – 8 should be ordered online at flynnohara.com. Please be respectful of our Uniform Policy as it will be enforced beginning the first day of school.  We realize there may be extenuating circumstances but, please try to take care of all uniform needs as soon as possible. **A copy of the uniform policy is attached.**

**Lunch** for all grades will begin on Wednesday, September 6th. Please see the enclosed sheet regarding the cost of lunches this year. **The September menu is also attached.**

We will be offering Before and After-School Care again this year. **Please return the attached registration packet to the school Attention: Mrs. Edel.** You can mail, drop it off at the school during summer school hours Tues./Weds./Thurs. between 9-1 or the first day of school. The program will begin on the first day of school.

If you haven’t received your FACTS tuition notification or if you have any questions about it, please contact Mrs. Maxine Menshon at the business office, 716-283-1455 x204.

**SAVE THE DATE:** Parent Orientation for Grades K-8 will be held on Thurs., Sept. 7th.

6:00pm - K+1 6:15pm 4+5 6:30pm 2+3 7:00pm 6/7/8

\*All attachments will be sent home on Wed., Sept. 6th in your Wednesday Family Folder.

If I can personally be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to call me. I thank you in advance for what I am sure will be a successful and happy year.

 Sincerely,

 Johanna Richards, Principal