

HAMILTON WENTWORTH CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
ST. KATERI TEKAKWITHA CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
SEPTEMBER 2018



*Loving God, Our creator, our saviour, our companion,
bless this journey of a new school year
that we undertake today.*

*We welcome those who are new to this community
and ask that you strengthen them to
share the wonderful gifts you have
given them.*

Amen.

St. Kateri Tekakwitha
22 Queensbury Drive
Hamilton, Ontario
L8W 1Z6
905-385-8212

Please visit the school web site for
daily information.

Mr. B. Condari
Principal

Ms. Glavic
Assistant to Principal

Mrs. S. Pizzuti
Superintendent of Education

Mr. J. Baiardo
Trustee

St. Jean de Brebeuf Secondary
200 Acadia Drive
Hamilton, Ontario
L8W 1B8
905-388-7020

Mr. H. Mayer
Principal

St. Margaret Mary Parish
20 Idlewood Ave.
Hamilton, Ontario
L8T 1V9
905-388-2200

Father Oehring
Pastor

Ms. Sturtevant
Parish Minister

40th Anniversary Celebration & Thanksgiving Harvest

This year we will be celebrating the **40th Anniversary of St. Kateri Tekakwitha Catholic Elementary School Opening** on Thursday, October 11, 2018.

The staff and students, along with the school community will be preparing events for the Anniversary Celebration along with the Thanksgiving Harvest.

Further information regarding this Blessed Event will be forwarded in the near future.

SUPERINTENDENT

We will continue to work together with Mrs. S. Pizzuti, Superintendent of Education for our Family of Schools, as a Professional Learning Community.

PARISH NEWS

The Opening School Mass will take place at St. Margaret Mary Parish on Wednesday, September 26, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. All are welcome to attend.



SEPTEMBER TIMETABLE

8:45 a.m.	Warning Bell
8:50 a.m.	Entrance Bell
9:45 a.m.	Opening Announcements
11:35 a.m.	Lunch Begins
12:25 p.m.	Lunch Ends
3:10 p.m.	Dismissal

SCHOOL CALENDAR

With this newsletter you will receive the H.W.C.D.S.B. Calendar. Please keep this for future reference, as it notes all P.A. Days and school holidays.

Our first P.A. Day will be Friday, September 21, 2018. There will be no school for students on this day.

SCHOOL HOURS & ENTRY PROCEDURES

Please note carefully the school hours. Attendance and punctuality are crucial. Students should arrive at school at least five minutes before bell times. Teachers will be on supervision 15 minutes before bell times and at recess. Students who arrive before this time will not be supervised.

At bell time, students are asked to line up in the playground with their class, in their designated area and then will be directed to enter the school by the teacher on duty.

Students not entering with their class are considered late arrivals and must report to the main office to receive an admit slip. Students are not to enter the school until the classes are brought in by a teacher or they have been given permission by a supervisor.

In the event of inclement weather, students will be allowed into the building before bell times.



Parent/caregivers who are accompanying students to school or who are picking up their child are asked to wait outside in the playground near the door that the class uses for entry and dismissal.

We ask that parents do not wait outside the classroom or in the hallways. It is important for your child to develop independence and entry and dismissal routines.

For the security and safety of your children, all doors will be locked shortly after classes begin. You may enter the school only by the main doors.

Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten students must use their own entrance on the north side of the building and follow the procedures outlined by their teacher.

SAFE ARRIVAL

At St. Kateri Tekakwitha Catholic Elementary School, one of our greatest priorities is ensuring that all our students arrive safely to school each and every day. Last year we implemented a system with our parent community called Safe Arrival. It allows parents to report their child's absence quickly and conveniently.

We are asking our parents to do the following:

1. Use the SafeArrival website, <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca>. The first time you use the website, select Sign Up to create your account using your email address. Select Attendance to Report an Absence. NOTE: Once you are logged in, please ensure that you update your message preferences.

2. Using your mobile device, download and install the SchoolMessenger app from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store (or from the links at <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca>). Use your new login information to access your account. Select Attendance to Report an Absence.

3. Call the *NEW* toll-free number 833-275-6703 to report an absence using the automated phone system starting Monday June 11th, 2018.

We will continue to use our automated notification system to contact parents at multiple contact numbers until one of the designated contacts is reached. If our system is unable to reach a designated contact after 20 minutes, office staff will continue to follow up. **By reporting your child absent in advance using the Safe Arrival toll free number or SafeArrival Portal website/app, you will NOT receive a call.**

SAFE SCHOOLS/VISITORS



All parents, guests, volunteers, visitors, etc. entering the building must sign the Visitor's Sign In Book in the Office. They must also see the secretary to pick up a Visitor's Label. No one will be allowed into the building without a label. It is crucial that students' instructional time is not compromised, therefore, if parents need to see a teacher, we ask that you please call ahead to make an appointment. If you need to see your child during the school day or deliver a lunch, we ask that you come to the main office.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES



As required we will be conducting our emergency evacuation procedures early in the new year to ensure that all students and staff are aware of the routes for evacuation. There is a minimum of 3 practices that must be recorded in the fall and 3 in the spring of each year.

In addition, we will be conducting practices for "Lock Down Procedures" and "Bomb Threat Procedures" in September as well to keep all staff and students informed as to our practices in the event of an intruder. The teachers will be addressing this aspect of school safety within their classrooms with dialogue that is age appropriate.

Please note that all exterior doors are locked at 9:00 a.m. and only the front door of the school is accessible to visitors.

LUNCH AT SCHOOL

All students who eat lunch at school **are not permitted to leave the school property** during the lunch hour. Any student leaving the property without permission will be dealt with, as your child's safety is our priority. We expect that students who stay for lunch will do so every day and students who go home for lunch will do that every day.

MEDICATION/ALLERGY ALERTS



Please inform the school if your child has any medical problems or severe allergies that may require restrictions or medication during the school day. Medical Authorization Forms must be completed by the parent and the family physician. These forms are available at the school office.

ALERT!

Medication cannot be administered without the completion of these forms. The forms must be updated on a yearly school basis. Parents are asked to pick up any medication left at the school from the previous school year, as they may be outdated. If your child is ill, especially if they have a virus or illness that may be contagious, we ask that you keep your child at home so that the health of other students is not compromised. If your child is too ill to go out for recess, we ask that you keep your child at home, as supervision is not available for the students that remain indoors.

ALLERGY WARNING!!



This is just a reminder that St. Kateri School is an allergen sensitive school. We have several students at our school with severe allergies to nuts, peanuts, tree nuts, milk, shellfish and eggs. Please plan your child's lunch with consideration for the health and safety of these students.

Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN



Assessment and evaluation continue to be critical aspects in education to ensure the goal of achieving excellence for all of our students in all aspects of learning is embedded in all that we do. Within each classroom the practices of assessing and evaluating students occurs each and every day. As a staff it is important to coordinate all of the efforts to build a plan that is shared by all members of the staff.

With this in mind our staff will be working together to refine our Improvement Plan of 2018-19 with a look back to celebrate our successes and a look ahead to see the direction we will need to take to maximize learning in each student to their full potential.

In the spring of 2018 our students who were in Grade 3 and 6 participated in the provincial assessment of reading, writing and mathematics. Parents will be receiving their individual child's results later this fall. This is but one aspect of assessment that will be used to help us design our new plan for this year.

We look to the future with renewed commitment to work together to build a vibrant and faith filled school community where our students flourish in a safe and nurturing environment. Stay tuned for more information.

CELEBRATING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT FOR 2018-19

Throughout this year we will be celebrating our students and their achievements as we look to the Catholic School Graduate Expectations and Virtues provided through the Institute for Catholic Education.

Catholic Education views human life as an integration of body, mind and spirit. Rooted in this vision, Catholic Education fosters the search for knowledge as a lifelong spiritual and academic quest. The expectations of Catholic Graduates, therefore, are described not only in terms of knowledge and skills, but in terms of values, attitudes and actions.

“Vision of the Learner”

A discerning believer formed in the Catholic Faith community.
An effective communicator.
A reflective, creative and holistic thinker.
A self-directed, responsible, lifelong learner.
A collaborative contributor.
A caring family member.
A responsible citizen.

POLICE CHECKS / Offence Declaration Forms

We at St. Kateri appreciate our volunteers tremendously and value their participation. We must however, follow the Board Policy, which is in place for the safety of all children.

The following are the volunteer guidelines:

Parents/guardians cannot volunteer or help with trips until a police check has been given to the office. NO EXCEPTIONS will be made. This is to ensure the safety of your children.

While the school cannot stop parents from going on their own to the site of the trip, the school however will NOT allow parents to join the group at the trip site. This undermines the safety system we have set up for your children.

The school does not clear parents that have submitted the police check. Our role is to copy your police check and send it in a confidential envelope to the School Board. They determine if a parent is cleared to attend trips and volunteer at the school.

Please remember that, subject to change in Board Policy, you only need to do a police check once for the school as long as you sign a **declaration form** yearly (which will be available at the school) stating that you have no new convictions, etc.

In order to be considered as a volunteer a Police Check with Vulnerable Sector Search must be completed through the Hamilton Police Services. Parents who are interested should consider having this completed in early September.

Please contact the office for further information.

STUDENT VERIFICATION FORMS

Student Verification Forms will be sent home within the next month. Please fill these out immediately and return them to school. The information you provide to us is critical. We use this information to contact you in the case of an emergency. I ask that you make certain that the phone numbers you provide us are **current** and that someone is available to answer these numbers during school hours. **If you provide us with any cell number it is up to you to make certain that we can reach someone at the number given at all times. Up to date accurate information is required.**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO BE ADDRESSED



A PACKAGE WILL BE SENT HOME WITH THE FOLLOWING FORMS TO BE COMPLETED, SIGNED AND RETURNED BY MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2018.

EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSURE FORMS

The Emergency School Closure Information sheets. Please complete and return them immediately. The information is required if an emergency situation arises.

LUNCH FORMS

Please read the letter regarding lunch information very carefully. If your child is going to be staying for lunch, please sign and return it to your child's teacher. If your child will be going home for lunch every day, we will need a note from the parents/guardians advising the office of this.

TRIP PERMISSION FORMS

There are two trip permission forms to be completed and returned. The forms are for our visits to St. Margaret Mary Parish to attend Mass or practices and for our excursions in the Neighbourhood

AUTHORIZATION TO ADMINISTER MEDICATION

If your child requires daily administration of medication prescribed by a physician, the forms must be completed by the physician and a parent. **Please contact**

Ms. Standish, our Special Education Teacher regarding this matter.

SCHOOL AGENDAS



During the first week of school in September your child will receive an agenda book, from grades one to eight. The cost of the agenda book for next year is \$5.00. This money can be given to your classroom teacher once the student has received his/her agenda.

We cannot emphasize the importance of this major communication tool. It has become a valuable link between the home and school.

HOME COMMUNICATION

As we begin our new year it is important to highlight that communication that is ongoing and up to date provides parents with key information on your child's learning. Strong home, school, parish communication is critical to the success for each of our students and we encourage the opportunity to contact the school when there are any questions and/or concerns. Messages can be left with Mrs. De Santis, our secretary in the event you wish to contact your child's teacher.

Each month there will be a brief newsletter posted to our school website which provides some reminders and school updates. Please read it. In addition, staff may be sharing a class newsletter that will also highlight important links to the curriculum and other pertinent classroom information and reminders. Some teaching staff will be using different applications such as; "remind" to communicate daily with parents. Again, please take the time to read it and stay in touch with the learning that is the focus within each grade.

The school website is the place to find daily updates on all school news.

LUNCH PROCEDURES

All students will eat their lunches within their classroom areas. They are responsible for cleaning up their area and recycling and composting as needed.

**The recess/lunch period is:
11:35 -12:25**

The students from grades 1 – 8 will play outdoors from 11:35 to 12 noon and then proceed to their classrooms to eat their lunches from 12 noon to 12:25.

Parents who wish their child to leave the school at lunch must pick them up and sign them out and back in at the office upon their return.

SCHOOL UNIFORMS

At SKT we have always worn crested or embroidered tops. This will continue. We continue to maintain a clothes closet that has gently used uniform items. You can come in and use this service anytime during school hours. If you have any questions about the school uniform please contact Mr. B. Condari, Principal of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha School.



JML Uniforms
95 Parkdale Ave. N.
Hamilton, Ontario
L8H 5X1
Tel: 905-544-1608

Please keep in mind that we will be adhering strictly to the school uniform policy.

Are you in Uniform?

For the H.W.C.D.S.B. Elementary School Uniform Standards please go to:
<http://hwcdsb.ca/Uniform-Information.html>

PARKING

We ask that you please respect the by-laws and signage outside the front of the school in order to help facilitate safe dismissal for our children at the conclusion of each school day.

PILGRIMAGE Walk with Christ: Justice for the Poor

The 15th Annual Pilgrimage Walk will be taking place on Sunday, October 14, 2018. A Social Justice Project for the Needs in: Haiti, Uganda & Dominican Republic, Holy Childhood Society and Development and Peace.

All grade 7 students are encouraged to participate, as they will receive volunteer hours that can be applied towards their Confirmation Volunteer Hours.

More information to follow.

E.Q.A.O.

The dates for this school year's E.Q.A.O. Testing for the Primary and Junior Divisions are:
May through June 2018.
More information will follow.

ENVIRONMENTAL



St. Kateri continues to be environmentally active. Last year we were awarded "Platinum" certification for our efforts in this area. There is a tremendous amount of hard work that has taken place by both staff and students and we need your support to help us Reduce-Recycle-Reuse.

Environmental Representatives will be elected in the near future. Encourage your child(ren) to be a part of this exciting team!

COUNT YOURSELF IN!

Did you know that every time you move to a new home, you must re-designate your Catholic school support? Otherwise the education portion of your property taxes will automatically default to the public school system.

The number of Catholic ratepayers is also a strong indicator of support for the Catholic school system.

To vote for Catholic Trustees you must be registered as a separate school ratepayer.

We urge you to check your property tax bill to ensure that your support is directed to the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board. We also encourage you to share this information with family and friends who are Catholic but do not have children in the school system. If you need help checking or changing your school support designation, please call the Assessment Department at 905-525-2930, Ext. 2188, or email webmaster@hwcdsb.ca.

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

S.K.T. is Electronic. You can now download the monthly newsletter from our website:

<http://stkt.hwcdsb.ca/>

If you wish to receive a hard copy of the Newsletter, please advise the office in writing.

MEET THE TEACHER B.B.Q.



This year, CSC will be hosting our "Meet the Teacher Night" on Tuesday, September 18. This event is a wonderful opportunity to meet your child's teacher, see their classroom, catch up with other parents and meet new parents. Additional information will be sent home with your child. We look forward to seeing you there!

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL

Please consider becoming a member of the 2018/19 SKT CSC.

Our Catholic School Council is established for the purposes of developing, encouraging, and promoting activities which will enhance the quality of school programs and improve levels of student achievement. The Catholic School Council provides insight to the Principal, and where appropriate to the School Board, on issues outlined by the Ministry of Education and Training. You are invited to please consider a candidacy for the position of Parent Representative. In accordance with Ministry Regulations 612/613, the following timelines will be followed regarding Council elections:

Tuesday, September 5, 2017:

We invite you to consider nominating yourself or another parent candidate and submit the attached nomination form to the office. Should we receive less than a given number of nominations and candidates fulfill the requirements outlined in the regulations, they will be acclaimed and informed of the first meeting date. A package of information will come home with your child on Tuesday September 5. Parents will have until Thursday September 20 to submit a nomination form(s). All forms must be sent to the office where Mrs. DeSantis can accurately collect and record the information.

Tuesday, September 18, 2018:

Meet the Teacher BBQ (information forthcoming). Mrs. Hyde, our current Catholic School Council Chairperson, will be available if you wish to ask any questions about being a member of council. I will also be available to assist you in any way that I can.

Catholic School Council 2018-19 will then be dissolved after a brief meeting.

Tuesday, September 25, 2018:

Election (if necessary) and Catholic School Council Meeting #1 (organized by the Principal). This will be the inaugural 2018/19 Catholic School Council Meeting.

Please support the council by attending the regular meetings. Meeting dates will be posted in the monthly newsletters and on the website. The meetings begin at 6:00 p.m. in grade 8 classroom. All parents are welcome as observers if you are not an elected or appointed member of council.

If an election is necessary, names of candidates along with an opportunity to present to the public as to why you are interested in being a member of council will take place. Each family in attendance will be entitled to a vote.

Wednesday, September 26, 2018:

The names of the Catholic School Council members will be announced via the school website and in a very brief October newsletter.

Please consider the nomination form when it comes home on Tuesday, September 4, 2018.

CSC PARENT'S CORNER

Welcome Back!!

A new school year, another year of possibilities!!

Volunteers needed!!

Did you know it is a proven fact; children receive the best education when Parents/Guardians (you), teachers, volunteers and the church work as a team? It's a parent's enthusiasm, support and involvement that inspire children to do their best. Together we can achieve wonderful things!

CSC needs YOU to help us with many of the important initiatives that we do to support our children. These initiatives include, but are not limited to: pizza day Fridays; special events; etc. If you can spare any time, or you wish to be involved in any way but are not sure how, please contact the Catholic School

Council at bktcsc@hotmail.com. If you do not have email, please send a note in to your child's teacher, with your name and phone number. A member of the Catholic School Council will touch base and work with you to set up a convenient volunteer schedule. Remember, all volunteers must have a current Provincial Offences Form on file with the HWCDSB. If you wish to volunteer with us, please touch base with our school secretary, Mrs. DeSantis, for the required paperwork. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Condari.

CSC MAILING LIST

Would you like to receive updates on CSC initiatives? Think about signing up for our mailing list. Please send us a quick e-mail to bktcsc@hotmail.com and we will add you to our listing. If you have changed your email address, or no longer wish to receive e-mails from CSC, please drop us a quick note and we will update your information accordingly.

HOT LUNCH PROGRAM



The CSC has run "Pizza Fridays", Pasta Lunch, Taco Tuesday and much more fun foods. If you have any suggestions, thoughts or contacts, please do not hesitate to contact us. Remember, any initiative we embark on must meet the Board's nutrition policy. All feedback is welcome!

Looking forward to another great year!

26th ANNUAL PARENT CONFERENCE

On Saturday, November 3, 2018, hundreds of parents will converge at Bishop Ryan Catholic Secondary School for an annual parent conference that provides an array of information on family and parenting issues, and explores the latest trends and developments in Catholic education.

"Weaving the Catholic Partnership"

The conference will be held this year at; Bishop Ryan Catholic Secondary School
1824 Rymal Road East.

More information and registration packages will be in all schools or call 905-525-2930 ext. 2271.

The Parent Conference is an annual event hosted by the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board to support parents in their roles as primary educators of their children. The conference is held free of charge.

THANK YOU!

I want to take this opportunity to thank the teaching staff for their work this last week of August. The classrooms look wonderful and they are ready to receive your wonderful children.

I would also like to recognize some of our Educational Assistants who have been around the school this summer taking care of our community gardens. I am very grateful for their service.

Furthermore, I want to thank Mr. Grieci, our custodian, and the summer custodial support who worked extremely hard this summer in the cleaning of the school. The school is clean and ready for business.

Finally, thank you Mrs. DeSantis, our secretary, for being very dedicated during the last week of August to ensure that the office is an organized, inviting and positive place for our community.

STAFF LIST 2018-19

Principal Mr. Condari
 Assistant Principal Ms. Glavic
 Secretary Mrs. De Santis
 FDK A Mrs. Senia
 E.C.E. Miss Spadano
 FDK Mrs. Persaud
 E.C.E. Mrs. Tesone
 Grade 1 Ms. Sousa
 Grade 1/2 Mr. Docherty
 Grade 2 Ms. Myers
 Grade 2/3 Ms. Paonessa
 Grade 3A Mrs. Claybourne-Lake
 Grade 4A Mrs. Brown
 Grade 5A Ms. Glavic
 Grade 6A Mrs. Porco
 Grade 7 Mrs. Callea-Ruiu
 Grade 8 Mr. Ferretti
 Librarian Mrs. Richber
 Library Clerical TBA
 French Mlle. Ross
 S.E.R.T. Ms. Standish
 R.R. Mrs. Spanier
 P.P.T. Mrs. Di Paolo
 FDK P.T. Mrs. Toriello
 Arts Itinerant Ms. Lutz
 Child & Youth Worker Ms. Hill

Educational Assistants
 Mrs. Barreira
 Mr. Bennie
 Ms. Divers
 Ms. Girard
 Mrs. Gismondi
 Mr. Hundter
 Mr. Ieluzzi
 Ms. Love
 Mr. Johnson
 Mr. Mills
 Ms. Peachey
 Ms. Rouse
 Ms. Simpson
 Ms. Zuppa

Speech
 Pathologist Mrs. Hilson

Custodial
 Mr. Grieci
 Mrs. De Martino

ST. MARGARET MARY PARISH NEWS**SCHOOL MASSES**

Wednesday, September 26	St. Margaret Mary Parish	10:00 a.m.
Remembrance Day November 11	St. Kateri Tekakwitha	10:45 a.m.
Tuesday, December 5	St. Margaret Mary Parish	10:00 a.m.
Ash Wednesday Mass Wednesday March 6	St. Margaret Mary Parish	10:00 a.m.
Tuesday, April 17	St. Kateri Tekakwitha	10:30 a.m.
May Crowning Mass Tuesday, May 7	St. Kateri Tekakwitha	1:00 p.m.
Graduation Mass Tuesday, June 12	St. Margaret Mary Parish	10:30 a.m.
Closing Mass Tuesday, June 20	St. Kateri Tekakwitha	10:00 a.m.
<u>CONFIRMATION</u>		
Tuesday, March 5, 2018	St. Margaret Mary Parish	7:00 p.m.

Registration must be completed and enrollment into the Searching the Spirit Program must be completed. Please contact St. Margaret Mary Parish.