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Kindergarten Information For Families of St. Michael Academy 2021-2022



WELCOME!



Prayer: A Child's Hands



Blessings from the hand of a child:

Blessings of innocence,

Blessings of hope;

Blessings of trust:

Blessings of joy.

May these graces help heal our fractured souls;

create in us wider circles of compassion;

lead us to deeper loving.

Gracious God may your touch be felt through these tiny hands,

bless them and guide them,

may they be instruments of your healing and peace,



Amen Les Miller





YCDSB LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We are gathered on the ancestral lands and waters of all Indigenous Peoples, who have left their footprints on Mother Earth before us.

We respectfully acknowledge, those who have walked on it, those who walk on it now, and future generations who have yet to walk upon it.

We pray to the Creator for strength and wisdom that all may continue to serve as stewards of the earth.

Todd Jamieson
YCDSB Knowledge Keeper



Staying Safe at School

The York Catholic District School Board continues to work closely with the Ministry of Education (MOE) and York Region Public Health (YRPH) to revise their School Re-entry Plan plan as needed based on the directives given by the MOE, and recommendations from the Ontario Chief Medical Officer of Health.

The plan was developed with a focus on meeting students' academic, mental health and well-being needs while ensuring a safe re-entry in September and throughout the school year.



The Kindergarten Program



“The Kindergarten program is a child-centred, developmentally appropriate, integrated, extended-day program of learning for four and five-year-old children. The purpose of the program is to establish a strong foundation for learning in the early years, and to do so in a safe and caring play-based environment that promotes the physical, social, emotional, and cognitive development of all children.” ~Ministry of Education: The Kindergarten



Catholic Education in Kindergarten

"Jesus said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.'" Mark 10:14



The Kindergarten Program

Large blocks of time dedicated to play-based and inquiry-based learning within the flow of the day

Explicit instruction in literacy, mathematics, and religion occurs during focused learning time and during play-based learning blocks



Purposeful Play:

- will occur both inside and outside as part of the Kindergarten program
- may be structured or unstructured
- provides opportunities for students to actively engage in conversation, ask and answer questions, use key vocabulary, and connect to their own experiences
- fosters opportunities to experiment, explore, construct, solve problems, communicate, role play and make decisions



School Times



Morning Supervision/ Drop Off	8:45 am *Kindergarten Yard
Entry Bell	9:00
Morning Snack	10:25am -10:40am
Lunch & Outdoor Recess	12:00pm-1:00pm *Lunchtime supervisor
Afternoon Snack	2:20pm-2:35 pm
Dismissal	3:30 *Kindergarten Yard

Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

All kindergarten students are to be dropped off and picked up in the Kindergarten Yard. A teacher will be on duty each morning beginning at 8:45 a.m. and students can be dropped off at this time. When the bell rings at 9:00 a.m. the children will line up at their door, enter and begin their school day. At the end of the day, parents may use the kindergarten back doors to ensure a smooth and safe pick up at 3:30pm. Students taking the bus will be picked up from the bus and walked to the Kindergarten yard and walked to the bus area at the end of the day. Please park in the church parking lot and walk your child onto the school property.



Safe Arrival Procedures

SAFE ARRIVAL

Student Absence Reporting

Phone: 1-855-856-7862

Website: go.schoolmessenger.ca

Mobile App: [!\[\]\(23d9fc146e83b5c3013cfa32c784f8d5_img.jpg\) App Store](#) [!\[\]\(f5c463b8c1554ac5049d611bd8e33a51_img.jpg\) Google Play](#)



Student Transportation

For information on eligibility bus routes, stop locations, late arrival, cancellations, and general information, please contact York Region Student Transportation Services School Bus Information at 1-877-330-3001 or the [STSYR website](http://www.schoolbuscity.com/)
www.schoolbuscity.com/



Before and After Care Programs



- Before and after School Programs are offered at the school
- Further information, please go to the [school website](#)



Nutrition Breaks: Snacks and Lunches

- peanut and nut safe environments
- lunchtime supervisor will supervise the children while they eat their lunch
- children play outside everyday during the lunch recess (with some weather exceptions)



Nutrition Breaks: Snacks and Lunches



Kindly label your child's food as follows:
Morning Snack #1,
Lunch #2,
Afternoon snack #3.

(you are encouraged to use reusable containers with lids that your child can easily open and close)

Dress Code/ Uniform Policy

St. Michael Academy Dress Code attached



Please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for the weather as they will be provided opportunities for both indoor and outdoor play

- Please label all clothing items with your child's name
- All students must have a pair of indoor running shoes that can be kept at school
- Velcro shoes are a great option as this will allow your child to independently put on his/her footwear
- Please send a complete set of extra clothes in a large Ziploc bag labelled with your child's name



St. Michael Catholic Academy

We believe that the St. Michael Catholic Academy uniform:

- fosters a sense of unity, belonging and pride in the students and school community
- offers convenience for students and their parents
- provides an attractive, practical and comfortable style of clothing for the students.
- assists with identification and security at school and on excursions

Dress Code:	Uniform
Board approved uniform supplier:	DGN Kilters (www.dgn-kilters.com)
Last updated:	May 19 th , 2020



Dress Code:
Located on our
website at
sml.ycdsb.ca (go to
Our School ~Dress
Code)

Acceptable dress code items:

Items available at DGN Kilters are marked with an asterisk ()*

- ~crested golf shirt * or non-crested golf shirt -white or navy blue, long or short sleeved
- ~crested cardigans *, sweatshirts * -navy blue
- ~kilts *, skorts, shorts -navy blue (no shorter than 5cm above the knee)
- ~dress shirt/blouse -white only, long or short sleeved
- ~turtlenecks -white or navy blue
- ~pants -navy blue, cotton
- ~socks/leotards -navy blue
- ~shoes -dress shoes: black -indoor shoes: navy/white/black or combination of three, non-scutting soles
- ~hair accessories: bands, clips, elastics-white /navy blue
- ~gym attire: although not mandatory it is available through DGN Kilters (shorts, etc.,)

Civvies Day:

Last Friday of the Month (donation to Catholic charity)
Students are invited to wear casual clothing.

Choir:

As set by the Choir Director

All Instrumental Bands:

As set by the Band Director (see attached)

Unacceptable dress code items:

The following items are not part of the school uniform and therefore, not permitted (with the exception of Civvies Day if noted):

- jeans, t-shirts (exception on Civvies Day)
- leggings/yoga pants (exception on Civvies Day, student must wear a top that covers thigh area)
- cargo pants, track pants (exception on Civvies Day)
- sandals, flip flops, boots (Uggs, work boots), crocs (not permitted)
- make-up/jewelry is not encouraged but if worn by intermediate students should be minimal
- shoulder straps narrower than three fingers, tops that reveal midriff



Considerations for September...



When choosing a school bag please consider the following:

- Ensure that the bag is large enough to easily place large items in like a lunch box, library book etc.
- Top loading backpacks with zippers are usually the easiest way for young children to independently pack and unpack their bags
- Please do not send backpacks with wheels
- Have your child start to practice opening and closing the backpack before you purchase it
- Label your child's backpack



Activities to Prepare for September

- opening and closing school bag and lunch/snack containers
- independently washing hands with soap
- independent toileting routines
- dressing and undressing
- putting on their shoes



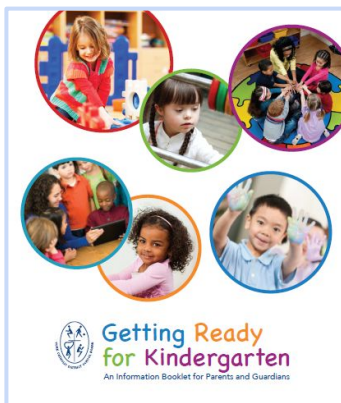
Activities to Prepare for September:



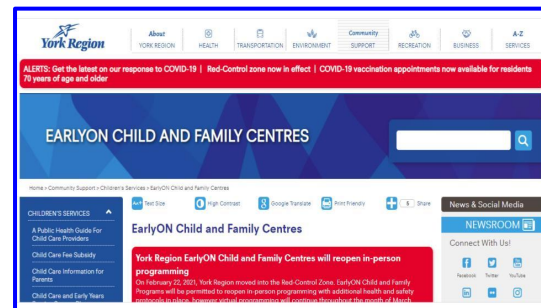
- Take a walk near the school and show your child where they will be playing and learning in September
- Go for walks and look for familiar signs within the community (e.g., STOP signs, street signs, names of places, etc.)
- Use play equipment such as blocks, cars, sand, water, musical toys, etc.
- Read with your child and ask questions about the story
- Play with playdough, magnet letters, and numbers
- Provide opportunities for your child to use pencils, crayons, and scissors



Additional Resources:



[This brochure is available on the Ministry of Education website in many different languages if you scroll to the bottom of the page]
<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/kindergarten/>



SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER !

Visit our website sml.ycdsb.ca and
follow us on twitter @smlycdsb

