



York Catholic District School Board

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Dear Families,

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year! It feels like this school year is a mix of both familiar routines and practices, and new approaches to learning. This is encompassed in the recent appointment of our new Director of Education, Domenic Scuglia, who has returned to York Catholic to help guide our Board. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I look forward to working with him to help steer our York Catholic ship.



I would like to extend a special welcome to new families who joined our Board for the first time. I also would like to welcome our existing families back for another school year. Thank you for choosing our Board to deliver publicly-funded Catholic education to your children.

Our Board and school staff continue to work tirelessly with the Ministry of Education and York Region Public Health to follow all health and safety directives, so that students can return to class and focus on learning in a safe and healthy school environment.

We begin the new school year in the midst of the fourth wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our Board recognizes the uncertainty this brings as parents, staff and families continue to navigate the rocky waters of this pandemic. The vast majority of students have returned to in-person learning this year, however, we will continue to provide families with a remote learning option, as we understand different families have different needs.

Whether your child is learning in person, or remotely, we encourage you to stay connected with your school community, attend school events in person or virtually, and follow our Board on Twitter [@ycdsb](https://twitter.com/ycdsb) for the latest updates. Our YCDSB Mental Health Team is an excellent resource for students or families who may be anxious about returning to school. Follow our Mental Health Team on Twitter [@YCDSB_MH](https://twitter.com/YCDSB_MH) or visit <https://www.ycdsb.ca/mental-health/> for more information.

Our school re-entry plan is posted on the Board website at: <https://www.ycdsb.ca/reopening/>. This plan will be updated as we continue to steer our way through the pandemic. If you have any COVID-19-education related questions, this resource is a great place to start.

Thinking about this pandemic as a series of waves, I thought it appropriate to pray to St. Brendan the Navigator, the patron saint of sailors, to bless us as we journey into the new school year.

Prayer of St. Brendan the Navigator

"Help me to journey beyond the familiar and into the unknown.

Give me the faith to leave old ways and break fresh ground with You.

Christ of the mysteries, I trust You to be stronger than each storm within me.

I will trust in the darkness and know that my times, even now, are in Your hand.

Tune my spirit to the music of heaven, and somehow, make my obedience count for You. Amen."

Best wishes for a successful school year!

Yours in Catholic Education,

Carol Cotton
Trustee, Markham Area 1