



Kindergarten Information For Families

2023



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

Our school day begins at 8:30am and ends at 3:00pm. There are 2 recess breaks, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, as well as one hour lunch break.



Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

If your child takes a bus to school, they will be walked by a staff member to the Kindergarten yard. If you are bringing your child to school, please walk your child to the Kindergarten yard.



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)



Dress Code/ Uniform Policy



- The approved Standardized Dress Code colours at St. Joseph are black bottoms, and solid red, black, or white tops. Please ensure that no logos are visible.
- 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



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
- Avoid clips and buckles if possible
- Have your child start to practice opening and closing the backpack before you purchase it
- Label your child's backpack



Self-Regulations Activities

- 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:

The screenshot shows the York Catholic District School Board website. The navigation menu includes 'About Us', 'News and Events', 'Trustees', 'Schools', 'Programs, Services and Supports', 'Parents', 'Students', and 'Community'. The 'Kindergarten' page is highlighted, with a sub-menu for 'Registration', 'Getting Ready for Kindergarten', 'Kindergarten Assessing and Reporting', 'Child Care', and 'Busing'. A banner for 'Kindergarten Registration for the 2021-22 school is open' is visible, along with a 'View admission criteria' link.

The brochure is titled 'FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN: A Question and Answer Guide for Parents'. It features a photograph of children in a classroom. The text includes:

- What is full-day kindergarten?** Full-day kindergarten is available in all of Ontario's four- and five-year-olds public funded schools.
- Full-day kindergarten allows:**
 - A new year program designed to create a strong foundation for learning and personal growth in child development, communication, social interaction and inquiry.
 - Programs before and after school hours designed to complement the regular school day. These are optional and are offered to parents for a nominal fee. Financial assistance will be available for families who qualify. These hours will offer program before and after school hours based on parent demand.
- How will my child benefit?**
 - In our province, early education is more important than ever for our children. Full-day kindergarten is designed to give our children a stronger start on school and life. It's part of Ontario's plan to support early learning and child development. Full-day programs provide broad child program and contribute to Ontario's long-term economic competitive advantage.
 - Full-day kindergarten is available for four- and five-year-olds. However, research shows that children who participate in full-day early learning programs – like full-day kindergarten – gain a stronger start on school and life.

 The Ontario logo is at the bottom right.

[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/>

The brochure is titled 'Getting Ready for Kindergarten: An Information Booklet for Parents and Guardians'. It features several circular photographs of children in various activities. The York Catholic District School Board logo is at the bottom left.

The brochure is titled 'Early Learning Foundations'. It features a photograph of children playing. The text includes:

- Message Statement:** The personal of children themselves is based on their ready they can to learn, long before they enter to school, learning begins with parents, caregivers and early childhood educators.
- Children need to be properly fed and well rested so that they can develop important cognitive, social, emotional and language foundations. These foundations lay the path for:**
 - Competence on school activities, team and individual.
 - Understanding how our brains and the way of others.
 - Competence, alone and when team with both peers and adults.
 - Healthy, confident, respectfully and control their own behaviour.
 - Being the well, confident and self-assured to try new experiences and learn continuously independently.

 The York Catholic District School Board logo and contact information are at the bottom left. The Community Support for Early Learning logo is at the bottom right.

The screenshot shows the York Region EarlyON Child and Family Centres website. The navigation menu includes 'About', 'Health', 'Transportation', 'Environment', 'Support', 'Recreation', 'Business', and 'A-Z Services'. A red banner at the top reads: 'ALERTS: Get the latest on our response to COVID-19 | Red Control zone now in effect | COVID-19 vaccination appointments now available for residents 75 years of age and older'. The main heading is 'EARLYON CHILD AND FAMILY CENTRES'. A search bar is on the right. The 'NEWSROOM' section is highlighted, with a sub-heading 'EarlyON Child and Family Centres'. A red box below reads: 'York Region EarlyON Child and Family Centres will reopen in-person programming'. The bottom right has social media links for Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube.



SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER !

School Office Telephone Number: 905-884-5077

School Principal: Mr. Gigliozzi

School Secretary: Mrs. Oliveri

