



Our Lady of Grace Catholic Elementary School

Ambassadors of GRACE and Home of the Gators!

Mission of the Waterloo Catholic District School Board:

*"As disciples of Christ, we educate and nurture hope in all learners
to realize their full potential to transform God's world."*

Our Vision:

"Our Catholic Schools: Heart of the community, success for each, a place for all."

Student Name: _____

Classroom Teacher: _____

SCHOOL HOURS

9:10 am	Entrance Bell
10:20 – 10:35 am	Morning Recess
11:55 – 12:55 pm	Lunch
2:15 – 2:30 pm	Afternoon Recess
3:40 pm	Dismissal

IMPORTANT DATES

September 5, 2023 - First Day of School
October 9, 2023 - Thanksgiving
December 22, 2023 - Last Day Before Christmas Break
January 8, 2024 – Back to School New Year 2022
February 19, 2024 - Family Day
March 8-15, 2024 - March Break
March 29, 2024 - Good Friday
April 1, 2024 - Easter Monday
May 20, 2024 - Victoria Day
June 27, 2024 - Last Day of School

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY DAYS

Aug. 31, 2023
October 6, 2023
November 13, 2023
January 19, 2024
April 19, 2024
May 31, 2024
June 28, 2024

REPORT CARD DATES

November 20, 2023 - Progress Reports
February 15, 2024 – Term 1 Reports
June 25, 2024 – Term 2 Reports

Our Lady of Grace School



We believe that:

As a unique creation of a loving God, every human being has inherent value.
Children and youth, our hope for the future, are entitled to first call on our energy and resources.
Human beings, our planet and the universe are interdependent, and all are sustained by God.
Education is fundamental to the development of all human beings in a just society.
Questioning, which seeks the discovery of truth, is the right and responsibility of each person.
Knowing Jesus Christ gives meaning and purpose to our lives.
Diversity in a culture enriches individuals and society.
We are called to be co-creators with God and Christ in the transformation of the world.
Both contributions to the common good and self-determination are vital to a healthy community.
The care and education of our children and youth are the combined responsibility of home, school, parish and local community. Catholic education aims to transform students in Christ's Spirit within a Catholic faith community.

SCHOOL PARISH COMMUNITY

Blessed Sacrament Church

305 Laurentian Dr.
Kitchener, ON N2E 2N6
519-742-5061
Pastor: Father Lukasz Kopaniak
Pastoral Liaison: Anna Gravesande

School Masses will be celebrated during the year.

Sacraments celebrated with students include:

Grade 2: Reconciliation & First Holy Communion
Grade 7: Confirmation.

A Residential Retreat Program:

Grade 8: Mount Mary

OVERALL SCHOOL RULES



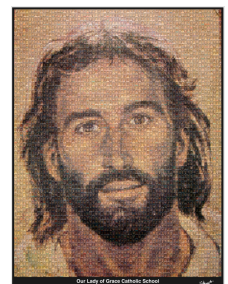
Have you filled someone's bucket today?
Be Kind and Be Polite.
Be respectful to everyone and our environment.
Arrive on time and prepared to learn
Work hard to be successful.



RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION

Religion is taught formally in all classrooms, but is also integrated with all aspects of the child's educational experience. All students must take part in Religious and Family Life instruction and celebrations.

Non-Catholic children may not actually receive the Sacraments, but will participate in all other aspects of the program.



COMMUNICATION GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS / GUARDIANS

STEP 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Speak to the teacher• Issue resolved	STEP 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Speak to the principal• If you have not spoken to the teacher, the principal will ask you to do so• The principal will involve the teacher in the discussions• The principal may request, at any time in the process, that you put your concerns in writing
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Please follow the steps above to address all problems that may arise
The Principal may involve, at any time in the process, others who may be helpful in resolving the concern; supports from the school board, employee group representatives, the local parish, community agencies

ATTENDANCE EXPECTATIONS

Absence:

The school has a safe arrival program to ensure that all students are accounted for each day. Parents / Guardians are required to notify the school as soon as possible if a student will be absent. An answering machine is available outside of school hours.



Please phone the school at 519-745-3961 and leave a message providing:

- *child's name, teacher's name, grade level, day(s) absent and reason for absence*

If the school does not know the reason for your child's absence, a phone call will be made after 9:15 a.m. or 1:00 p.m. to your home or place of employment. Please help us limit these calls by notifying us of your child's absence. The safe arrival program exists to ensure your child's safety.

Late Arrival:

When your child arrives late to school, he/she is to report to the office where a late slip will be issued. A substantial number or pattern of absences will result in contact being made by the school.

Notification of Intention to be Absent :

It is important to let the school know when parents or guardians will be away for an extended time. Please provide the office with written information explaining the time frame, in whose care your children will be, and how that person can be contacted. If your children will be away from school for reasons other than illness (e.g., vacation), the school must be notified and an intent to be absent form must be signed. These forms are on our website at <https://ourladyofgrace.wcdsb.ca/> or at the office.

Students Leaving School Early:

Any student leaving school early MUST be signed out at the office by a parent or legal guardian. Please come to the office to pick up your child. A staff member will contact the classroom teacher to have your child meet you at the office when you arrive. All students require a dated note signed by a parent/guardian to leave the school property at lunch if they usually stay at school for lunch. This note is only for one day at a time and should not be written as a blanket permission to leave school property for lunch. Only students in grade 7 and 8 should be leaving school property at lunch with parental consent given they are not supervised by an adult.

Inclement Weather Procedure:

The Safety of your child(ren) is paramount. In the event of an emergency or inclement weather, appropriate procedures need to be taken to ensure the safety of the students. Cancellation information is posted on the Boards websites at www.wcdsb.ca as well as radio announcements and twitter.



TRANSPORTATION TO SCHOOL

Many students ride the school bus to and from school each day. To ensure their safety, parents are required to obey the NO STOPPING signs at the front of the school, and the parking restrictions indicated. Staff members supervise unloading and loading of school buses. Responsible students are assigned as bus patrols to assist the driver in ensuring safety enroute. Please respect the bus zone and crossing zone area in front of the school both at the start and end of day.



SCHOOL PARKING

The school parking lot will be closed to parents and visitors between 8:40 and 4:00 from Monday to Friday. The parking lot is available only for staff parking, and bus/taxi drop offs for students with special needs. All other parents and visitors to the school are asked to use the side streets around our school. This decision was made in consultation with our Catholic School Advisory Council to ensure the safety of students. There are staff out front each morning and after school, to ensure the safety of the students arriving by bus. If it is necessary to drive to school, please consider car-pooling with others. This helps the environment, promotes fitness and calms traffic around the school property. Please be advised that you are not permitted to park directly in front of the school on Gracefield Crescent and must obey all parking signs to be both safe and avoid parking tickets.



Again, City By-Law has informed the school that individuals parked in this area would receive an \$80.00 ticket.

ONTARIO CATHOLIC SCHOOL GRADUATE EXPECTATIONS

**Learning in Catholic Schools ... is not merely an intellectual quest, but a spiritual one as well.
In Catholic education, all of life is viewed as an affair not only of the mind, but also, of the spirit.
The expectations of graduates, therefore, are described not only in terms of skills,
but in terms of values and attitudes as well.
(Educating the Soul)**



Catholic Curriculum in all program areas and at all grade levels must directly contribute to our Catholic students' achievement of the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations:

- **A discerning believer** formed in the Catholic faith community who celebrates the signs and mystery of God's presence through liturgy, sacrament, prayer, reflection, and moral thinking.
- **An effective communicator** who communicates honestly and sensitively and responds critically in light of gospel values as reflected in church teachings.
- **A reflective, creative and holistic thinker** who solves problems and makes responsible decisions with informed moral conscience.
- **A self-directed, responsible, lifelong learner**, who develops and demonstrates their God-given potential, influences change in a discerning manner for the service of the whole community, the church, and society.
- **A collaborative contributor** who finds meaning, dignity and vocation in work, which respects the rights of all and contributes to the common good.
- **A caring family member** who ministers to family, school, parish, and community
- **A responsible citizen** who witnesses Catholic social teaching by promoting peace, justice and the sacredness of human life.

CREATING COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY & ACCOUNTABILITY

As a caring community, the staff at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Elementary School will always strive to instill skills in our students that promote a positive learning environment free from physical or emotional intimidation. The Waterloo Catholic District School Board and Our Lady of Grace School recognize the inherent dignity and worth of all individuals. At Our Lady of Grace, we believe that the school must be a community whose values are communicated through positive interpersonal relationships. One of our primary goals at the school is to assist our students in learning, accepting and living Christian values. When dealing with conflict or harm, we believe in using a restorative justice approach that involves all relevant stakeholders and focuses on building community, relationships, and accountability.

SCHOOL BEHAVIOUR EXPECTATIONS

Code of Conduct:

All individuals within the school system (trustees, staff, students, parents and visitors to the school) are subject to following the code of conduct; a code of conduct that will be implemented within the Christian faith life experience of our school community and which is consistent with the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations, and the School Safety provisions of the Education Act and Regulations.



Fundamental Beliefs:

- Everyone has a responsibility to promote a safe environment.
- Everyone should be aware of their rights, as active and engaged citizens. More importantly, everyone should also accept responsibility for protecting their rights and the rights of others. Responsible citizenship involves taking part in the civic life of the school.
- All members of the school community are to be treated with respect and dignity, especially those in positions of authority.
- Everyone has a responsibility to resolve conflicts in a way that is civil and respectful. Insults, hurtful acts and a lack of respect for others disrupt learning and teaching in a school community.
- Everyone is expected to resolve conflicts without using violence. Physical aggression is not a responsible way to deal with other people. No one should use an object to injure another person, or even threaten to use an object to injure another person. This is unacceptable and puts everyone's safety at risk.

We believe our school code of conduct represents our highest aspirations for all our students. We believe that as a staff, we see discipline as positive and proactive, not negative and punitive. Our staff members act as guides and facilitators rather than referees.

We believe students come to Our Lady of Grace Catholic Elementary School to learn and achieve to their fullest potential, and in times of trouble we, whenever possible, keep the emphasis on learning rather than punishment.

We believe the word discipline is an umbrella for positive skill development.

We believe the more students are engaged in high-level, meaningful, developmentally appropriate, and challenging tasks, the more apt they are to be positive learners who devote their energies towards learning and achieving, and not toward making poor choices regarding their behaviour.

We believe school discipline creates a culture of the school which is distinct from the culture "of the street, student's homes, and the media". We all behave with specific expectations in mind when we visit a library, hospital, and Church. Our Lady of Grace Catholic Elementary School is the same. We don't behave at school the same way we do at the mall, a concert, or a sporting event.

We believe Our Lady of Grace Catholic Elementary School is a caring, Catholic community and we are committed to learning and growing together. As a caring community, we will always strive to have our students interact with others in a caring and respectful manner. Our entire staff will promote social skills in our students that will foster a positive learning environment, free from bullying, harassment and intimidation.

We believe for students to achieve the high expectations we have set for school discipline they need not only be told of the school and classroom rules, but they need time to practise and reinforce the skills as well; it's about following procedures and routines automatically so students can save their most important thinking for what matters the most at school- in the classroom on challenging learning tasks.

**"Discipline isn't what we do when students misbehave;
It's what we do so they won't." (Ron Morrish)**

Classroom teachers have collaborated in divisions and have developed specific routines with respect to a variety of school and classroom procedures. These procedures include but are not limited to: respectful behaviour, lining outside when the bell rings, lunch, washroom/drink, physical education, recess/snack, and greeting of adults, especially visitors to our school. The expectations for these procedures are designed to support student safety and will be consistently applied by all staff.

We believe all students strive for independence, and as a staff, we strive to foster and develop this independence in a structured, safe, caring, and supervised environment. This is part of the culture of Our Lady of Grace Catholic Elementary School!

We believe that as Our Lady of Grace staff we not only teach classroom, school, and yard rules, but also the language of respect: body language, expressions, language that is effective and assertive, tone of voice, self-talk, disagreeing respectfully, using words to solve problems and conflicts, presenting and supporting differing points of view, and honouring and recognizing others. We do so through classroom lessons, Religion and Family Life program, classroom meetings, guest speakers, monthly umbrella skills, and assemblies. We model respectful behaviour.

We believe that students' positive behaviour should increase as they get older. Therefore, we expect our oldest students to not only be the best-behaved students in the school, but to be role models to each other and the younger students as well. Many of these ideas relate directly to the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations, and provide opportunities for our oldest students to gain leadership skills and maturity. There are many ways our older students can develop their leadership and maturity.



Some of these ways may include:

School Leadership

- Make morning announcements
- Student Ambassador to greet visitors to the school
- Organize school wide special days (e.g., Social Justice Team)
- Lead special ceremonies (e.g., Remembrance Day, School Liturgies, etc.)
- Set up audio visual equipment around the school (Tech Crew)
- Participate on School Sports Teams and Clubs

Student Leadership

- Teach recess games to younger students (i.e. PALS)
- Be a playground or book buddy - teach social skills to younger students and a love of reading
- Be a monitor on a school bus
- Help other students with their work (learning buddies)
- Help with Kindergarten snack time and clean-up

Personal Leadership - Be a Role Model

- Set a good example. Be a good role model. Use excellent manners
- Respect others and their belongings. Respect property
- Be courteous and considerate
- Make sure everyone is treated fairly
- Write thank you notes to people who help the school
- Greet others regularly

Community Leadership

- Identify and resolve issues at the school and in the community
- Volunteer within the community
- Charity work
- Write articles for local newspapers
- Clean up a community park

Discipline, Learning Self-Regulation and Possible Collaborative Interventions

We believe that students learn in different ways and at different rates. Because the goal of school discipline is always about learning, the interventions used for inappropriate behaviour depend upon the individual student. Many students may just need a reminder that they have broken a rule and be given the opportunity to demonstrate how they can uphold the rule in the future. Some students may require a more detailed plan for success. Staff always endeavors to consider the individual student and the circumstances, including mitigating factors (age of the student, cognitive ability of the student, mental health needs of the student. Staff also considers the nature and severity of the incident and the impact of the incident on the climate of the school. Ensuring that Our Lady of Grace is a safe place to learn and grow for all students is our number one goal.



To assist the student get back on track we may:

- Interview with the student(s)
- Withdrawal of privileges
- Recess/lunch in an alternate location
- Reflections
- Contact with parents
- Restorative Justice practices and/or circle
- Payment for damages / restitution
- Removal from special activities
- School Suspension - & re-entry plan
- Involvement with support agencies
- Referral to School and/or Board Team
- Referral to community supports (counseling)

Supporting Discipline through Positive Relationships

At Our Lady of Grace School, we believe that it is through our partnerships (students, parents and staff) that we will encourage and ensure success for our students.

Staff	Students	Parents
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Foster positive relationships with students by encouraging mutual respect (PomPom - Random Acts of Kindness Community Building Program)● Watch for signs of bullying and intervening when it happens● Respond quickly and supportively to reports of bullying or other behaviour● Taking parent and student concerns about incidents and bullying seriously● Progressive Discipline consequences for inappropriate behaviours● Provide a safe environment for students who report bullying● Model positive ways of getting along with others	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Treat each other respectfully and understand that "KINDNESS is a CHOICE" we can make each and every day that can make a world of difference to all parties involved (i.e. Bucket Filling Philosophy)● Refuse to be unkind, mean or to bully others● Refuse to let others be bullied● Do not stand by as other students are teased or bullied● Include everyone in play, especially those who are often left out● Report mean incidents or bullying to a trusted adult especially if they have tried Kelso's Choices to solve a conflict and things are NOT improving	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Model positive ways of getting along with others (i.e. during a disagreement)● Help their son/daughter find ways to express anger that do not involve hurting others physically or emotionally● Teach problem solving skills● Inform school staff if their child tells them about a bullying incident● Support the schools bullying-prevention efforts● Help their son/daughter understand the value of accepting and celebrating individual differences● Be alert to signs their child is being bullied or may be bullying others

SCHOOL SPECIFIC PROCEDURES and EXPECTATIONS

MEDICATION

It is always preferable for parents to administer prescribed medications at home. If school staff is called to do so, a form must be completed by parents or a physician and maintained at the school. Where a student requires an inhaler or EpiPen, they are always to be carried by the child and one will be stored at the office. Again, a note from the parents and doctor is required for our files.



ANAPHYLAXIS

As you may know, a number of children and adults at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Elementary School have extreme allergies to peanuts, other nut products, and bee stings and are susceptible to Anaphylaxis. The allergy is so severe that it could be life threatening. It is imperative that parents or guardians notify the school if your child has any allergy and/or has an EPIPEN. Appropriate forms must be completed. Prevention, of course, is the best approach and therefore, we ask that parents support us by NOT sending nuts or nut products to school with your child. Children are also told of the situation and have been asked not to share their recess snacks or treats. All staff members are aware of this situation and have been instructed in the procedures regarding anaphylactic shock.



PERSONAL PROPERTY

At times, students bring personal belongings to school (toys, footballs, hats, ball gloves). Parents are requested to mark their children's belongings with the child's name. Lost or misplaced articles of clothing, lunch bags, backpacks, etc. are placed in the Lost & Found. Students must take full responsibility for personal items that are brought to school. Unclaimed items are donated to a charity several times during the school year.



SCHOOL PROPERTY

Books, computers, tools, equipment, and other items are made available for student use during the year. These items remain the property of the school and must be used in a proper manner. Students will be expected to pay for lost or damaged items.

EMERGENCY SAFETY DRILLS

To help our students become familiar with proper evacuation procedures, school and fire department officials conduct fire drills throughout the school year. During these drills, students are directed by the teachers to leave the school in an orderly and quiet manner, using their designated exit. The exit signs are posted in each room and students are informed of these. Any other individuals who are in the building must also evacuate the premises when the alarm sounds.



The purpose of a LOCKDOWN is to safely confine all students and staff from potentially dangerous intruders. A lock down will almost always be initiated by police, but, in some situations may be initiated by the principal or staff member. Our Lady of Grace School has an established procedure which is updated and shared with all staff. At least twice a year, the school community practices the lockdown procedure.

BUS EXPECTATIONS

It is the responsibility of each student to follow bus safety procedures. **Remember, riding the bus is a privilege - not a right.** Students who consistently disregard the bus rules put everyone's safety at risk and they will receive a bus suspension. Parents are asked to review these expectations with their children.

Students will:

- ONLY ride the bus to which they are assigned
- Board the bus in a single line, without pushing or shoving
- Sit where directed by the driver/Principal (re seating plan)
- Remain seated until the end of the trip
- Talk quietly
- Cell Phone use is NOT permitted on the bus, but is OK when you get off the bus
- Keep arms and head inside the window
- Cross the street in front of the bus and wait for the driver to signal before crossing
- Leave the bus at the regular stop unless permission is granted by the principal upon a request from the parent/guardian



Bicycles and scooters are permitted, but students are reminded that they are personally responsible for their bicycles and scooters, and must walk them on school property, and lock them in the designated area. The school is not responsible for loss or damage to bicycles. Rollerblades and skateboards are permitted at school. However, they are not permitted to be used on school property. It is strongly recommended these items be left at home to avoid theft risk.

LUNCH

Students who remain at school for lunch will eat in their own classroom and will be supervised by a teacher or Lunch Hour Supervisor. Students are then dismissed from the classroom and then go outside to the supervised play areas between 12:15 and 12:55 p.m. Students who remain at school for lunch are not allowed to leave the school property at any time. During inclement weather, students are supervised inside the school. Children who have gone home for lunch must return by 12:55 p.m. We encourage all students to bring garbage-free lunches to support our commitment to the environment. Please try to use reusable containers (not glass) whenever possible so we can reduce the amount of garbage created at lunchtime. Students and staff are encouraged to use recycling containers available throughout the school. Food and drinks are not permitted outside.



PLAYGROUND

- Be Kind & Be Respectful
- Play in your designated areas of the school property.
- Do not play rough, aggressive games. "Play fighting" usually leads to "real fighting".
- Equipment judged by the school to be dangerous to student safety is not permitted (e.g., no bats, hard balls, heelies).
- Skateboards, scooters, and bikes must be walked on school property and helmets should be worn.
- Report any injuries or incidents of harassment to the teachers or supervisors on duty.
- Ask permission from the staff on yard duty before entering the school during recess breaks and the lunch hour.
- Objects such as stones, sand, ice, sticks, and snowballs are not to be thrown.
- Inappropriate verbal and body language are not acceptable in a school environment.
- Always play with safety in mind.



COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY AND INTERNET

All students at Our Lady of Grace School, from JK – Grade 8 have access to the computer(s) in their classroom and the Library. Students whose parents/guardians have completed "Acceptable Use of Computer Technology and Internet" via School Cash Online also have access to the Internet. Our school is equipped with wireless network access. Access to the wireless network will expand learning opportunities for students and will provide access to thousands of interactive learning websites, educational videos and current information. If a teacher sees the use of personal devices as beneficial for learning, they will provide the students with the option to bring in their devices. This will be communicated to you by the teacher.

THE LEARNING COMMONS

Our Learning Commons is open to all students throughout the year. In order to allow all students a wider selection of material, we ask that all books be promptly returned (no later than 2 weeks). All resources should be treated with care and should be protected while in transit. There are additional resources available for use in the library only (e.g. encyclopedias, etc.) as they are in limited supply. Lost materials are the student's responsibility and must be replaced if lost or damaged. Students will not be allowed to borrow items until outstanding items are either returned or a replacement fee is paid. Students will be required to sign and follow procedures outlined in the Board Computer and Technology contract. Restrictions apply regarding access to the Internet.



CELL PHONES/ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT

1. Administration strongly encourages that cell phones NOT be brought to school. 2. Cell phones must be POWERED OFF if at school and may be collected by the classroom teacher and returned to students at the end of the school day OR must be safely stored in the student's backpack. 3. If a cell phone is to be used, teacher permission and supervision must be in place. 4. Cell phones are not to be used on the bus. Students caught with cell phones during the instructional day will be given a warning and the phone will be taken for the day. The parent may be contacted in this instance also. The second offense will result in the parent being contacted and the privilege of having a cell phone at school being taken away for a period of time. Further offenses will result in the student from being banned from bringing a cell phone to school for a period of time or for the remainder of the school year. Failure to follow this policy may also include an in or out of school suspension. Using cell phones or other electronic devices to text parents during school hours is NOT permitted. All communication must come through the office to ensure student safety and safe arrival/departure policies are followed. Hand-held video games and other personal music players are not to be brought to school. The school cannot guarantee the safety and security of these costly items and can not replace or repair cell phones lost or damaged at school. In short, just like the workplace, there is a time and place for cell phone use, and school time should have its focus on learning and then in the evening, cell phone time can be best facilitated.



SPORTS AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

A variety of extra-curricular activities are offered to enrich your child's experience at Our Lady of Grace School. Your help, support, and encouragement of your child's involvement in these activities are greatly appreciated. Students are required to have a form signed before they can play in these clubs. In addition, our teams have other forms to be signed. All students at Our Lady of Grace should be proud of their school and of their accomplishments. Students are encouraged to take advantage of the many opportunities provided to them which occur beyond the classroom. Students, who have difficulty meeting school expectations may have the privilege of participating in extracurricular activities suspended until such time as they are able to be "responsible citizens". School jerseys will be provided for students to use. If they lose all or part of the uniform, it will be the student responsibility to pay for its replacement. Any activities occurring before or after school will require written parental consent.



EXCURSIONS

We are very fortunate to live in an area which has an interesting history and varied places of interest in our immediate surroundings. Please notify the principal or your child's teacher should you require financial assistance for a field trip. Every student will be provided with the same opportunities and no one will be left behind due to financial reasons. We ask for your co-operation and support in completing required permission forms for excursions promptly via School Cash Online.



FOOD AND NUTRITION

We continue to follow and implement the directions and expectations contained in the WCDSB Food and Nutrition policy. The purpose of this document is to ensure that a variety of nutritious foods and beverages are promoted and provided in our school. Highlights of the policy outline "healthy special food days", "healthy student rewards" and "healthy snacks that are appropriate during instructional time." The full policy can be found and read on the WCDSB website. We offer school lunch days (e.g., Pizza, Subway etc.) throughout the week and can be purchased through School Cash Online. Our school also has a Nutrition for Learning Program and a healthy breakfast and snacks are always available if needed for our Gator students.



Remember Parents - Please Do NOT BRING FOOD/ITEMS To SHARE Your Child's Classmates ...

We simply can NOT Hand-out Food Items in Your Child's Classroom - Please Contact the School Office or Your Child's Teacher before bringing any food items to the school as we simply can not hand it out to a classroom of students.

The school (weekly birthdays called over PA System and your child's classroom do special things to celebrate your child's birthday. And we know parents have parties for family, grandparents, friend parties, etc. and this is great too as we all truly want the children to feel special on their birthday. Please **NOTE** that we simply can not hand out food/items to your child's classroom. This is as a result of WCDSB's AP Memos that relate to:



1. Safety and Anaphylaxis (Life Threatening Allergies to food is common in all Ontario schools)
2. Nutrition Policy, (The Ministry and Board's policies are such that we minimize non-nutritional food)
3. Equity for ALL students - We try and make every student's birthday feel special in a similar way
4. Parents Want to Decide for their Child - Finally, many parents often tell the school office that they want to be the person who determines what their child is consuming, rather than be unaware or not informed

REPORTING STUDENT PROGRESS

Evaluation and assessment of student progress is an ongoing process requiring effective communication between home and school. Teachers assess and evaluate students based on how the child independently demonstrates the skills and knowledge in the school setting. Parents are encouraged to contact their child's teacher throughout the year to keep informed of their child's progress. We at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Elementary School believe that a balance between school, homework, family time and outside interests is very important to the cognitive, social, spiritual, and affective development of each of our students. We look forward to continuing to work with you in a partnership which provides the best learning environment for all students.



DRESS CODE FOR STUDENTS

At Our Lady of Grace Catholic Elementary School, our goal is for all students to experience a sense of belonging. Across a number of schools, several students, parents, and staff collaborated to create a dress code that is rooted in our goal of inclusion and respect for everyone in our school community and as well prepares students to understand there is a dress code in all work environments and to plan accordingly.



We recognize: Students need to be comfortable to learn, Clothing is an expression of individuality, Fashion trends are constantly changing, Opinions on clothing are often subjective, Clothing choices belong to students and their caregivers

Students should wear clothing that: Is safe and suitable for learning, Makes you feel comfortable, Expresses your individuality

Students may not wear items that: Are unsafe, Promote discrimination, hate, violence, illegal substances or acts, and/or profanity, and/or leave private parts uncovered or partially uncovered ... Our goal is to set up students for success and in all work environments, there is an appropriate dress (uniform, safety shoes, etc.) and we appreciate working together to teach them this necessary life skill!

We recommend: Having a change of clothes at school for Physical Education (more likely for higher grades), Having a change of clothes at school in case of accidents, Footwear that is safe for recess activities, Physical Education, and stairs, Having a pair of running shoes that can stay at school for indoor use only is best!

Thanks everyone for your continued support and cooperation!