

“Get Ready for a Magical Learning Experience”

Dear Parents,

Once again it is time when our attention turns from planning vacations to preparing for the start of a new school year. We are beginning a year of shared responsibility in building Christian values and educational skills in the young people God has placed in our care. With thoughts turning to the new school year, I have prepared and enclosed information for your convenience and reference.

Your choice of Catholic school education for your child is an indication of your commitment to seek the best. You have chosen a school that offers a strong academic skills program. Our staff of dedicated teachers is trained to meet the special learning needs of each individual student.

Academic skills and broad general knowledge are important components of a child's education, but we offer more. The moral values which underlie all of our activities are important in building character. Students take part in activities which deepen their faith and love of God. They learn to appreciate the many gifts which the Lord has provided.

We are so happy to continue as one of the **STREAM** designated schools in the Diocese of Buffalo. Part of the **STREAM** design is to integrate subjects into many courses at one time. It is not a new curriculum but rather a new framework for teaching. Stay tuned for more information about our school's **STREAM** program.

We are happy to welcome Mrs. Lori Siczewicz, Mrs. Casey Gaudy and Miss Andrea Nugent to our educational team this year. Also, Sister Denise Williams, a member of the Daughters of Charity will serve as volunteer office assistant. We are happy to have the presence of this Religious Order and Sr. Denise as part of our Catholic Academy community.

Ready to welcome your child to Catholic Academy of Niagara Falls are the following members of our faculty and staff,

Canonical Administrator	Fr. Robert Hughson
Principal	Mrs. Jeannine Fortunate
Administrative Assistant	Mrs. Susan Kline
Office Assistants	Mr. Brian Klimecko, Sr. Denise Williams
Pre-Kindergarten 3	Mrs. Allison Sliwowski
Pre-Kindergarten 4	Mrs. Maria Arist
Pre-Kindergarten 4	Mrs. Pamela Choolokian
Pre-K Aides	Mrs. Vicki Bower, Miss Andrea Nugent
	Mrs. Alberta DeMartino, Mrs. Lynne Kanfoush
Kindergarten	Mrs. Alana Edel
Kindergarten Aide	Mrs. Christina Moses
First Grade	Mrs. Johanna Richards
Second Grade	Mrs. Heather Zeller
Third Grade	Mrs. Lori Siczewicz
Fourth Grade	Miss Christina Lopardi
Fifth Grade	Miss Kaycie McKenzie
Sixth Grade, Assistant Principal	Mrs. Mary Champoux
Learning Support/Gr. 6 ELA	Mrs. Christine Connolly
Art	Mrs. Louise Weaver
Physical Education	Mrs. Leah Zahradnik
Technical Support	Mrs. Pamela Casero
Technology/Keyboarding & Primary Coordinator	Mr. Joseph Dzielski
Music/Chorus	Mrs. Casey Gaudy
Librarian	Mrs. Cathy Potter
School Counselor	Mr. Bryan Saj
Before & After School Program Director	Mrs. Pamela Choolokian

The unique partnership developed between parents and school staff will be a fundamental reason for the success of our school program. We appreciate your ideas, your cooperation in helping with our many activities, and your support.

By now you should have received your notification from FACTS Tuition with payment deduction dates of August 5th or 20th. Please be sure sufficient funds are available to prevent being charged the \$45.00 late fee. If you have any questions regarding tuition or have not yet heard from the tuition company, please call the school office.

Please keep **Wednesday, August 30th** open and refer to the enclosed flyer regarding Pre-K 3, Pre-K 4, Kindergarten and Grade 1 drop off night from 3:00 to 7:00 and our Menchie and Lula Roe fundraisers.

School will begin for **ALL** grades Pre – K through 6 on Thursday, September 7th. Classes begin at 8:00 a.m. All grades will have a full day session the first day of school. There will be an Open House for Pre-K 3 & 4 on Wednesday, September 6th. **Please refer to the separate instruction sheet for arrival and dismissal.**

Please be absolutely certain your child has all necessary immunizations and that we have written documentation of this information. Pre-K students must also have proof of lead screening. This is a requirement of New York State.

Uniforms for Grades K-6 will be **strictly enforced** beginning the **first day of school**. The summer uniform will be allowed until the end of September. We realize there may be extenuating circumstances but please take care of all uniform needs by September 7th so that our dress policy may be enforced without a great deal of unpleasant hassle. Our school has a uniform policy: please respect it. A copy of the dress code is enclosed. **Please note the addition of Consequences that will be enforced this year for non-compliance.** If your child has outgrown his/her uniform please donate to our uniform exchange table which is set up in the office hallway during August.

The children will need school supplies right away in order to start the year out properly. Please refer to the list that is enclosed. In case of misplaced lists, please contact Mrs. Kline for a copy. Students in grades 3 – 6 will need to purchase school planners from their classroom teachers for \$5.00 on the first day of school.

Lunch for Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 6 will begin Thursday, September 7th. Students must either buy or bring their lunch. Lunch times are scheduled as follows:

Pre-K3 & Pre-K 4	10:45 – 11:15	Gr. 2 & 3	11:45 – 12:15
Kindergarten & Gr. 1	11:15 – 11:45	Gr. 4,5,6	12:15 – 12:45

The Hot Lunch Program will also begin on September 7th. Menu items will be listed on the back of the monthly calendars. Please remember to complete and return the forms for free and reduced lunch if you are eligible. *Remember, our remedial math and reading programs are based on the number of families who show poverty level by these forms.* **Please send them in even if your child does not want to participate in the hot lunch program so that we will be able to keep these programs in our school.** Information regarding our lunch program and calendar are enclosed.

Once again, our Assistant Principal, Mrs. Mary Champoux will be supervising our **Cafeteria Program** for Grades K – 6. **However, we are in need of lunchroom monitors. Tuition assistance will be given. If interested, please contact Mrs. Kline at 283-1455 x 201.**

We will again be offering **Before-School care** beginning at 7:00 A.M. Mrs. Pam Choolokian will supervise this program to accommodate children who need to come to school early. The cost is \$4.00 per hour. **This hour will count as your first hour if you are also using after-school care.** Please return the enclosed form by August 31st and indicate the days you will be using this service. This service will only be offered on days parents request service.

We will be offering an **After-School Latch-key** program again this year. Please return the enclosed latch-key calendar if you are planning to use the program during the month of September. If you are unsure of what days you need service, please be sure to contact **Miss Pam** as soon as you know. Latch-key service will begin on Thursday, September 7th. We will be offering a monthly rate of **\$120.00 per student** as well as the hourly rate of \$4.00 for the first hour and \$3.00 for each additional hour. The hour will count as your first hour if you are also using after school care. **Those choosing the monthly rate must do so from September through June.**

Those eligible for busing will receive a notice from the NFBOE Transportation Department before school begins.

Please call the school office (283-1455) and leave a message on a day your child is not coming to school. Children should not be absent without a legitimate reason. All must **present a written excuse** when they return, explaining any absence or tardiness. ***Please make dental and doctor appointments outside of school hours when possible.***

Students will be considered tardy after 8:00 A.M. Please make a serious effort to get your child to school on time.

We will be having a special back to school ***Orientation Night for Parents*** on Wednesday, September 13th. Parents will meet with teachers according to the following schedule.

Pre-K 3 & 4	6:00 pm
K, 1, 6	6:30 pm
2 & 3	7:00 pm
4 & 5	7:30 pm

Teachers will explain their expectations for the school year. Please plan to join us so that you can help your child experience a successful beginning of the school year.

Mark your calendars now for our First Home School Association Gathering, which will be held on Wednesday, September 27th. More information on this will follow. Also on Monday, September 25th we will celebrate our Opening of school liturgy at 8:30 a.m. Please join us for this special Mass. Information regarding Dad's Take Your Child to School on September 19th will be sent home in our Wednesday Memo.

I know that our excellent teachers and staff members will continue in their spirit of cooperation and dedication, always striving for the better things for and from your children. Your children are in good hands and I am confident of their continued growth and progress throughout the school year.

If I can personally be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to call on me. We all want the best for our children and the best way to attain this is through mutual cooperation. In advance, I send along to you my thanks for what I am sure will be your contribution to a successful, effective, happy year.

May the God of Love and Peace be with you always.

Sincerely,

Jeannine M. Fortunate
Principal

“We’re All Ears for Learning”