

## August 2026 - Welcome Letter

Welcome to Catholic Academy of Niagara Falls! My name is Johanna Richards, and I am excited to begin my fifth year as principal. I am thrilled to welcome your family to our school community and look forward to growing together this year.

Over the summer, we have been busy preparing for an exciting new school year. From freshening up our building to creating welcoming classrooms, we have worked hard to ensure that every student has a safe, engaging, and joyful place to learn. This year's school theme will be *Growing Together* with a focus on Kindness.

Your decision to choose a Catholic education for your child reflects your commitment to providing the very best for them. At Catholic Academy of Niagara Falls, we are proud to offer a strong academic program while nurturing each child's spiritual, social, emotional, and academic growth. Our dedicated staff is committed to meeting the individual needs of every learner.

School begins on Tuesday, September 1, at 8:00 a.m. for all grades. All students will attend a full day on the first day of school. Please refer to the attached **arrival and dismissal** information for details. There will be no bussing!

We hope your family will join us for our **Welcome Back to School Picnic** on Thursday, August 27th!

### 5-6 p.m. - Food, Mingling, & Games

- Enjoy a cookout in the back parking lot! Food will be available for purchase.
- Bring your own lawn chairs or blankets and spend time visiting with other Catholic Academy families and teachers.
- Feel free to bring outdoor games for the children to enjoy.
- 5:00- Blessing of the Backpacks (Be sure to bring your backpack)

### 6:30-7 p.m. - K- Gr. 2 Orientation & Supply Drop off

### 7-7:30 p.m. - Gr. 3-5 Orientation & Supply Drop Off

\*Children will not be allowed to attend the Orientation for Grades K-5. They will participate in outside games and activities with teachers during their time slot.

### 7:30-8 p.m. - Gr. 6-8 Orientation & Supply Drop off with children

**Supply lists** can be found on the school's website.

We are happy to continue offering FREE breakfast and lunch for all students again this year. The **September lunch menu** is attached.

**Uniforms** for Grade K - 8 should be ordered online at [flynnohara.com](http://flynnohara.com). Please be respectful of our Uniform Policy as it will be enforced beginning the first day of school. We realize there may be extenuating circumstances but, please try to take care of all uniform needs as soon as possible. A copy of the uniform policy was in your registration packet and can also be found online. Remember that you can visit the school during office hours over summer to see our CANF Swap Shop (donated uniforms).

Our Before and After-School Care Program will also continue this year. If you plan to use the program, please return the registration packet to the school (Attention: Before and After School Care). Registration forms were included in your tour folder. You may mail them, drop them off during summer office hours (Tuesday-Thursday, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.), or bring them on the first day of school. The program begins on the first day of school.

If you have not yet received your FACTS tuition notification, or if you have any tuition or financial questions, please contact Mrs. Maxine Menshon in the Business Office at 716-283-1455 ext. 204 or by email at [mmenshon@catholicacademyntf.org](mailto:mmenshon@catholicacademyntf.org).

Also attached are the **tentative school calendar** and the **September calendar**.

Please Note: All of these forms and attachments will also be sent home on Wednesday, September 2, in your child's Wednesday Family Folder.

Thank you for entrusting us with your child's education. We are honored to partner with your family during these important early years and cannot wait to watch your child learn, grow, and flourish. We look forward to an amazing school year filled with new friendships, exciting discoveries, and countless opportunities to GROW together!

If I can ever be of assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me by email at [jrichards@catholicacademyntf.org](mailto:jrichards@catholicacademyntf.org) or by phone at 716-283-1455.

Thank you for choosing the Catholic Academy of Niagara Falls. We are so excited to welcome your family into our school community!