



# ST. CLARE CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

391 Velmar Dr.  
Woodbridge, ON L4L 8J5  
Tel No.: 905-856-6643 Fax: 905-856-6349

<http://sce.ycdsb.ca>

Twitter: @sce\_ycdsb



## SEPTEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we enter into a new school year at St. Clare CES, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone to the 2021/2022 school year! We extend a special thank you to our Trustee, Ms. Maria Marchese, and to our newly appointed Superintendent of Education, Mr. Tim Laliberte, for all of their support at the board level. Thank you also to Rev. Msgr. John & Associate Pastor, Fr. Andre Lima for their warm welcome to the St. Clare of Assisi Parish Community.

Welcome to all staff, students and families who join us in their first year at St. Clare. We are proud to have you share in this great community. It is our hope that you will soon feel a part of our family. We also welcome back our existing families with open arms and open hearts. The joy of watching students on the first day of school re-acquaint themselves was a pleasure to behold. All of the anxieties about the school year quickly faded away as our students began working and playing together.

The staff at St. Clare is a committed and hard working group of educators who will provide a meaningful and productive school year for your child(ren). It is through our cooperative efforts and positive interactions with the entire school community that we will continue to be successful in achieving our goals. It is the mission of our school to help each and every child realize his or her full potential in a Christ centered, supportive, safe and caring learning environment.

This school year we continue to navigate through the difficult challenges of Covid-19. However, rest assured that the safety of students and staff remains my number one priority and we will adhere to all protocols outlined in the YCDSB's Entry plan. Please take the time to read through our monthly newsletters, visit our school website ([sce.ycdsb.ca](http://sce.ycdsb.ca)), online calendar and follow us on twitter @sce\_ycdsb to be in the know of all our school initiatives. After all... #WeAreSCE.

Yours in Catholic Education,

Mr. F. De Bartolo  
*Principal*

**Catholic School Trustee**  
Maria Marchese

**Superintendent of Education**  
Tim Laliberte

**Pastor**  
Rev. Msgr. John Boreon

**Associate Pastor**  
Fr. Andre Lima

**CSC Chair**  
Sandra Carvalho

**Administrative Assistant**  
Maria Boem

**Principal**  
Francesco De Bartolo

**To report student absences and lates, please dial:**  
1-855-856-7862  
**OR**  
[go.schoolmessenger.ca](http://go.schoolmessenger.ca)

**SCE SCHOOL DAY:**

- 8:35 Supervision Begins
- 8:50 Morning Entry
- 10:10 AM Recess
- 11:45 Lunch
- 12:05 Lunch Recess
- 12:45 Afternoon Entry
- 2:05 PM Recess
- 3:40 Dismissal

<p><b>Mission Statement</b></p> <p>Guided by Gospel values and Catholic Virtues, in partnership with home and Church, we educate and inspire all students to reach their full potential in a safe and caring environment.</p>	<p><b>Vision Statement</b></p> <p>Our students will become creative and critical thinkers who integrate Catholic Values into their daily lives, as socially responsible global citizens.</p>	<p><b>Core Values</b></p>	<p><b>Strategic Commitments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Integration of Our Catholic Faith</li> <li>Continuous Improvement of Student Achievement</li> <li>Effective Use of Our Resources</li> <li>Engaging Our Communities</li> </ul>
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### ST. CLARE PARISH COMMUNITY

It is a pleasure to be partnered with the St. Clare of Assisi Parish Community of schools. Together with Rev. Msgr. John and Fr. Andre as our Faith Leaders, we look forward to supporting our students and families in their faith formation. Preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation occurs through the parish. Students must register at the church. Please visit the St. Clare of Assisi website or call the parish office for more information. A reminder that our Grade 3 students will be celebrating their First Communion on **Sunday, September 19 at 2pm** and our Grade 8s will celebrate their Confirmation on **Tuesday, September 21 at 7pm** at St. Clare of Assisi Parish.



### MONTHLY VIRTUES

Each month, a different Catholic virtue is highlighted board wide. Students are encouraged to demonstrate these attributes in their daily actions both at school and at home. During the month of September, we celebrate the virtue of **Courage**. Daily reflections and classroom discussions will be centred around this virtue. Students from each class will be recognized who best demonstrate this virtue on our new Virtue Wall in the front foyer.



### SCHOOL MASSES & LITURGIES

Faith celebrations have always been an important part of our Catholic education. While we will not be able to gather in large numbers to celebrate together at this time, our students will still gather in prayer with their classes, led by their teachers. Thank you, SCE staff and liturgical committee, for finding innovative ways for faith celebrations to continue at SCE. *"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."* (Matthew 18: 20).



### ORANGE SHIRT DAY

Our school community will be recognizing Orange Shirt Day on **Thursday, September 30th**. Orange Shirt Day is an opportunity for First

Nations, governments, and schools, to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come. *Every Child Matters*. Students are asked to wear an orange coloured shirt or accessory (button, ribbon, bracelet, hair band, etc).



### SCE CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL

We are very grateful to the many dedicated CSC members who served on the 2020/2021 St. Clare Catholic School Council. The council was committed to supporting the school and teachers to ensure that St. Clare would be a place where students grow in faith, pursue academic excellence, and enjoy learning in a safe and welcoming environment. Thank you to those wonderful volunteers who contributed so much to our Catholic School Council this past year. More information will follow regarding the formation of the 2021/2022 SCE CSC.



### SHARELIFE CIVVIES DAY

SCE will continue its tradition of dedicating the last Friday of every month as civvies day. Normally, we would collect a loonie or toonie from each student and donate all proceeds to ShareLife. At this time collecting money is not permitted and therefore will move forward with monthly civvies day and resume collecting donations when advised that it is safe to do so. Our first civvies day will take place on **Friday, September 24th**. Students are asked to remember to exercise appropriate dress on those days.

### DRESS CODE

St. Clare CES is a standardized dress code school. Our dress code colours are navy blue and white. We encourage all students to follow the dress code policy at St. Clare. Please see the school website for specific information about appropriate dress code items.

## QUALITY LEARNING FOR ALL



### GOOGLE CLASSROOM

If there are silver linings to be found from last year's hybrid learning, one is certainly the personal growth around everyone's comfort and use of online learning platforms and digital communication. It was amazing to see staff, students, parents and caregivers engage with one another via Google Classroom virtual learning environments. This was a significant step in moving everyone toward 21C competencies. As such, classroom teachers will continue to communicate with parents and guardians using the Google Classroom. Your child's teacher will communicate specific protocols with you.



### PICTURE DAY

School photos are on hold for the time being. We will communicate the Picture Day date once photos are allowed.

### PACE TESTING

All grade 4 students in the YCDSB will take part in a group standardized assessment to see which children may benefit from our program for gifted students known as Program for Academic and Creative Extension (PACE). More details are to follow.

## SAFE & CARING SCHOOLS

### ST. CLARE IS A CHARACTER SCHOOL

Each morning, as part of our school announcements, we remind all our students that St. Clare is a character school. This means that we always hold ourselves to a higher standard. If students should ever find themselves in difficulty and cannot resolve a problem on their own, they are reminded to approach a caring staff member for assistance. We review daily that we must keep our hands and feet to ourselves and only to use kind words, even when we are provoked. Both the YCDSB and our school places excellence, equity, community and positive relationships at the heart of student success and well-being. ***We are a Catholic Learning Community of collaborative partners, called to serve one another by being committed to and accountable for quality learning by all with Jesus as our inspiration.***

### STUDENT BEHAVIOUR EXPECTATIONS

It is the expectation of the YCDSB and St. Clare Catholic Elementary School that students will:

- ★ Demonstrate honesty and integrity
- ★ Respect differences in people, their ideas and their opinions
- ★ Treat one another with dignity and respect, especially when there is a disagreement
- ★ Respect and treat others fairly
- ★ Respect the rights of others
- ★ Take appropriate measures to help those in need
- ★ Seek assistance from teachers to resolve conflicts peacefully
- ★ Demonstrate respect for people in positions of responsibility
- ★ Respect the need of others to work in an environment that is conducive to learning and teaching
- ★ Be courteous and polite at all times

We thank you for reviewing these expectations for behaviour and overall conduct with your child.

## EMERGENCY FORMS & FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Emergency & Freedom of Information (FOI) forms have been sent home with each child. Please ensure the information on the emergency form is correct. If there are changes to be made, please make them directly on the form. The FOI form asks for consent by way of having parents/guardians a number of specific statements. Please sign, date, and return both forms to the school as soon as possible.

## VIRTUAL LEARNING & TECHNOLOGY CONSENT

Classroom teachers will share consent forms for student use of internet platforms such as Google Applications for Education. Additional forms regarding appropriate use of online platforms and good digital citizenship will be included for each division. Kindly review these forms with your child, sign and date them, and return them to your child's teacher as soon as possible.

## NO VISITORS, PLEASE

The health and safety of our students and staff is our top priority. Limiting visitors in the building supports this endeavour. **The return to school plan does not allow for visitors into the school.** If there is something you need, please call the office ahead of time; we will do our best to address your concerns remotely. If you are required to come to the school, it will be by appointment only. Parents wishing to speak to the school administrator or teacher face to face must make an appointment. Our first effort will be to support you in your questions or concerns via a phone call or Google Meet. Parents who do need to enter the building (i.e., to sign out a child) must follow the invitation and explicit instructions of the school and/or office administrator. **Visitors must report to the office. Any potential visitors must pass the COVID self-assessment, wear a mask and sanitize hands. If you are ill, please stay home.**

## SAFE & CARING SCHOOLS

### NEW BELL TIMES FOR 2021/2022

Our bell times have changed. While the school day still begins at 8:50 am and ends at 3:40 pm, our internal bell times have been adjusted. The first recess bell will ring at 10:10 am, our lunch hour is now from 11:45 am to 12:45 pm and our last recess bell will ring at 2:05 pm.

### NEW MORNING ENTRY

St. Clare CES will begin the practice of using a direct entry model for morning entry routines. In a direct entry model, students come into the building from designated entry points and proceed directly to class, ready to begin learning promptly at 8:50 am. Students will no longer be lining up in the playground in the morning. Staff will be monitoring the hallways to ensure students are safe and know where to find their class. Students who arrive at school after the 8:50 am bell will need to enter the school through the main entrance and will be marked late before making their way to class.

To report student absences and lates, please dial: 1-855-856-7862 or visit [go.schoolmessenger.ca](https://go.schoolmessenger.ca)

### SAFE ARRIVAL

Arrival to school on time is essential to student success and ensures students are settled in and ready to learn by 8:50 am. Parents and guardians must communicate all lates and absences before the start of the school day. This can be done by using the Safe Arrival number or website on the front page of this newsletter. **Students who are ill or do not pass the COVID screener must remain at home.** Extended absences must also be communicated to the office and your child's teacher. Late students will need to sign in in the front foyer, before going to class. For our younger students, staff will assist them with this process. A reminder that students will sanitize their hands before and after the late sign in station. Punctuality is important, and especially so in these times of stricter routines.

## LUNCHES, SNACKS & WATERBOTTLES

Our hot lunch program continues to be on hold until further notice. **All food and liquids consumed during the day must be brought from home by the student and consumed at their own desk and seat.** The sharing of any food has always been and continues to be strictly prohibited. Handwashing and sanitizing protocols will be followed prior to and following snacks and lunch time. **Parents are not to drop off lunches for their children. In an attempt to limit traffic during the school day, we encourage parents not to pick up their children for lunch.** Students are to bring a refillable water bottle to school for use at our water filling stations. A third water filling station was installed over the summer and now all three divisions have exclusive use to a water filling station.

## RECESS

Recognizing that physical activity is critical for student health and well-being and that students may need a break from wearing a mask, outdoor recess play time will continue under staff supervision to ensure safe practices. Students will be encouraged to remain with their classroom cohorts during recess play. **We ask that parents help with reminding children to keep at minimum an arm's length away from peers.**

## INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURES

In the event of inclement weather prior at the start of the school day, we will follow the procedures outlined here. At 8:35 a.m., Kindergarten students will enter the school using their regular entrance doors in the Kindergarten yard. Staff members will be there to greet them. Grade 1-8 students will enter the school using the front doors, where a staff member will be there to greet them as well. Students should never enter the school or the yard prior to 8:35 a.m., when supervision begins. As always, **DO NOT** drive your vehicle into the front parking lot/loop after 8:30 a.m., even on inclement weather days.



## ANAPHYLAXIS & ALLERGIES

The YCDSB has an anaphylactic policy to help protect students affected by life threatening allergies. As outlined in the board's policy, parents are asked to inform the school of such allergies and are required to fill in S15 and S15a forms which are available in the office. Each form must include a passport sized photo so that the student is easily identifiable to staff. Parents are asked to ensure that students for whom Epi-Pens are prescribed have two Epi-Pens at school. It is strongly advised and encouraged that one Epi-Pen is to be on the student's person at all times and the other stored in the office for emergency use. We continue to remind and inform our students **NOT** to share food at school. **We also respectfully ask parents not to send food items to school for students to share (ex. treats for birthday celebrations).**

## ASTHMA PROTECTION

The YCDSB recognizes that there are students within the school system who have a diagnosis of asthma that could be life threatening. The board also recognizes that asthma management is a shared responsibility among students, parents, caregivers, and the school community. It is the responsibility of parent(s)/guardian(s) to ensure that all medical information pertinent to their child's diagnosis of asthma is always current. If your child has a diagnosis of asthma, please contact the school office immediately so that the appropriate forms can be completed and school records are up to date in accordance with Board policy.



## MEDICATION AT SCHOOL

Whenever possible, we ask that all medication be administered at home. However, should your child require

medication throughout the school day, please pick up the required S16 and S16a forms from the office. Complete each form (including physician's signature) and return it to school. Students are not to keep medication (aside from inhalers and Epi-Pens) in their knapsack or in the classroom.

## **GRADE 7 IMMUNIZATIONS**

We are currently awaiting Public Health's direction in scheduling Grade 7 Immunizations. We do not have a date scheduled for this time. Once a date has been scheduled, this information will be shared with parents. Please note that students who have opted for remote online learning are being directed to seek immunizations from their regular medical practitioner.



## **IF YOUR CHILD IS ILL**



If your child is ill or does not pass the COVID self-assessment (administered by the parent each time a child comes to school), they must not come to school. It is recommended that if your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, parents seek medical advice. If a child is ill at school, we will contact you to pick them up immediately. If you are not able to pick up your child, please have a designated contact person to pick them up.

## **WASHROOM ROUTINES**

With the exception of students in our FDK class, students will follow a washroom routine that supports physical distancing. Washroom capacities are set at 3 or 4 students maximum. Students will use individualized keychains to hang on hallway hooks indicating the washroom is in use. If the washroom is at capacity, students will wait patiently at the hallways in the designated spaces.

## **DIRECTIONAL SIGNAGE**

Our school has been equipped with directional signage in the halls. Students and staff will follow the signage to assist with the safe flow of hallways traffic.

## **APPOINTMENTS & SIGNING OUT STUDENTS**

Where possible, we ask that appointments for students be scheduled outside of the school day. Students who are leaving for an appointment must be signed out of the office. Parents may come into the office, upon invitation (with a mask and having sanitized hands if they pass the COVID self-screener), to sign out their child and then proceed to wait outside the front of the school building. Students must notify the office that they are leaving with a parent or caregiver before they leave the premises. Please review this expectation with your child before signing them out to ensure safety.

## **PEDICULOSIS**

YCDSB recognizes and appreciates concerns related to Pediculosis at the school, community, and regional level. The Board also recognizes that the Ministry of Health does not designate Pediculosis as a communicable disease, and as such, it is not considered a health hazard to the community. Anyone can get head lice, regardless of cleanliness. Head lice is not a public hazard, as it does not cause illness, but they are a nuisance. Please check your child's head regularly for lice or nits. If you do find lice or nits, contact the school office. Students will be readmitted to school once treatment has been administered and confirmed by the parent, in accordance with the procedures of this policy.



# York Catholic District School Board

Catholic Education Centre, 320 Bloomington Road West, Aurora, Ontario L4G 0M1  
Tel: 905-713-1211, 416-221-5051, 1-800-363-2711  
Fax: 905-713-1272 • [www.ycdsb.ca](http://www.ycdsb.ca)

September 2021

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maria Marchese'.

Maria Marchese  
Trustee, Vaughan Area 3

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Maria Marchese, Trustee – Vaughan, Woodbridge (Area 3, Ward 3)  
[maria.marchese@ycdsb.ca](mailto:maria.marchese@ycdsb.ca) • Cell: 647-960-3165



# York Catholic District School Board

Catholic Education Centre, 320 Bloomington Road West, Aurora, Ontario L4G 0M1  
Tel: 905-713-1211, 416-221-5051, 1-800-363-2711  
Fax: 905-713-1272 • www.ycdsb.ca

Dear Parent/Guardian,

## Elementary Safe Arrival Absence Reporting

At York Catholic District School Board, one of our greatest priorities is ensuring that all our students arrive safely to school every day. Parents and guardians are required to report their child(ren)'s absence or late arrival in advance, or before bell time for the current day by accessing the **Elementary Safe Arrival Program** using any of the three methods below:

- **Toll Free Safe Arrival Phone Number 1-855-856-7862**
- The **Safe Arrival *SchoolMessenger* website**: [go.schoolmessenger.ca](http://go.schoolmessenger.ca)
- The ***SchoolMessenger* App**  from the *Apple App Store* or the *Google Play Store*.

The first time you use the App or Website, select **Sign Up** to create your account. To report an absence, select **Attendance** followed by **Report an Absence**.

These options are available **24 hours a day, 7 days a week**. Future absences can be reported at any time. **This Safe Arrival reporting procedure is in place for York Catholic Elementary schools**. If you have children at a York Catholic secondary school, please follow that school's absence reporting procedures.

Parents and guardians who have not reported their child(ren) absent or late will receive an automated phone call where they can explain the absence. If our system is unable to reach a designated contact after the required amount of time, office staff will follow up.

If any of your contact information changes, or if you have any questions about the **Elementary Safe Arrival Program**, please contact your child's school office. Thank you for your attention to this important information about reporting of your child's attendance for the upcoming school year.

Thank you,

York Catholic District School Board



## Elementary School Parent and Guardian Safe Arrival Instructions

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Beginning Friday, August 31st, Parents and Guardians can report their child(ren) as late or absent using any of the 3 methods below:

**Safe Arrival Phone Number: 1-855-856-7862**

### **NEW Safe Arrival SchoolMessenger Website**

Go the Safe Arrival *SchoolMessenger* website: [go.schoolmessenger.ca](https://go.schoolmessenger.ca)

### **NEW Safe Arrival SchoolMessenger App**

Use your mobile device to download the blue **SchoolMessenger App**  from the *Apple App Store* or the *Google Play Store*.

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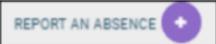
### **How to Sign Up**

The first time you use the Safe Arrival website or App, select **Sign Up** to create your account.

- You will be asked to enter the email address your child's school has on record for you.
- Create a password using one lowercase letter, one uppercase letter, one number and from 6 to 255 characters.
- Upon clicking Sign Up, you will be sent an activation email to complete your account registration.

### **Report an Absence on the Safe Arrival website or App**

To report an absence:

- select the menu ,
- select **Attendance**  Attendance, and
- Report an Absence** .

- 
- These options are available **24 hours a day, 7 days a week**. Future absences can be reported at any time.
  - This Safe Arrival reporting procedure is in place for **York Catholic elementary schools**. If you have children at a York Catholic Secondary School, please follow the school's absence reporting procedures.

*Should you have difficulty accessing the Safe Arrival SchoolMessenger Website or App, please contact your child's school directly.*