



Madonna Della Libera News

SEPTEMBER 2022

120 Ninth Ave. • Brantford, Ontario • N3S 1E7

Phone 519-753-5283 • www.mdlbrantford.ca

Twitter: @madonnaroar



Dear Families,



I hope you all enjoyed a wonderful summer with family and friends! I would like to extend a warm welcome to our returning families as well as those who are new to our school community—Madonna Della Libera is truly a great place to learn, teach, and grow! We thank you for supporting Catholic Education and entrusting your children to us. I am excited to be back at MDL and seeing some familiar faces from when I was here as VP in 2015! I greatly look forward to meeting all our families as we work together to support your child(ren)'s education! A

note that our **Meet the Staff** night is **Wednesday, September 21** from **5-7 PM** at the school. We hope to see you there!

At MDL, we are blessed and fortunate to be able to model ourselves after Christ and lay the foundation of Catholic Education for your children. The staff of MDL look forward to working with you, your children, and our parish to ensure that our students receive the highest quality Catholic Education possible. We know that the full potential of our children cannot be reached unless we work together! We have an open door policy and encourage you to contact the school should you have any questions or concerns.

We promise to nurture and care for your children while challenging them with rich learning experiences and allowing them to develop to their highest potential. At MDL, we come together to learn, pray, grow and play!

Please follow us on Twitter at @madonnaroar or visit our school website at www.mdlbrantford.ca to find out what is going on in our school community and to keep up to date with news and events!

We are looking forward to an awesome year together!

Mr. Peter Marchand, Principal, and Mr. Christopher Assettino, Vice-Principal

A Student's Prayer for a New School Year

Lord Jesus, I ask for Your help as I begin this new school year.

Allow me to experience Your presence in the many blessings

You put before me.

Open my eyes to the new challenges and exciting opportunities that this new school year brings.

Open my heart and mind to new friends and new teachers.

Give me a generous spirit to be enthusiastic with my studies and courage to accept new opportunities.

Help me to be attentive to my teachers and let me experience Your presence in my new friends.

Jesus, inspire me to do my best this year!

Amen.

Important September Dates

Meet the Staff Night 5-7 PM.....	21
Jr. and Sr. Co-Ed Soccer Tournament....	28
Opening School Mass @ St. Mary's Parish 9:30 AM.....	29
Orange Shirt Day.....	30

Important October Dates

PA Day.....	7
Thanksgiving.....	10
School Photo Day.....	12
Brant Cross Country.....	25
Halloween	31

School Bell Times

Yard Supervision Begins	8:30 AM
Instructional Block	8:40 AM — 10:20 AM
First Nutrition Break	10:20 AM — 11:00 AM
Instructional Block	11:00 AM — 12:40 PM
Second Nutrition Break	12:40 PM — 1:20 PM
Instructional Block	1:20 PM — 3:00 PM
Dismissal	2:50 PM bus students
	3:00 PM all other students

Outdoor Supervision

A reminder that there is no supervision outside before 8:30 AM or after 3:00 PM.

Kindergarten will go directly into their play area in the morning, under the supervision of staff.

All visitors are also reminded to please sign in at the office upon entering the school. Thank you.

MDL STAFF

We are blessed to have an amazing staff who are highly dedicated to providing the best learning environment for our children while modeling our Catholic faith! There have been some staffing changes since June as we say good-bye to Mrs. Cotter and Mr. Chopp and extend a warm welcome to new staff who are joining our MDL family! Here is our staff for the 2022-2023 school year:

Principal	Mr. Marchand
Vice-Principal	Mr. Assettino
Secretary	Mrs. Evans (full-time—temporary)
Secretary	Mrs. Figueiredo (part-time)
Custodians	Mr. Evans & Mr. Csomos
Kindergarten 1 FI	Mme. Sampson & Mme. DeSalvo
Kindergarten 2 FI	Mme. Alexopoulos & Mrs. Kellam
Kindergarten 3 E	Miss Hinton & Mrs. Scime
Kindergarten 4 E	Miss McEnhill
Grade 1 FI	Mme. Cinelli
Grade 1/2 E	Ms. Ancio
Grade 1/2 FI	Mme. Piekosz
Grade 2/3 E	Mrs. Fernandez
Grade 2/3 FI	Mme. Nwanyanwu
Grade 3/4 E	Mrs. Morelli
Grade 3/4 FI	Mme. Pucci
Grade 4/5 E	Mr. Catarino
Grade 4/5 FI	Mme. Seguin
Grade 5/6 E	Mr. Edge
Grade 6/7 FI	Mr. DeSousa
Grade 6/7 E	Miss Niblock
Grade 7/8 E	Mrs. Hluchaniuk
Grade 8 FI	Mme. Magnus
FSL	Mme Cecchini and TBD
SERTs	Mrs. D'Agostino and Mrs. McNorgan
Educational Assistants	Miss Bialas, Mr. Carr, Mrs. Changanaqui, Mr. Gemmell, Mrs. Lymburner, Mrs. McWhirter, Mr. Mills, Mrs. Modesti, Mrs. Xuereb
Prep	Mr. Potts, Mrs. Tabron and Miss Jordan
STEM	Mrs. Rumble and Mr. Wilson
Librarian	Mrs. MacLeod
Lunch Monitors	Mrs. Cabral and Mrs. Rivera

Along with this amazing staff, we are looking at hiring additional members to join our team! Are you interested in being a lunch monitor? We are hiring full-time and casual. We are also looking at hiring Emergency Instructors to assist us at the school this year. If interested, please contact the office (519-753-5283) for further information.

Student/Family Information Forms have been sent home with every student. It is essential that the school have up-to-date information about each student. Please review all of the information on the form and ensure that it is correct.

PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM AND RETURN IT TO THE SCHOOL NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2022.

If your information has not changed, please sign and return the Student Verification Form as is. If any corrections need to be made, please do so on the form and return it to the school so that we can update our records. It is imperative that we have up-to-date email and phone as well as contacts for your child(ren). If for any reason the information changes during the school year, (i.e. phone number, contact person, etc.) please notify the school ASAP as this information is very important in helping keep our students safe!

Freedom of Information Forms are also required to be completed every school year. These forms have also been sent home. Please complete these forms as well and return them to the school as soon as possible.

Each child will receive a variety of information in the first week. Please go through this information with your child and complete the appropriate forms. Please do not hesitate to contact the office (519-753-5283) with any questions or concerns. Thank you in advance for your co-operation and getting all necessary forms returned as soon as possible!



STUDENT SAFETY AND SECURITY

To maintain safety in our school, all exterior doors are locked during school hours. A security camera system is in place to monitor the doors as well. In the interest of student safety, all visitors are to report to the office and sign in upon arrival and to obtain a visitor tag.

If you are picking up your child, he/she will be called to the office / front foyer to meet you there. Parents and caregivers are not to go to the schoolyard during the school hours to pick up children, as we would have no record of the child leaving. Parents/caregivers picking up children from the Kindergarten area, please wait for your child by the gate at the Kindergarten play area. It is our protocol that our Kindergarten students will be given to you directly by hand.

If there are any changes in pick-up arrangements for your child (i.e., not taking the bus, they are to walk home, etc.) please contact the office and your child(ren)'s teacher as soon as possible. Thank you for your support in keeping all of our children safe!

ANAPHYLAXIS ALLERGY ALERT

MDL is a Peanut/Tee Nut Safe School! At MDL, we have several students and staff with severe risk allergies to **peanuts and tree nuts**. As a Catholic School community, and in accordance with Sabrina's Law (2005), we ask your co-operation in helping us ensure that all students are in a safe and healthy environment by reading all labels and packing lunches and snacks that are free of these items. Truly, this is a life saving measure. If other caregivers prepare your child(ren)'s lunches and snacks, please share this information with them.



Please note that the use of peanut butter substitutes (e.g., WOW Butter, etc.) **is not permitted** until further review from the Board's Anaphylaxis Committee. The reasoning behind this is that these substitutes look and smell like peanut butter, which makes it difficult for staff to monitor as well as possibly causing anxiety for students and staff with a severe allergy.

While it is impossible to create a risk free environment, students, parents, and staff can all take important steps to minimize potentially fatal allergic reactions. If your child has a life threatening allergy, please inform the school (if you have not already done so) as a Plan of Care **MUST** be completed as soon as possible in September. Also, please provide **at least** one (1) up-to-date application of the Epi-Pen to be carried by the student and be clearly marked with the student's name and known allergen.

At MDL, we do not allow snacks, food or drinks of any kind to be eaten outdoors. All students will have the opportunity to enjoy snacks before outdoor recess. This will assist in protecting ALL students. Forms for updating were sent home with students who require them, but if you require a new Anaphylaxis form, please contact the office. ASAP (519-753-5283).

ASTHMA



In 2015, *Ryan's Law* was passed in the Ontario Legislature. This is an important step in supporting the well-being and safety of students with asthma in our schools.

If your child has asthma, please advise the office ASAP by calling 519-753-5283. Documentation is required as to your child's condition (i.e., triggers), symptoms, and medication. This helps us put a plan in place to keep your child safe!

DIABETES & EPILEPSY

The safety and well-being of the children in our care is of the utmost importance. Along with Anaphylactic Reactions and Asthma, we also want to be sure that we have plans in place for students who have diabetes and epilepsy. If your child has any of the aforementioned conditions and you have not yet completed the required forms, please contact the school immediately to provide the necessary information and receive a copy of the required forms. If, at any time, your child's medical condition changes, please notify the office immediately (519-753-5283).

MEDICATION

If for any reason your child needs to take medication at school on a daily basis, a medical form needs to be completed by the prescribing physician. The medication will be kept in the office and given to the student at the appropriate time. **Please DO NOT send medication to school with your child to be self-administered.** Forms can be obtained from the school. If your child requires the administration of non-prescription medications at times throughout the year (i.e., Benedryl, aspirin, etc.), please contact the office (519-753-5283) to obtain the required form.

SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

For safety and efficiency reasons, we will solely be utilizing School Cash Online as the **ONLY** method of payment for field trips, hot lunches, student items, etc. School Cash is a convenient, safe and secure means to pay for these events/items as no money or cheques are needing to be sent to the school. If you haven't done so already, please register at School Cash Online for this easy to use service. Here's how:

Step 1: Please go our school's website or to: <https://bhncdsb.schoolcashionline.com>

Step 2: Register by selecting the "Get Started Now" and follow the steps.

Step 3: After you receive the confirmation email, please select the 'click here' option, sign in and add each of your children to your household account.

You can register using a debit card OR credit card. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the office (519-753-5283).

MADONNA DELLA LIBERA CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL



Catholic School Councils are advisory bodies which are involved in the educational decision-making process by providing advice to the school principal and to the Board on school related matters as requested. School councils place the overall interest of the school and the students first and strive for the continued promotion of our Catholic education system. Council meetings are open meetings and all parents are welcome to attend!

Nomination forms for joining our MDL School Council have been included at the back of this newsletter. All forms must be returned to the office by **Friday, September 23, 2022 at 3:30 PM**. Our first meeting will be held **Wednesday, September 28th, 6-7 PM** in the school library. All other meeting dates can be found on our school's calendar online at www.mdlbrantford.ca. Please consider coming out to learn about school and Board activities and initiatives,

to share your talents, meet other parents, and to continue to provide wonderful opportunities for all of our students!

VOLUNTEERS

We are excited to welcome back volunteers at MDL! Please be aware that a Vulnerable Sector Police Check AND Completion of an Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities ACT (A.O.D.A.) training module became requirements of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for all volunteers. Please visit our school website www.mdlbrantford.ca and click on "Volunteers" to access the online training module.

Vulnerable Sector Police Check (Criminal Background Check)

The form can be obtained at the school and taken the process is now completed online through Brantford Police Services for residents of Brantford. For Brant residents, the process is completed through the OPP. Volunteers must have a Vulnerable Sector Police Check every three years. In years when the check is not required, the volunteer must sign the prescribed Offence Declaration.

All volunteers (parents, guardians, grandparents, etc.) require a Vulnerable Sector Police Check. If you do not have one at the time of the event (e.g. class trip), **you will not be permitted to participate**. If you have any questions or concerns, need to know the status of your file, require a new form, etc., please don't hesitate to contact the office (519-753-5283).



BYOD/ELECTRONIC DEVICES

MDL is a BYOD school which allows students to bring their personally owned devices into the classroom, **UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THEIR TEACHER**, to enhance their learning experiences. Participation in this program is NOT mandatory as we have a variety of devices (e.g., laptops and tablets) available for students to use to support their learning. Please review the technology agreement form sent home and return to your child's teacher as soon as possible. Some classrooms have also created their own contracts/expectations for students as well as part of their classroom norms.

We understand the desire to keep your children safe by having them carry a cell phone; however, this does come with some responsibility.

It is important to note that, if a student chooses to bring a device from home that school staff are not responsible for any lost, damaged, misplaced or stolen electronic devices that your child may choose to bring to school. **Please be aware that students are not permitted to use their cell phones in the washroom/change room or while outside at recess.** Also, under no circumstances will it be permissive to photograph or audio/video tape another person with electronic devices as this is a direct invasion of privacy and will result in serious consequences.

We would also remind students to not text parents/family during the day—and kindly ask parents to do the same. If a student needs to contact you, we will ALWAYS permit them to use a school telephone to communicate that does not interrupt their learning. This helps your child's teacher and the office be aware of who may be coming and going from the building and for what reason.

If a staff member observes a student texting, on social media, or using their device without permission, they will be asked to put it away. If there is a second offence, it will be taken away and returned at the end of the day. If the habit becomes persistent, then the phone will be given to administration and a parent will have to pick it up.

Ultimately, the goal is to teach students responsibility and citizenship for using their devices in an academically and socially responsible manner that reflects the values of our faith.

BUS TRANSPORTATION

The safety of our students is our primary concern. All students are expected to behave in a responsible and respectful manner when travelling on the bus. Please be reminded that riding the bus to and from school is a privilege and inappropriate and unsafe behaviour, such as standing and moving around when the bus is in motion, excessive and distracting noise, disrespect towards the driver and other riders, throwing objects, etc. will be addressed, as per transportation policy, and may result in removal from the bus.

If you have any questions regarding transportation, or circumstances change and you may now need the bus, please call the transportation department at 519-751-7532 or toll free 877-226-6353. You can also access the transportation website (www.stsbhn.ca) for additional information and to sign up for notifications. You can also download the **Chipmunk School Bus Tracker app** to stay informed of any delays, cancellations, and estimated arrival times for your child's bus. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school for further assistance.

PARENT PARKING

Families, please be aware that parking is always a concern here at Madonna Della Libera School as it is a shared space with our IT building. Please note that there is no parking in the respective traffic/bus lanes as we need to ensure a safe and timely dismissal of our bus students and to reduce traffic before our students who walk are dismissed. It is also vitally important that speed limits are maintained for safety in the parking lot. Please also keep the handicap parking spaces available for those in our community who require them. Thank you for your co-operation in keeping our kids safe!

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

Madonna Della Libera upholds a daily safe arrival procedure to ensure the safe arrival of your child(ren).

Our school day starts at 8:40 AM. If for any reason your child(ren) will be absent or late, **please call the school at 519-753-5283 before 8:30 AM** to report this information to the school. The school has an answering machine so that you may call any-time in the evening and leave a message as well. If a child's absence is unexplained, we will need to call your home, work, or the emergency contact number to ensure that your child is safe and accounted for. Attendance is taken twice daily by 8:50 AM and 1:30 PM.

Late students **MUST** report to the office to sign in before going to class. Thank you for your cooperation. We encourage students to be respectful of the start time as there is a direct correlation between attendance and academic achievement. Student's who are late not only miss critical learning, often in Language and/or Math, but also disrupt the learning of others with their late arrival.

Please remember to phone the office (519-753-5283) or contact your child(ren)'s teacher(s) as soon as possible:

- Someone other than yourself is to pick up your child(ren)
- Your child is to leave early or is to leave the school during the day
- Your child will knowingly be late
- There is a change in transportation (e.g., child not taking the bus and being picked up)
- Your child(ren) will be away for an extended absence or family vacation

BREAKFAST PROGRAM

We are pleased to continue our "walk through" Breakfast Program has begun and opens at 8:40 each morning upon student entry. A donation of 25 cents per visit is welcomed to help fund this important program for our students. Thank you to our wonderful Educational Assistants and Mr. Assettino who help run this program each day!

JAGUARS BIG 5

All students, parents and staff at MDL have rights and responsibilities. Students have a right to an education and a corresponding responsibility not to deny these rights to others. All staff members will reinforce the norms of our school to ensure MDL is a safe, welcoming, nurturing and engaging school for all. The BIG 5 norms are designed to ensure Christian behaviours by promoting respect for self, respect for others, and respect for property—all of which encompass our Catholic values through a positive approach. All students are expected to adhere to our BIG 5, along with any specific classroom norms decided upon with their teacher. Thank you for supporting and reminding your children of our BIG 5 and helping us create a welcoming and safe school!.

The Jaguars Big 5

1. All rules will be fair, reasonable, and democratically decided upon.
2. No disrespectful behavior.
3. Hands off. Do not touch others or their belongings.
4. Talking is encouraged other than when an adult is teaching, speaking to someone, giving direction or during tests.
5. Administration will be aware of class rules, support our good behavior, and deal with our poor choices according to the class/school rules.

EARLY ON PROGRAM @ MDL

We are excited to announce that the Early ON program is back up and running at MDL for families with pre-school aged children! We welcome Christine Blythe as the program coordinator! Hours of operation are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM. Please note that it will be closed all school holidays. Families accessing the program are asked to enter the school through the front door and sign in. Early ON kindly asks that any strollers be kept at the front doors for your safety. You can visit the [Early ON Brantford](#) website for more information.



**MADONNA DELLA LIBERA CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL
PARENT SELF-NOMINATION FORM**

- I wish to declare my candidacy for an elected position as a parent/guardian representative on the school council for the 2022-2023 school year.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

I am the parent / guardian of _____,
(Name of Student)

who is currently registered at Madonna Della Libera.

I am an employee of the Board: Yes No

Candidate's Signature

Date

Please return to the attention of Mr. Marchand by Friday, September 23, 2022 at 3:30 PM.



Health and Safety Information FOR ALL

The Ontario Ministry of Education has committed to providing students with a normal return to school for the 2022-2023 school year. The following information is an overview of health and safety guidelines that will be in place. **Important: students, staff, and visitors with symptoms of illness should NOT attend school** and should complete the [School and Child Care Screening](#) for next steps.



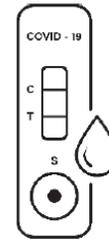
Students, staff, and visitors to schools should self-screen every day before going to school using the Ontario School and Child Care Screening tool (QR code above) and follow the direction it provides.



Masks are recommended but not required for students, staff, and visitors. Schools will promote respectful and inclusive environments for individuals who chose to wear, or not wear, a mask.



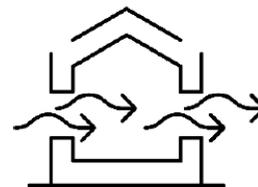
Staff will continue to promote appropriate hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette in schools. Hand sanitizer will continue to be provided.



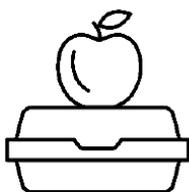
Rapid antigen tests can be provided by your child's school upon request and/or upon a student, staff, or volunteer return from an unplanned absence.



Cleaning programs will continue for the 2022-23 school year including high touch surfaces.



To view the most recent ventilation report for our schools, please visit the COVID-19 section of the Board's website.



Cafeterias and food programs are permitted.



Clubs and extra-curricular activities are permitted.