

Madonna Della Libera News

SEPTEMBER 2023

120 Ninth Ave. ● Brantford, Ontario ● N3S 1E7 Phone 519-753-5283 ● www.mdlbrantford.ca

Twitter/X: @madonnaroar



Dear Families.

We hope you all enjoyed a wonderful summer with family and friends! We 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. We 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 20 from 4-6 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 endeavor 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/X 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, & Mrs. Giovanna Oviedo-Kinrade, 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.

<u>imp</u>	<u>orta</u>	<u>it September Dates</u>	į
Day	(no	school)	

PA Day (no school)	15
Opening School Mass @ St. Mary's Pa Grades 1-8 9:30 AM	rish 20
Meet the Staff Night 4-6 PM	20
Parent Council Meeting 6 PM	20
Terry Fox Walk/Run	22
Jr. and Sr. Co-Ed Soccer Tournament	27
Orange Shirt Day	29

Important October Dates

PA Day	3
Thanksgiving	9
School Photo Day	11
Parent Council Meeting 6-7 PM	18
Brant Cross Country	24
Halloween	31

School Bell Times

Yard Supervision Begins 8:25 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 8:25 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 vou.

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 are many returning staff and a few new additions to our MDL family this year! Here is our staff for the 2023-2024 school year:

Principal Mr. Marchand

Vice-PrincipalMrs. Oviedo-KinradeSecretaryMrs. Figueiredo (full-time)SecretaryMrs. Cebulak (part-time)

Custodians Mr. D'Hulster, Mr. Csomos, and Mr.

Lewis

Kindergarten 1 FI Mme. Laforest & Mme. DeSalvo

Kindergarten 2 Fl Mme. Lovsin

Kindergarten 3 E Miss Hinton & Mrs. Kellam

Grade 1 FI Mme. Cinelli Grade 1/2 E Ms. Dignan Grade 1/2 FI Mme. Piekosz Grade 2/3 E Mrs. Fernandez Grade 2/3 FI Mme. Josiane Grade 3 FI Mme. Pucci Grade 3/4 E Mr. Catarino Grade 4/5 FI Mme. Seguin Grade 4/5 E Mr. Edge

Grade 5/6 FI Mme. Trombetta
Grade 6/7 E Miss Niblock
Grade 7/8 E Mrs. Hluchaniuk
Grade 7/8 FI Mr. Dovsek

FSL Mr. Gouthro
SERTs Mrs. Wiepjes and Mrs. Zelem

Educational Mr. Carr, Mrs. Changanaqui, Mr. Gemmell, Mrs. Lymburner,

Mrs. McWhirter, Mr. Mills, Mrs. Modesti, Mr. Welch,

Mrs. Xuereb

Prep Mrs. Tabron and Mrs. Richardson

STEM Mrs. Larion and Mr. Susi

Librarian TBD

Lunch Monitors / Mrs. Cabral, Mrs. Marchment, **Student Supervisors**Mrs. Sauchuk, Mrs. Finucan-Haddath

Student/Family Information Forms will be 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 22, 2023.

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 your information changes during the school year, (i.e. phone number, email, contact person(s), etc.) please notify the school ASAP as this information is very important in helping keep our students safe!

Additional forms, such as our Board's Students Technology Use Agreement and Consent for Collection and Use of Personal Information, will be posted via School Cash Online, so please check your email for notification.

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!

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 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, <u>all visitors</u> are to report to the office and sign in upon arrival and to obtain a visitor tag.

If you are picking up your child, they 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. This also helps us to ensure no one is accessing our children. 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, another family member is picking up, etc.) please contact the office no later than 1 PM day of and your child(ren)'s teacher so we can ensure the message is received. Thank you for your support in keeping all of our children safe!

ANAPHYLAXIS ALLERGY ALERT

MDL is a Peanut/Tree 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 <u>at least one</u> 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 members of our community. 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).





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, you 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, security and efficiency, , 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.schoolcashonline.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).





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 the date of our initial meeting which will be held **Wednesday**, **September 20th**, **6 PM** in the school library after our Meet the Staff night. All other meeting dates will be posted 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

Looking to volunteer in the school or on a class trip? 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 fo 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).

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. This is NOT mandatory as we have a variety of devices (e.g., laptops and tablets) available for students to use to support their learning. 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 responsibilities.

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 bring. 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/friends during the day—and kindly ask parents to do the same— as it greatly disrupts the learning environment. 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. Thank you for your support with this.

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, staff and other families safe!

BUS TRANSPORTATION (SAFE TRAVEL, DELAYS, CANCELLATIONS, ETC.)

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 <u>Transportation Website</u> for additional information and to sign up for notifications of any cancellations or bus delays. You can also download the <u>Chipmunk School Bus Tracker app</u> to stay informed of any delays, cancellations, and estimated arrival times for your child's bus.

If your child rides the bus, we strongly encourage you to sign up for notifications and/or use the app as we have been experiencing significant delays daily this school year due to driver shortages.

Bus families, to sign up for notifications of delays/cancellations and the Chipmunk bus tracker app, visit the <u>Transportation Website</u> and click on "FAQs" at the top of the page to access a drop-down menu with a number of links. Please see the following page for assistance if needed. .



Parent/Student Login



School/Operators Login



Bus Delays

Student Transportation Services Brant Haldimand Norfolk (STSBHN) is a

consortium of three School boards providing transportation for eligible students living in Brant, Haldimand, Norfolk counties and the city of Brantford.

Does STSBHN have any safety videos available for schools and families to access?

For questions related to transportation services for Six Nations students, which is operated by Sharp Bus Lines (www.sharpbus.com), please contact: Irene Stewart, Dispatch Administrator at 519-751-3434, ext. 1031 or Amber Robertson, Division Manager Sharp Bus Lines at 519-751-3434, ext. 1043.







Frequently Asked Questions - General

How do I find out about bussing arrangements for my children?	
I am unhappy with my stop location and want it changed. I feel it may be unsafe for my child to walk to the stop. How do I change the stop le	ocation?
Do all Kindergarten students receive bus stops at their door?	
Does the STSBHN office close at the end of June like a school?	
If I have infants at home can I change my bus stop to my door so I do not have to bundle up my children?	
If my spouse and I are separated, is it possible for my child to ride from both my house and then my ex-spouse's house on different days?	
Should I have concerns with mixing elementary and secondary students on the same bus?	
Why are there no seat belts on school buses?	
Can my child take the school bus even though they are within the walking distance of their school?	
Having trouble logging into the Parent/Student portal?	
Which Zone is my school in?	
How do I arrange for bussing?	
What media stations can I find zone cancellations on?	
STSBHN communication protocol for delays, cancellations or bus driver shortages	
Delays and Cancellation App	~
How are bus cancellation decisions made?	
Chipmunk Bus Tracking App?	4

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, <u>please call the school at 519-753-5283 before 8:30 AM</u> to report this information to the school. The school has an answering machine so that you may call anytime 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) and contact your child(ren)'s teacher(s) as soon as possible if:

- 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. We expect this program will begin the week of September 25th. Thank you to our wonderful Educational Assistants and Mrs. Oviedo-Kinrade 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 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 1:30 to 3:30 PM; and Wednesday & 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						
represe	ntative on the school coun	cil for the 2023-2024	4 school year.			
Name:						
Address	:					
Email:						
Phone:						
I am the	e parent / guardian of	(Name of				
who is c	currently registered at Mad	onna Della Libera.				
l am an	employee of the Board:	□ Yes	□ No			
Candida	te's Signature		Date			

Please return to the attention of Mr. Marchand by Wednesday, September 20, 2023.

ARTS AFTER SCHOOL FOR GRADES 6, 7 and 8 STUDENTS

Arts After School Kids is an arts not-for-profit program based in Eagle Place. They offer Grade 6, 7, and 8 students an opportunity to learn to play guitar, keyboards, bass guitar and drums or participate in their art program or vocal group. They pay professional musicians and artists to instruct. They supply all instruments a dn art supplies. There is **NO** cost for the students who participate. The program is an excellent way for students to explore teh arts.

The program will runs Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:00 to 5:00 PM at Madonna Della Libera. The tentative start date is Tuesday, September 26th.

If interested, please contact the program coordinator, John Gefucia at johngefucia@hotmail.com or 519-755-1980.







2023-24 Elementary

School Year Calendar





















