



# Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board

## School Safe and Accepting Schools Plan 2023-24



### St. Patrick School

*“If we love one another, God lives in us.” (1John 4:12)*  
**We Are Called to Love+**

Priority Area	Goals	Key Activities	Indicators of progress
<b>Promoting Gospel Values</b>	1. Our Catholic Learning Community here at St. Patrick School will provide opportunities for students and staff to learn, connect, and live out our Catholic Social Teachings by providing outreach in our local community as we step out to answer the call for love.	<p>Active participation during school classroom liturgies and connections to daily scripture through Liturgies and/or as part of the Religious Education and Family Life curriculum. We will have a staff Faith Ambassador and a School Faith Team made up of students (2 or 3 students will be on each team). Students will be involved in the mass as readers/servers. We have music that we will select as hymns (Praise and Worship/Folk Hymns/CBW/Growing in Faith/Growing in Christ Songs) and a student choir. Students will take a lead in set up of the mass in our school gym. Father Steve will lead the mass. Families will be invited to attend.</p> <p>Staff will acknowledge when students demonstrate our Gospel values/7 Themes of Catholic Social Teaching with compliments and/or caught-ya tickets.</p> <p>Our school will participate in activities that support our community outreach connection with “The Brantford Blessing Centre”.</p>	<p>Students will have a deeper understanding of the Gospel message and Catholic Social Teachings and how it can be connected to our lives today (e.g., through virtual Liturgies, Religious Education and Family Life classes, and acts of service).</p> <p>Students will become more aware of the transforming presence of God in their lives and in the lives of others as they encounter one another.</p> <p>Staff, students, and school families will become actively involved in supporting those in need throughout the school year (faith in action) and proceeds will be donated to the “The Brantford Blessing Centre” and published in our monthly newsletter. We are Called to Love+ actions will be photographed and posted on our school bulletin board and published in our monthly newsletter.</p>
	2. Parents, students, staff, and appropriate community partners will work together to ensure St. Patrick School remains a safe place to learn.	<p>Policies and procedures related to student behaviour, discipline and safety will be reviewed with staff, students, and parents.</p> <p>Review recently revised BHNCD SB District Code of Conduct (as per revisions to PPM 128, Ontario Reg. 440/20 with school staff, students, and parent community.</p>	<p>Necessary Board Policies around Student Behaviour &amp; Progressive Discipline (200.09.P) as well as Student Safety Plans and Notification of Risk of Injury (200.13.P) will be implemented and followed as needed at the school.</p> <p>Staff, parents, and students will be knowledgeable about the District and School Code of Conduct and respect/follow the expectations set out. It will be communicated to all members of the school</p>

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		<p>Safe and Accepting Schools, Mental Health/Well-Being and Compassionate Care Response Team(s) will be formed at the school level, and may include, but is not limited to administration, teachers, staff, students, parents, support staff and community partners.</p> <p>Participation in Bully Awareness Week and Pink Shirt Day.</p>	<p>community (e.g., School Website, Newsletter, Parent Council).</p> <p>Established Safe and Accepting School, Mental Health/Well-Being and Compassionate Care Response Teams will assist with the development, implementation, and monitoring of Safe Schools Plans and will meet as necessary throughout the year.</p> <p><b>Safe and Accepting Schools Plans</b> submitted to Family of Schools Superintendent in the fall of each new school year.</p>
	<p>3. Continue the practice of Christian Meditation while also introducing new prayer experiences.</p>	<p>Continue the practice of Christian Meditation with all students (whole school, classroom practices) while also introducing new prayer experiences (e.g., Lectio and Visio Divina).</p>	<p>There is visible evidence that school community (and classrooms) are participating on a regular basis in Christian Meditation and other prayer experiences.</p> <p>Whole school Christian meditation is practiced everyday following second nutrition break.</p>
	<p>4. Restorative Circles will continue to be used within classrooms to support and promote positive behaviours.</p>	<p>Build teacher capacity around the use of RESTORATIVE PRACTICES within the classrooms at St. Patrick School when/as needed.</p>	<p>Use of Restorative Practices in a more consistent manner within classrooms by teachers on a daily and/or weekly basis (e.g., circles/talks with groups of students as needed).</p>
	<p>5. Incorporate the principles of equity and inclusive education into all aspects of school policies, programs, procedures, and practices.</p>	<p>Ensure that principles of equity and inclusive education permeate School Improvement Plans.</p> <p>Establish and maintain partnerships with all members of our diverse Catholic community so that the perspectives and experiences of all students are recognized, and their needs are met.</p> <p>Examine and remove any barriers that exist that prevent successful access to the curriculum and full participation in the school community.</p> <p>Communicate appropriate tenants of the BHCNDSB Equity and Inclusive Education policy to students, teachers, parents, and the entire Catholic school community.</p>	<p>Staff, parents, and students will be knowledgeable about the Board's Equity and Inclusive Education Policy 200.23.P. The policy will be communicated to all members of the school community (e.g., School Website, Newsletter, Parent Council).</p> <p>Students will have a deeper understanding of the congruence between Gospel values and our obligation to ensure equity in schools. Students will become more aware of the impact of discrimination on various groups.</p> <p>Staff will continue to improve understanding and comfort regarding issues surrounding inclusive practices.</p>

Priority Area	Goals	Key Activities	Indicators of progress
<b>Promoting Mental Health and Wellness</b>	1. To promote & utilize resources/materials to be sure <b>ALL</b> students feel welcome, accepted, and belong to the school community.	<p>Utilize the board provided list of suggested resources/activities to help promote safe and caring classrooms that aligns with the Board’s Religious Education and Family Life Curriculum, Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations, Renewing the Promise: Pastoral Letter, and our current Board Theme.</p> <p>Continue to utilize resources for reference in classrooms to promote safe, inclusive, and caring learning environments (i.e., Indigenous Education resources, Supporting Minds document, relevant educational books, Spec-Ed resources for schools such as sensory bins, social stories, structured learning). Mandatory Mental Health Literacy for Grade 7/8 will be implemented in Strand 4 of HPE Curriculum (Awareness and /Virtual Learning Environment Modules).</p>	<p>Evidenced-based resources provided by the School Board through the Hub will be utilized at St. Patrick School over the duration of the 2023-24 school year. BHNCD SB Pastoral Theme Package will be used throughout the 2023-24 School Year.</p> <p>Appropriate resources and communication materials provided (and accessible on the Board website) will be utilized at St. Patrick School when/where possible. Students will learn to care for their mental health and for the well-being of others through simple everyday classroom practices from the mandatory Mental Health Literacy (SMHO).</p>
	2. Ensure access to mental health prevention and promotion programs are available and utilized at St. Patrick School when needed.	<p>Evidenced-based classroom presentations (i.e., CYW) will be facilitated in classrooms related to self-regulation and positive mental health. Self-regulation and positive mental health board will be changed monthly to reflect focus in the classrooms and school.</p>	<p>Conversations with staff, students, and families will indicate students feel better equipped to identify and support their mental health needs and access help if needed.</p>

<b>Capacity Building</b>	1. Ensure potential high-risk behaviour of students is properly assessed and supported.	<p>Support ongoing training for staff in the area of NVCI, SAFE TALK and ASIST Training as available by the Board throughout the 2023-2024 school year.</p>	<p>Students who are having suicidal ideation and self-harm will be connected to help.</p> <p>Principal and other trained staff will state an increased comfort and ability to support students/school in times of crisis.</p>
	2. Continue to focus on and educate about the legalization of recreational cannabis as well as vaping and smoking (and long-term health effects).	<p>Continue to educate and support staff in promoting safe and healthy school communities in relation to recreational cannabis, vaping and smoking during classroom lessons and teaching.</p> <p>Use of Health Unit resources/discussions as part of our school collaborative Wellness Plan.</p>	<p>Talks will be age appropriate and relevant with the classroom and students will better understand the impact of early cannabis, vaping and smoking use and their long-term health effects.</p> <p>There will be no evidence of use of cannabis, vaping and smoking on school property and at school sanctioned events.</p>

3. Training to address current and relevant safe school issues.	Continue professional learning and growth, including bullying recognition and response, will be accessible for all BHNCD SB employees.	Staff will acknowledge more understanding and comfort regarding issues surrounding safe schools. Consistent approaches and practices will be in place.
4. As a school, we will participate in Bullying Awareness & Prevention Week during the week of Nov. 13 -17, 2023.	Daily prayers & reflections will take place as well as classrooms utilizing the Safe and Accepting Schools Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week 2023 Resource Package that will be created and shared during the week of Nov. 13 -17, 2023. School twitter feed will showcase the work we are engaging in as well as messages related to Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week.	Staff and students will acknowledge more understanding of what it means to live as joyful Disciples in a peaceful, inclusive, respectful community as well as a community of kindness. This new gained knowledge will be visible in daily interactions of students and staff within our school.  Continued compassion will be demonstrated by staff and students.
5. Implement the practices that are within the revised Emergency Response Binder as required.	Revised Emergency Response Binder will be shared & reviewed with staff during the 2023-24 school year.	In the event of emergencies, the Emergency Binder material will be followed. Revised Emergency Response Binder informs school practices and procedures.
6. School Staff will learn about Self-Regulation.	Staff will increase their capacity with the theory of Self-Regulation during the school year. Staff will have the opportunity to participate in Self-Regulation modules during the 2023-24 School Year.	School Staff will better understand and be comfortable in supporting and assisting students with their self-regulation.

**Helpful Resources:**

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/teachers/safeschools.html>

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/healthyschools/educators-resources.html>

[STU 200.09.P Student Behaviour Discipline and Safety.pdf](#)

[STU 200.23.P – Equity and Inclusive Education.pdf](#)

[Curriculum and Resources \(gov.on.ca\)](#)

[Bullying – we can all help stop it / ontario.ca](#)

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/teachers/safeschools.html>