



Holy Spirit Catholic Elementary School

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August 29, 2025

Dear Families,

Welcome to what promises to be another faith-filled and Christ-centered year of growth and learning! We hope the warm summer months provided you with quality time with your children and families, rejuvenating everyone for the school year ahead.

Our staff has been working diligently to prepare for the 2025-2026 school year. Teachers have been working tirelessly to create vibrant and engaging learning environments for your children. I am committed to keeping you informed through weekly parent communication that I refer to as the "Friday Flash". Important reminders and updates will be shared in this format. While I aim to keep these updates brief, please note that at the beginning of the year there will be more detailed information to ensure you stay well-informed.

The partnership between school and home is vital for building on the many strengths of our dynamic Catholic learning community. I look forward to working together to make this year a great success.

Yours in Catholic Education,

Mrs. Snyder

Prayer

Loving creator,

Map your goals for us in our hearts. Make our classrooms oases in the busy world.

Make them places of warmth and trust. May our affirmation of our students enable them to stretch themselves as they seek holistic growth in a safe, nurturing, Catholic environment.

Amen

Week at a Glance- September 2-5, 2025

Monday	Sept. 1	• Labour Day- No School
Tuesday	Sept. 2	• Welcome Back!!!! We've missed you!
Wednesday	Sept. 3	• A great day for learning at HST!
Thursday	Sept. 4	• A great day for learning at HST!
Friday	Sept. 5	• A great day for learning at HST!

SCHOOL AND PARISH PARTNERSHIP: We value the partnership Holy Spirit has with our Parish. Together with the Church we support parents in the faith formation of their children. We will share important information

about Reconciliation and First Communion (Grade 2) and Confirmation (Grade 7) so please stay tuned for details.

VIRTUE OF THE MONTH: Each month a different Catholic attribute is emphasized at HST. Students are encouraged to demonstrate these attributes in their words and actions. By doing this we show that we always strive to respond to Jesus' call as a community. During the month of September the Catholic Virtue of Courage will be highlighted in our daily prayers and in our classroom reflections. We look forward to recognizing those students at HST who best demonstrate courage via our announcements.

STUDENT LUNCHES: School Lunch programs will begin shortly, and in the meantime, we understand that making lunches can be a daunting task! We encourage parents to make their children part of the process. Allowing them to shop for grocery items and planning healthy, sensible lunches builds great life- long skills and healthy eating habits. In the case that your child comes to school without lunch, we ask that you refrain from bringing any outside lunch providers into the school over the lunch hour. Oftentimes, these providers cannot guarantee allergen-free items & as a result, students cannot eat these types of lunches in their classrooms. We are unable to supervise students who need to eat their lunch in the office as our supervision is required in other areas of the building and playground. Therefore, we kindly ask that if you want your child to have lunch from an outside vendor, you pick them up for lunch and return them to school at the 12:20 bell. Thank you for helping us keep all of our students safe at Holy Spirit!

NUT SAFE SCHOOL: We will continue to take a proactive approach to make our school a safe environment for our school community members with life-threatening allergies to food as well as to fragrances and scents. Because Anaphylaxis can be life-threatening, our entire school is allergy aware. Students will not be permitted to share or distribute snacks. In accordance with our School Allergy Awareness Plan, please do not send any snacks to be shared. In accordance with our Allergy Awareness Plan, any edible treats that are brought to school will not be distributed, but rather returned home with the student at the end of the day. If a teacher chooses to share a nut-free snack with their class, they will provide you with notice beforehand.

Please help us to keep Holy Spirit Allergy Aware and Nut-Safe by providing snacks and lunches for your child that do not contain any traces of nuts or nut products and that are made in a nut free facility. Details of any allergies specific to your child's classroom will be sent home soon.

Thank you for your continued collaboration as we strive to keep all children safe. For a more detailed explanation of the School Board Policy, please visit the Board's web site (www.ycdsb.ca) and refer to Policy 206 and PROCEDURE: 206A SUPPORTING STUDENTS WITH PREVALENT MEDICAL CONDITIONS: ANAPHYLAXIS

SCENT SAFE SCHOOL: Please avoid wearing fragrances or scented products to HST school. We have staff members and students who have life threatening allergies to scents. Exposure to fragrances or scented products can trigger serious health and allergic reactions for individuals who suffer with asthma, allergies and migraines or who have chemical sensitivities. All employees, students and all visitors to our school should avoid the use of strongly scented products while at our school. Thank you for your continued cooperation in this matter and for keeping all our Holy Spirit community safe.

ASTHMA PROTECTION: The York Catholic District School Board recognizes that there are some 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 advise the school immediately upon registration and/or when in receipt of a diagnosis of asthma. It is also 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 are completed and school records are up to date in accordance with Board policy. Thank you for your

immediate attention to this request, and ongoing support in the shared responsibility for asthma management in our school.

MEDICATION AT SCHOOL: Whenever possible, we ask that medications be administered at home. However, should your child require medications to be administered at school please pick up the required S16 and S16a forms from the office. Complete the form (including physician's signature) and return it to school. Students are not to keep medication (aside from inhalers and EpiPens) in their knapsack or in the classroom. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

PEDICULOSIS (HEAD LICE): As per Policy 210, Pediculosis (Head Lice), the York Catholic District School Board recognizes concerns related to pediculosis (head lice) at the school and community level. Pediculosis (head lice) are not a public hazard, as they do not cause illness, but they are a nuisance. To prevent pediculosis (head lice) from becoming a problem at our school we all need to work together. Please check your child's head on a regular basis for lice or nits. If you do find lice or nits, you must contact the office so that we can notify other parents in your child's class to keep a special watch for any signs of head lice. A student's readmission to school is contingent upon the Parent/Guardian submitting a completed and signed "Pediculosis Treatment Form" communicating to the Principal that treatment for pediculosis (head lice) has been administered. When a student is suspected/identified as having pediculosis (head lice) every family in the school will be notified, via email, information on how to be proactive and check for head lice. The specific classroom in which the student is in will not be disclosed in order to protect the privacy of the family. More information on the identification, treatment and prevention of pediculosis (head lice) from the Canadian Pediatric Society https://www.caringforkids.cps.ca/handouts/head_lice and Toronto Public Health (toronto.ca/health) is available on the school's website. A hard copy of the information posted on the school's website will be provided by the Principal if requested by the Parent/Guardian.

HST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DRESS CODE: Holy Spirit CES follows "Appropriate Dress Code" (defined in [YCDSB Policy 219A](#)

- All student attire must be in keeping with our Catholic teachings and beliefs, and reflect the value of modesty and the principle of the dignity of the human person.
- Upper garments are to cover the midriff and shoulders.
- Garments are to have solid fabric rather than mesh or netting.
- Appropriate Dress Code enforcement is the responsibility of the Principal and school staff are expected to support its consistent implementation.
- The Appropriate Dress Code will permit the Principal to exercise discretion to allow exceptions to the Dress Code or exceptions regarding compliance.

SPIRIT WEAR STORE LINK [CLICK HERE](#)

INDOOR SHOES: In order to keep our school clean as well as assist in maintaining a healthy environment, we are asking that all students have a pair of shoes, with non marking soles that are to be kept at school.

VISITING HST: All visitors to HST must buzz the office from the front doors. Our office staff will ask you to identify yourself and state the reason for your visit. Please assist us with our safety procedures by being patient and answering the office staff's questions. Please do not ask students to open the front doors for you. If you are picking up your child from school, we will call them down to the main entrance for you. Anyone who is required to enter the building must sign in to the main office and obtain a visitor's badge. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

TRANSPORTATION: For students riding the bus to school, please ensure that you have checked [School Bus City](#) for your pick up and drop off times and location. Students riding the bus will adhere to bus safety routines and procedures. A reminder that the YCDSB Code of Conduct should be adhered to on the bus.

REPORTING STUDENT ABSENCES: 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
- The SchoolMessenger App from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS: We would like to stress the importance of school punctuality and regular attendance. Regular attendance is vitally important and can lead to improved classroom learning, better test results, important relationships and friendships, good reference for future education and healthy habits. Regular attendance is directly linked to success at school. Poor attendance patterns increase risk of failure and dropping out of school. Early intervention by home and school increases the likelihood of a student remaining in school.

The following points are proven factors in ensuring that a child will be successful in maintaining regular and punctual attendance:

- ❖ Have regular morning routines (wake up on time, eat breakfast, leave home to get to school on time).
- ❖ Following consistent night time routines (homework time, prep for next day, bedtime).
- ❖ Set an alarm clock the night before.
- ❖ Get enough sleep and eat properly.

Remember your child is considered late to school if they are not in line with their class at **8:25 A.M.**

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION NOTICE TO PARENTS: During the 2025-2026 school year, your child(ren) will be involved in a variety of school related activities and events consistent with the purpose of educating students in accordance with the Education Act. Upon registering your child with the York Catholic District School Board you completed a Freedom of Information Consent. Please note that an Annual Parental Consent re: Freedom of Information must be completed for each child on a yearly basis. Personal information is collected pursuant to the Education Act and the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection Privacy Act.

We bring to your attention the following areas that you and/or your child's personal information may be disclosed without notification to you, such as:

- Catholic School Council Activities and Catholic School Council communications.
- Class lists, emergency phone networks, local Parish, Catholic Community Services, etc.
- The release of photographs, artwork, writing or other schoolwork to the media (print/electronic) and/or YCDSB website.
- The use of names, photographs, etc. used for display in the school, newsletters, and yearbooks. If you have any objections to the use and disclosure of your child's personal information, please indicate your wishes on the Freedom of Information Annual Parental Consent (FOI A.21) form which will be sent home by your child's teacher.

Our school is obliged to protect our students and families personal information. Images of students are considered personal information. Parents sign the Freedom of Information consent form upon registering their child with our Board. This consent allows pictures to be posted on the School Board's or school's websites. We caution parents and staff that when taking pictures of students in school or on field trips that those pictures are NOT to be posted on any social networking sites.

UPCOMING: (all important dates can be found on the Holy Spirit Website)

- September 18- Open House/Meet the Teacher (6:30 pm to 7:30 pm)
- September 26- PA Day- No School for Students
- September 30- National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. **Please wear Orange.**

