



Wednesday, January 5, 2022 - Volume 14, Issue 10

## Message from Administration

Welcome to 2022! We had hoped for a different start to our year, but we know that everyone is doing their part to stay safe and healthy while following the public health protocols.

We recognize that as these times of uncertainty continue that it can be frustrating – thank you for your patience. This has been an ever-changing landscape and we will do our best to ensure that our community is kept informed along the way. Please reference the letter from our Director, Loretta Notten which was sent out by School messenger earlier this week and we have attached here for you.

We will continue to message the community using school messenger. If you are not receiving emails from the school, please call to update your email address. Students will receive updates on their google or D2L classroom announcements.

Thank you for your ongoing support as we continue to pray for resolution to this ongoing COVID crisis.

### Admin Team

**Mrs. M. Ingoldsby**  
Principal  
A-BI

**Ms. E. Riley**  
Vice Principal  
Bo-G & International

**Mr. R. Stehlik**  
Vice Principal  
H-N

**Mr. R. Roque**  
Vice Principal  
O-Z

In person learning for our high needs special education students will commence Monday, January 10. Regular school hours will apply.



## Learning from Home schedule

### REGULAR DAYS

(starting Thursday, January 6)

<b>PERIOD 1</b>	<b>8:00 to 10:30</b>
<b>PERIOD 2</b>	<b>11:15 to 1:45</b>

Students should plan on being in class for the entire period

Each period should include approximately 120 minutes of synchronous and 30 minutes of asynchronous learning

## A Message from the Director

January 3rd, 2022

Dear Waterloo Catholic Community –

I hope that you have enjoyed a joyous and healthy New Year's weekend with your family. While we were just in communication with you last week, a number of important changes have occurred just today, Monday January 3rd. The province is moving to a modified Stage 2 response to the pandemic, given the increase in COVID-19 cases as a result of Omicron variant and more specifically as a result of the potential impact to the Healthcare system. While these measures are intended to be temporary, they are significant. The most relevant to us as a school board is the pivot once again to a virtual

learning reality.

## Return to School

The return to learning for all students will now be a virtual one and will commence on Wednesday January 5th 2022. (This includes St Isidore and St Louis) On January 5th we will take the day to have teachers connect with their students, and ensure everyone has a good virtual-connection and is able to connect with their teacher. Teachers will meet with students first thing in the morning – per usual bell times, however they will connect for no more than 1 hour synchronously. (In secondary this will be approx. 30 minutes per class.) They will provide work that can be done for the day. **Full synchronous virtual learning will then resume on Thursday, January 6th 2022. Currently the province is indicating that the earliest we will return to full in person learning will be Monday January 17th.** We will stay tuned for any further updates.

## Students with high needs in Special Education

Schools will be in touch with those students who may be eligible to access in person learning due to high special education needs where virtual learning is not a viable option. We will also look to see how we can best support our ELD students who may have difficulty in a virtual learning environment. You will receive more precise and detailed communication through your local school. In person learning for our high needs special education students will commence **Monday, January 10th 2022.**

## Screening

It is more important than ever before, that anyone feeling ill should not attend school. All children, students, staff, and visitors must be screened for symptoms of illness every day before attending school or childcare. Any student or staff member with **any symptom should not report to school.** To help meet this requirement, you may use the provincial screening tool found here: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>. It is continually being updated and using the link on a daily basis should provide you with the most recent guidance. Confirmation of self-screening will still be a requirement when we return to school and we will continue to reinforce masking and hand hygiene, as well as cohorting and physical distancing with students and our staff.

## Vaccination

Vaccination for children ages 5 – 11 is currently underway. Booster shots for anyone over 18 years of age has been possible since Monday, December 20th. We are in communication with Waterloo Region Public Health to organize vaccination clinics specifically for education staff. Vaccination remains the best defence against COVID-19, as endorsed by experts at the Ontario Science table, the Chief Medical Officer of Health and our own Waterloo Region Public Health. The omicron variant is highly transmissible and so consideration for vaccination for yourself and your child is very important in stopping the disease spread **and also** in ensuring that if COVID is acquired, that symptoms remain mild and manageable. Stopping its spread is important so that everyone can spend more time in school and so the most vulnerable amongst us are not negatively impacted.

We remain every grateful for your support and partnership as we navigate these challenging times. We understand that many of you will be concerned and will only want the best for yourself and your children. We encourage you to follow the guidelines as outlined to the best of your ability and to trust that our schools still remain largely safe. As I offered last week, let us hold to the promise of the

nativity and the message of love, hope and joy that it offers. Together we will make it through this challenging time.

Sincerely,

Loretta Notten  
Director of Education

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## Positive Parent-Teacher communication

As always parents/ guardians are valuable partners in their child's education. We invite you to keep the lines of communication open as you can be an effective resource to support the learning your child. As per our WCDSB Administrative Procedures Memorandum #APC001, Communication Guidelines, we ask that all public and interpersonal communications must recognize the dignity of the individual and be conducted fairly, honestly, and with respect.

When a parent, guardian or other board stakeholder has a concern or suggestion, it is expected that the concern/suggestion will first be taken up with the staff member with whom the parent / guardian / stakeholder has the concern/suggestion. Therefore, the process outlined below should be followed.

1

Speak directly to the staff member. If the issue is not resolved, proceed to step two.

2

Speak to the Principal. If the person with the concern has not yet addressed the issue with the staff member involved, the Principal will ask them to do so.

3

If, having spoken to the Principal, the person with the concern believes the issue is not resolved, they may speak to the Superintendent of Learning responsible for the school.

4

If, having spoken to the Superintendent of Learning responsible for the school, the person with the concern believes the issue is not resolved, they may speak to the

5

If, having spoken to the Director of Education, the person with the concern believes the issue is not resolved, they may register as a delegation to address the Board of Trustees. Information on how to register as a delegation to the board is available in the WCDSB website. Please note that stakeholders are free to address the Board of Trustees as a registered delegation at any time, subject to any pertinent laws, regulations or board policies.



## HEY GRADS!

### Get ready to SAY CHEESE!

**Grad photo appointments for February will be available soon! Put yourself on the waiting list to be notified when bookings reopen.**

[Click here](#) to get started.

**SCHOOL CODE: TBO**

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## COVID-19 Screening

Just a reminder to complete the screening tool before you arrive at school. Any individual who fails the screener or who is symptomatic in any way should not be reporting to school. That is part of our collective responsibility to one another. <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>

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## Significant Days & Dates

Click [here](#) to view the most up to date calendar information.

### March Break:

March 14, 2022 to March 18, 2022

### Professional Activity Days:

Wednesday, February 2, 2022

Friday, April 8, 2022

Friday, June 3, 2022

## Stay Connected with St. Benedict's!

Twitter

[@StBenedictCSS](#)

Instagram

[@bennies\\_sac\\_updates](#)

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## News from Guidance

### Who is your Guidance Counsellor?

Counsellor's Name	Ext	Last names
Mrs. O'Toole	5190	A – DI
Ms. Arkell	5636	Do – Ki
Mr. Betik	5633	KI – PI
Mrs. O'Neill	5634	Po – Z
Ms. Varriano Lane	5635	International Students/ICP

### Guidance Google Classrooms

Once again, the Guidance department will have google classrooms available to share information with our students. Please consider joining the classrooms:

#### Grade 9 and 10

<https://classroom.google.com/c/Mzg1OTc4MjA0MDk1?cjc=7c3t6un>

#### Grade 11 and 12

<https://classroom.google.com/c/Mzg1OTc4MjA0MjMz?cjc=mxmohzx>

Scan the code below to book an  
appointment with your Guidance  
Counsellor



Then click the plus sign beside your Guidance Counsellor to book an appointment.

# Academics

## Interested in learning more about the Specialist High Skills Major program?

Please go to [highskills.ca](http://highskills.ca) or drop by the coop office on the second floor to speak with Mrs. Crowell



# Athletics

# Clubs

# Student Activities

## Hey Saints!

Have a great idea?

Want it to be run by  
SAC?

Fill out the suggestion QR forms posted  
around the school and  
on the Bennies SAC instagram & maybe it will  
flourish into an event!

# Other News



# Connecting Together Post-Covid

DESTRESSING SKILLS TRAINING  
THROUGH CBT



## Join our fun and engaging group

Groups sessions for teens that are struggling with social and generalized anxiety. Learn coping and communication skills and learn to overcome and manage your anxiety and fears. Connect with others that are experiencing the same feelings and connect and talk with professional counsellors who will lead the group through fun and engaging exercises to set you on a path towards self-empowerment, goal setting and personal achievement

Tuesdays from 6:00  
pm - 8:00pm  
8 sessions

January 11th, 2022 -  
March 1st, 2022

Fun and engaging  
"Safe Space"  
A FREE Program for  
teens experiencing  
social anxiety

Small groups of  
8- 10  
teens. Limited  
spaces  
available

Group sessions for teens aged 12-15  
who are experiencing anxiety

Register now:  
519 742 0500

QUALIA COUNSELLING SERVICES  
430 THE BOARDWALK MEDICAL CENTRE 1

## Calendar of Events

**Thursday, January 6**

Feast of the Epiphany

**8:00am:** 1st Full Synchronous Virtual Learning Day

**Friday, January 7**

Orthodox Christmas

**Monday, January 10**

**8:00am:** High Needs Special Education Students Return in Person

**Wednesday, January 12**

**3:30pm:** SHSM Workshop: Cartoon Creation

**Monday, January 17**

**10:30am:** Literature Club

**10:30am:** Coding Club

**1:45pm:** Debate Club

**1:45pm:** Homework club

**2:00pm:** Sr. Girls Ice Hockey vs Monsignor Doyle CSS

**3:30pm:** Sr. Girls Volleyball @ Woodland Christian HS

**3:30pm:** Jr. Girls Volleyball @ Woodland Christian HS

**Tuesday, January 18**

**10:30am:** Chess Club

**10:30am:** Finance Club

**2:30pm:** Sr. Boys Ice Hockey vs Monsignor Doyle CSS

**3:30pm:** SHSM Workshop: Public Speaking

**Wednesday, January 19**

BENN Newsletter release

**10:30am:** Literature Club

**10:30am:** Coding Club

**1:45pm:** Racing Saints E-car club

**1:45pm:** Homework club

**3:00pm:** Jr. Girls Volleyball vs Rockway MC

**3:00pm:** Sr. Girls Ice Hockey @ St. David CSS

**3:00pm:** Sr. Boys Basketball @ St. David CSS

**3:00pm:** Sr. Girls Volleyball vs Rockway MC

**3:30pm:** Virtual Workshop: Art Therapy

**4:30pm:** Jr. Boys Basketball @ St. David CSS

**Thursday, January 20**

**8:00am:** Wrestling D8 Championships

**10:30am:** GSA Club

**10:30am:** Chess Club

**1:45pm:** Robotics Team

**1:45pm:** Math Club

**1:45pm:** Games Club

**3:00pm:** Sr. Boys Ice Hockey @ St. David CSS

**Friday, January 21**

**10:30am:** Star Trek Club

**1:45pm:** Doctor Who Club

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*Be sure to check out the  
calendar on the school  
website for updates!*

**The BENN Newsletter**

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**St. Benedict Catholic Secondary School**

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