NOTRE DAME
Catholic School

35 Braemar Avenue, Caledonia, Ontario N3W 2M5 Tel. #: (905) 765-0649

BHNCDSB
CATHOLIC CODE OF CONDUCT

ANNUAL COMMUNICATION FOR FAMILIES 2026-27

Please review the valuable information below regarding updates to the Board's Catholic Code of Conduct. It may also be helpful for you to review Board Policy 200.09 Catholic Code of Conduct.

PROVINCIAL CODE OF CONDUCT

The Provincial Code of Conduct for school boards and schools sets clear standards of behaviour for school communities. School boards use it to develop their own local codes of conduct. The code aims to help schools:

- create a positive school environment; and,
- support the achievement and well-being of all students.

BHNCDSB CATHOLIC CODE OF CONDUCT

The Board's Catholic Code of Conduct is aligned with the Provincial Code of Conduct, the Ontario Human Rights Code and other related legislation. The Catholic Code of Conduct endeavors to:

- promote the safety and well-being of all people in our school communities;
- foster school climates where differences are celebrated and addressed with respect and civility;
- prevent bullying in schools;
- encourage positive relationships and non-violent conflict resolution;
- discourage the use of alcohol, illegal drugs, recreational cannabis, and other harmful behaviours; and,
- limit harmful classroom distractions.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL CODE OF CONDUCT

Each school community is unique and therefore each school has its own Code of Conduct that considers the specific nuances in their school environment when aligning with the Board and Provincial Codes of Conduct.

PROVINCIAL CODE OF CONDUCT MOST RECENT UPDATES

1. Enforcement Relating to Alcohol, Tobacco, Electronic Cigarettes, Recreational Cannabis and Related Products and Illegal Drugs

The Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017 prohibits smoking (tobacco and cannabis) and the use of electronic cigarettes (vaping) at schools, on school grounds, and all public areas within 20 metres of these grounds. Anyone smoking or vaping on school property is guilty of an offence and if convicted may result in a fine under the Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017. The Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017 also prohibits the sale and supply of tobacco or e-cigarettes to anyone under 19 years of age. Anyone who sells or supplies tobacco or an e-cigarette to a student under 19 years of age is guilty of an offence and if convicted may result in a fine under the Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017.

In accordance with the Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017, the Board recognizes the benefits of declaring, establishing, and maintaining a smoke-free, tobacco free and cannabis-free learning, playing, and working environment for students, employees, visitors, and those who use Board facilities. Therefore, smoking and/or holding lit tobacco, cannabis, tobacco-like, cannabis-like (alternative) products, consuming or using any other tobacco, cannabis, tobacco-like, cannabis-like (alternative) product, e-cigarette, or related product, is strictly prohibited on all Board properties, during educational excursions, in Board vehicles or in personal vehicles parked on Board property. Electronic products such as electronic

cigarettes, cigars, and pipes as well as cartridges of nicotine solutions and related products are prohibited in a school or on any and all BHNCDSB properties or during school or Board sanctioned activities or events.

In the case of these substances and related products being found in the possession of students, parents **must** be notified, and the student **must** surrender the item(s) to the educator or administrator and progressive discipline will be applied according to board policy. Students involved may also receive support to help learn from inappropriate behaviours. Confiscated materials/paraphernalia will not be returned to anyone under 19yrs. The Board will also adhere to its obligation under Board Policy and the Provincial and Local Police/School Board Protocols in providing the required notification to a School Public Health Nurse (PHN), Tobacco Enforcement Officers and/or to local Police Services.

2. Restrictions To Student Use of Personal Mobile Devices

Board policy addresses the overall expectations for the acceptable use of technology for trustees, all staff, students, parents, volunteers, visitors, and other persons in relation to Board computer equipment, networks as well as personal devices while on Board property or in relation to Board business or Board-related activities.

The Board aims to balance the benefits of technology with the need to maintain an environment conducive to learning and that limits classroom distractions. It is crucial that schools create a balanced approach to the use of personal mobile devices, ensuring that the educational environment remains focused and respectful for all students and staff. Restrictions to student personal mobile device use applies to all students enrolled in schools under the Ontario School Board jurisdiction, including during school hours, on school property, during school-related activities, and on school-provided transportation.

All members of the school community must not use personal mobile devices during instructional time except under the following circumstances:

1. For specific educational activities, as directed by an educator.
2. To meet an accommodation through Special Education Services to support specific special education needs.
3. For a documented health or medical related accommodation.

Parents/Guardians must contact the school principal to request an exemption.

Grade 9 to 12 students' personal mobile devices must be stored out of view and powered off (or set to silent mode) during all instructional time as determined by the educator. Kindergarten to Grade 8 student's personal mobile devices must be stored out of view and powered off (or set to silent mode) throughout the full instructional day.

Where a student has failed to meet the expectations regarding student personal mobile use, the educator must require the device be handed in and stored as designated by school policy. Where the student refuses to hand in their personal mobile device when required, they will be sent to the principal's office and are subject to a range of responses including suspension.

Students are encouraged to leave their personal devices at home. In the event of an emergency, communication to a student or from a student, can be achieved in the main office. The Board is not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged student personal devices.

3. Access to Social Media on Board Networks and Devices

Access to all social media platforms is restricted on all board/school networks and devices. Social media platforms can only be used by students at school for educational purposes, directed by an educator. The Board understands that some social media platforms may be used by staff in a targeted way for specific learning, pedagogy, and operational purposes.

Social media is generally defined as interactive technologies including websites, platforms and applications that facilitate and enable users to create, share, and interact with content, and to connect and communicate with other users or publicly.

NOTRE DAME
Catholic School

35 Braemar Avenue, Caledonia, Ontario N3W 2M5 Tel. #: (905) 765-0649

Examples of social media platforms and apps include Snapchat, Instagram, TikTok, Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), Discord, and similar services that facilitate social interaction and content creation and sharing. (This ban will not block blogs or SMS).

==========

Thank you for continuing to assist our staff and students in creating a positive, safe, and accepting school environment.

“We must fan the flame of hope that has been given to us.”