



CELTIC NEWS

ST. DAVID CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL

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When it comes to mental health, now more than ever, every action counts.

Join in to help create positive change.

bell.ca/letstalk

A Message from our Leadership Team!

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.

We will continue to message the community using school messenger, the St. David's Newswire, Instagram and Twitter. If you are not receiving email from the school, please call to update your email address.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

St. David Admin Team

Admin Team

Mr. Jaeger

Principal

T-Z & International

Ms. Bencina

Vice Principal

J-S

Mr. Figueiredo

Vice Principal

A-I

NewsWire

Stay informed!

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St. David Communication Tools

Follow us on.... Twitter – **@StDavidCeltics** and Instagram at **stdavidcss** and sign up for **Newswire**



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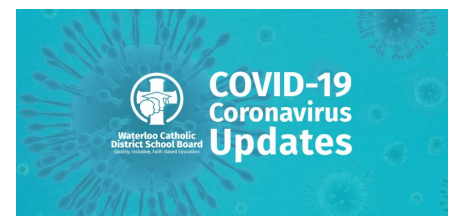
NOTE: You may withdraw your consent at any time by clicking on the link at the bottom of each email.

COVID 19 Updates

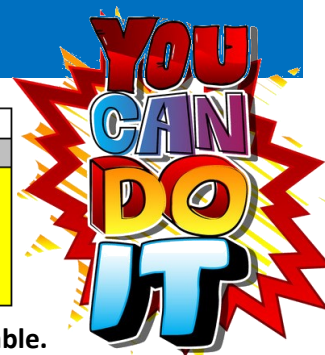
We encourage you to stay up to date on news from our government the most current public health advice.

Visit Ontario.ca/covidresponse to learn about public health measures in our community.

We also suggest checking out the [WCDSB website](#) and [Region of Waterloo Public Health website](#) as they contain helpful resources and supports.



Final Evaluations



Monday January 31	Tuesday February 1	Wednesday February 2	Thursday February 3
Final Evaluations AM (Time & Format TBD)	Final Evaluations AM (Time & Format TBD)	Credit Recue/ Turnaround Day	New Quad/Semester Begins

Students/Families will receive more details regarding final evaluations as they become available.

As outlined by the Ministry of Education, a final evaluation does not need to be an examination and is administered at or towards the end of the course to allow students an opportunity to demonstrate achievement of the overall expectations. Teachers can provide a broad range of culminating activities for the final evaluation to allow students to demonstrate their learning. Possible options may include a performance, an essay, a test, a debrief of the course, a presentation, individually scheduled exit interviews or another method of evaluation suitable to the course content.

Further details about the final evaluation for each course will be provided by the teacher to your student.



New Quad or Semester will begin on February 3rd.

More information is coming...stay tuned

Student Timetables

Whether we start quad 3 or are back to a regular or modified semester format on February 3rd all students will access their timetable via the Aspen Portal.

Accessing Login page:

The Aspen Student Portal can be accessed from your 'My Apps' page by clicking this icon → <https://wcdsb.myontarioedu.ca>



Aspen EDU

Logging into Student Portal:

To login, click on the button circled in **GREEN**.

NOTE: If you are logging in from a WCDSB Board computer or Chromebook, you will not be prompted for your student WCDSB login and password. However, if prompted in a different window, enter your student WCDSB login and password.

To find your schedule:

Click on the 'My Info' top tab > Click on the 'Current Schedule' side tab

If the schedule is not appearing in the same format as the picture below, click and the 'List View' will appear. Click on the column heading 'Term' to sort courses by Quad.

<< List view



Click here

Mental Health & Wellbeing

Visit the [WCDSB Mental Health and Wellness](#) page. You can find resources here to grow your knowledge on mental health topics, learn a variety of daily wellness practices that can help you manage stress, get connected when additional supports are needed, and learn about how WCDSB is promoting wellness in our school communities.

On this page you can find a variety of links resources to promote wellness – both during the pandemic, and also more general resources that can be promote positive mental health in our school communities.



**School
Mental Health
Ontario**



@wcdsbwellness



@wcdsbsocialwork



@wcdsbhpe



@wcdsbequity



@wcdsbfait



@wcdsbfnm

Chaplain's View

How can I hold space for you during this 5th Wave?

The 5th Wave has begun of this worldwide pandemic. Never in a million years would I think that all the coronavirus memes, feelings of panic, feelings of complacency, obsessive handwashing and social distancing would come around AGAIN! How did that happen? Despite being *warned* umpteen times we still managed to have history repeat itself – and this time with a vengeance!

So what is the same this time round? And what is different?

Hmmm, it does depend on who is answering the question – and definitely warrants different perspectives. I am so pleased to hear admin, teachers and even students have taken a collective sigh and are getting on with it! So that is different.

I also don't hear the panic in the voices of the students – as much. Students are discovering that we aren't alone in this – we've got each other and the supports are there!

Is this still a drag? Indeed

Is this frustrating? Absolutely

Are we going to get through this? Well that's just it.....regardless of what is different and what is the same – this one day will end.

And if you look at this in a light hearted way (yes it is possible) can you imagine the stories our students are going to tell their children one day? Instead of "I had to walk through snowstorms – uphill – both ways when I was a kid" will be replaced with – "I started kindergarten thinking it was perfectly normal to wear a mask and have people drive by my house and throw a birthday gift on my driveway.

Instead of being called a baby boomer, or a gen x, millennial baby babies born during this pandemic will be called the corona baby!

What is the same is this virus is real and for many people it is very scary. Christmas for many was spent alone in isolation and family parties for some was cancelled.

Yet this time we are taking it a wee bit more in stride. There is something almost comforting in "misery loves company." God knows we are not alone in this 5th wave. Across the province are students are struggling and adapting the same way...and maybe even the entry marks for university will be different. Besides, talk about being a part of history we can share many years from now. Certainly, nothing like this generation has ever experienced – and probably won't ever experience again.

As the school chaplain how should I adapt to this latest wave?

What does it mean to "hold space" for someone else?

This is what your chaplain at St. David is doing for you during this phase of remote learning. I am willing to walk alongside another person (staff member, student, parent) in whatever journey they are on without judging them, making them feel inadequate, trying to fix them, or trying to impact their outcome. When I hold space for you, I open my heart, offer unconditional prayer and support, and let go of judgement and control.

If that means letting a teacher share their frustration about wanting to go back to being a "normal" teacher, offering support to students who can't independently research for hours on end without feedback, listening to a parent who is stuck in the middle with people taking sides on wanting the students at home or in school, or befriending a new staff member or student who is so isolated because he/she has yet to make any connections in the building.

I will hold space for you.

Sometimes I find myself holding space for someone while they hold space for someone else. Think about that senior student who has to hold space for his mom who is in an essential job, so they have to watch their siblings and focus on their schooling and part time job. I hold space for them while they hold space for someone else.

It is difficult to be a strong space holder unless we have others who will hold space for us. Even the strongest leaders, coaches, teachers, parents, students, need to know there are some people with whom they can be vulnerable and weak without fear of being judged.

Who holds space for me? I have a strong support system of family and friends...we hold space for each other. And I have someone who holds space for me constantly without fear of judgement. I can still show my weakness and know I will not be abandoned.

My God will never abandon me. Nor will my guardian angel(s). As I hold space for you know that He will always hold space for us. Through His strength we can hold each other up.

I look forward to seeing you in person again – soon!

God, grant me the serenity

To accept the things I cannot change.

The courage to change the things I can

And the wisdom to know the difference. Amen

Annabel Quinn, Chaplain

January 2022

Future Celtics



St. Agnes
Flames



Grade 8 Transition Activities

This year we were sad to see our 'Day in the Life of a Celtic', put on hold for our Grade 8's due to the Covid-19 pandemic. In lieu of a visit to St. David, we have developed a website that will hopefully offer you a view of everything you have to look forward to as a future Celtic! From academics, sports, arts and culture, St. David has something to interest and engage every student. Please take a look through the website and please let us know if you have any questions! <https://stdavid.wcdsb.ca/grade-8-information/>. This is a living document and will continue to be updated.

Another great resource that you will use frequently is the Entering Secondary Schools Booklet. It will also be found on the St. David Future Celtics website, which will be going live soon. https://www.wcdsb.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/36/2017/02/WCDSB_Entering_Sec_Sch_2021_Covid_web.pdf



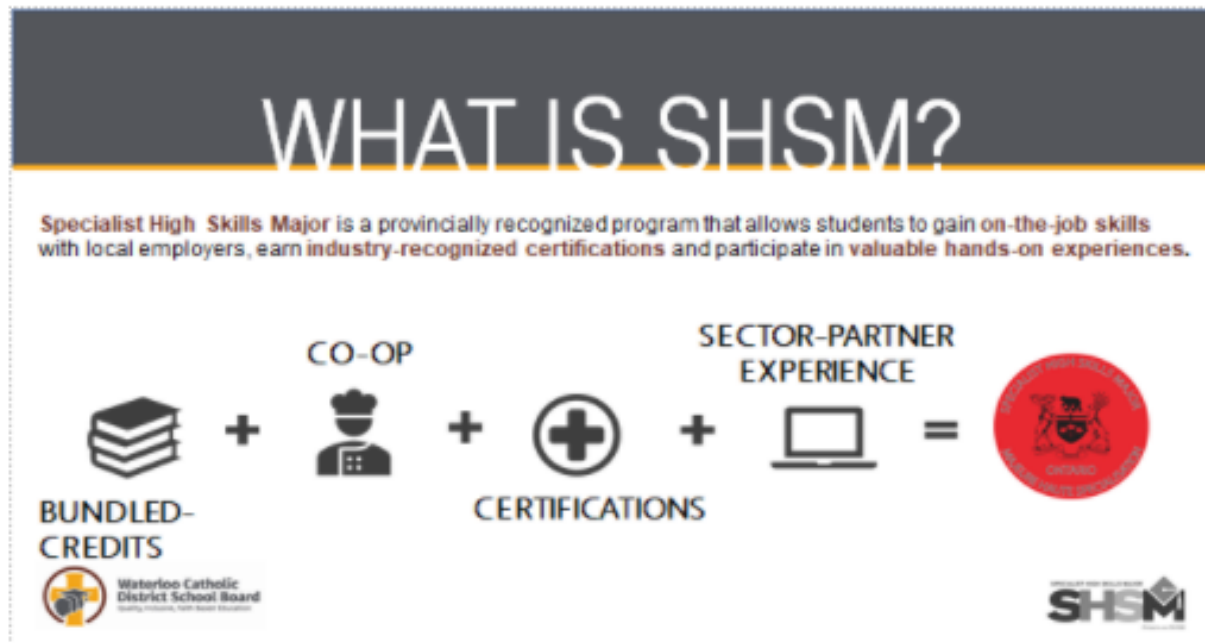
Regarding Grade 9 course selections:

Our Guidance team will be visiting grade 8 classes virtually, during the week of January 10th. Courses will be selected through the myBlueprint App on the Apps page after login. The deadline for course selections is February 28th, 2022. One thing that we strongly encourage is for you to work as partners with your child's teacher to ensure they are choosing the appropriate pathway for success.

Your child should already be very familiar with myBlueprint as it has been a part of the Grade 7 and 8 program for a number of years. It allows students to explore what they are interested in and what career fields their skills might lead them into. There is also a place for them to send you an invitation through the parent portal so that you can complete your own searches and see what activities they have completed.

ATTENTION GRADE 10 and 11 students!

Consider SHSM during Course Selection time!



Visit www.highskills.ca for additional program information. SHSM is not a course, it is a program which students have 2 years to complete (in grade 11 and 12). They can indicate interest in this program using myBlueprint by completing the SHSM Planner on their High School Plan, by contacting their guidance counsellor, or by using this link <https://forms.gle/h8NVob3VgvmfSGEA>

Thanks, Kristen Dietrich, SHSM Lead Teacher

Majors offered at St. David

Arts & Culture

Business

Construction

Health & Wellness

Hospitality & Tourism

Information & Communications
Technology

Justice, Emergency Safety &
Community Services

Transportation

From your Celtic Guidance Team

Timetable and Course Changes

Please be aware that several student timetables have been changed for the remainder of the year due to a variety of factors (requests to switch back to the schedule students had previously cannot be accommodated).

Guidance teachers will be available for course changes until Tuesday February 8th, 2022.

Please be aware that the priority for course changes are as follows:

- Students in grade 9, 10 or 11 who are missing a course
- Students who do not have the prerequisite for a course on their timetable
- Students in grade 12 & year 5 that don't have enough courses to reach 30 credits by the end of this year
- Level changes (example moving from academic to applied)

We cannot accommodate teacher requests or requests to be in classes with friends.

GUIDANCE DESIGNATION	
Ms. K. Dietrich ext. 5637	A - E
Ms. J. Nagy ext. 5638	F - O
Ms. K. Kueneman ext. 5634	P - Z & International Students

Course Selection 9-12

MyBlueprint: Any changes you make or courses you select can be changed until you hit the submit button or Feb 28th when it becomes locked. The submit button in myBlueprint will go live in early February and will be posted on our website.

Course selections for the 2022-2023 School year

The deadline is Monday Feb 28th. Our Guidance team will be visiting classes during the following weeks. Slideshows will also be posted to our school website for your reference

Course selection presentations for each grade level

Grade 8- Week of January 10th

Grade 9-Week of February 14th

Grade 10- Week of February 7th

Grade 11- Week of January 24th

Grade 12 Presentations were provided in September- Students wishing to return for a 5th year, may select courses in myBlueprint in the usual manner. Please reach out to your Guidance Counsellor if you need support with this

Students are encouraged to dialogue with their parents, Teachers and Guidance Counsellors in order to make accurate and appropriate selections. Courses must be entered by February 28th, 2022. Visit myBlueprint in 'My Apps'. Remember that parents must sign off on course selections by Feb 28th, 2022.

Summer School

Summer school information will be available beginning in March as it becomes available from our education partners. Information regarding summer school sign up will be communicated during morning announcements.



Graduation Information

Important Information for Grade 12 Students

Celtic Graduation Information



In order to graduate you need the following:

- 30 credits-18 compulsory and 12 elective credits
- 20 hours of Community service

The Ontario Government has decided to waive the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) requirement for graduating students in the 2021-2022 school year.

Resources for post-secondary planning

www.tcu.gov.on.ca and www.apprenticesearch.com for apprenticeship information

www.ontariocolleges.ca for college information www.ontariouniversitiesinfo.ca for university information and www.indeed.ca for workplace opportunities

Community Service Hours

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, Graduating students are only required to earn 20 hours of community service to meet the graduation requirement. Please submit your Community Service hours using the [online fillable pdf](#).

Email your Guidance Counsellor if you're wondering what type of Volunteer work is acceptable.

We do not want students pursuing opportunities that put them in physical contact with others as per Covid-19 guidelines. Grade 12 students must complete these hours by April 30th, 2022 in order to be eligible to graduate.

Scholarship and Bursary information Students looking to pursue post secondary education are encouraged to research and apply to the many available scholarships and bursaries available. Websites which are helpful include:

- www.scholarshipscanada.com
- www.findmyscholarships.com
- www.scholartree.ca
- www.studentawards.com

Students are also reminded to join the guidance google classroom ([5hoqgif](#)) as guidance teachers will use this platform to share information on upcoming scholarship information and due dates.

Moving? Don't forget to inform the school.

Please communicate any address and contact information changes (address, phone number, email address, etc.). Please email the school at bernardete.moreira@wcdsb.ca

Community Support Services

Kids Help Phone: 1-800-668-6868

Here 24/7 (Crisis Line): 1-844-437-3247

Front Door Access to Child and Youth Services: 519-749-2932

If you are feeling unsafe or are experiencing Family Violence:

Women's Crisis Services of Waterloo Region 24 hr crisis line: 519-742-5894

[Link: Contact Women's Crisis Services of Waterloo Region](#)

Families needing support with accessing food – Emergency Food Hamper Program:

519-742-0662 [Link: House of Friendship](#)

Community Outreach Workers are assigned to all neighborhoods in Waterloo Region and are an excellent resource to help kids and families with supports and resources in the community.

To find out who your Outreach worker is, call 519-742-8327 x 240 or email info@familyoutreach.ca

[Link: Family Outreach Program](#)



Technology

Please check the WCDSB student [email account](#) frequently as that is where your key information will be sent.

[Click Here for useful links for students including instructions on how to login to your WCDSB email account.](#)

Student Log In:

Username: LAST 5 digits of the student number + first 3 letters of their last name

Password: Birthdate (MMDDYYYY or DDMMYYYY)

(the students may be prompted to change their password)

Checking Google and D2L

Students are expected to engage and participate in instruction and learning every day. In doing so, students will need to login daily into their Google Class or D2L accounts to participate in and complete a variety of learning tasks (synchronous and asynchronous) assigned by the classroom teacher.

Student Helpdesk: 519-578-3677 ext. 2316 (Leave a Message)

Receiving email from the school



How do I mark a junked email as safe?

Note: some email applications may have a slightly different process to mark emails as 'Safe'.

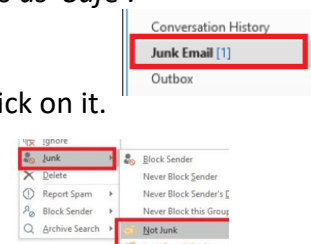
Step 1: Open your e mail application and click the Junk or Spam Email folder

Step 2: Find the email you wish to mark as safe (always receive in Inbox) and right-click on it.

Step 3: Select **Junk** and then click **Not Junk**

The email will be marked as "not junk" and returned to your Inbox.

Future email like this will not be sent to your Junk Folder.



****If you do not find our emails in your spam/junk folder and are still not receiving email from the school, please email [Bernardete Moriera](mailto:Bernardete.Moriera@wcdsb.ca) at Bernardete.moriera@wcdsb.ca**