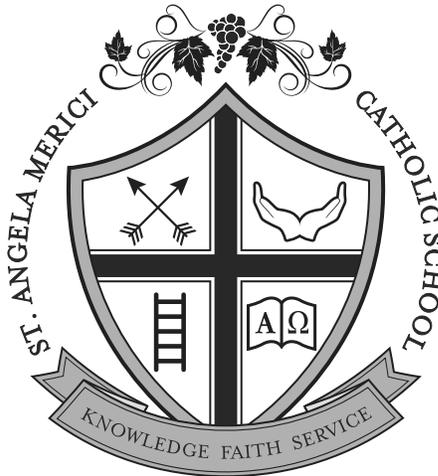


St. Angela Merici Catholic School

Name: _____

Teacher: _____



**St. Angela Merici
Catholic School**

Student Handbook

109 West Park Avenue
Bradford West Gwillimbury, ON L3Z 0A7
289-231-2085



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the 2020 - 2021 school year.

It is with great pleasure that we take this opportunity to welcome you to St. Angela Merici Catholic School. We are extremely proud of our school! We encourage our families to make the most of their time with us. We hope that our students will learn to use this agenda effectively. Time management is a critical skill for success as a student and eventually as a professional in the workplace. We encourage our students to organize their days and weeks to stay on course, take advantage of all that our school and community have to offer, and enjoy the great experience of being an Archer!

We have an active Catholic School Community Council that meets regularly throughout the school year. In addition to its fundraising efforts, Council plays an important role in its advisory capacity to the school principal and the Board. We encourage our parents to come out in September to learn more about this important group and to become involved.

We look forward to working with you to ensure a successful and rewarding school year for everyone!

God Bless,

Joe Almeida
Principal

Sonia Bowen
Vice-Principal

smcdsb.on.ca/sam

Follow us on Twitter: @SMCDSB_SAM

Enrolment Projections & Class Organization

Although the boom growth in Bradford has slowed down, we continue to experience growth at the school. Please note that the enrolment projection we make in the spring may not match our actual numbers in September. This may result in having to re-organize classes during the first weeks of school. We ask for your understanding as we work through this necessary process and apologize for any inconvenience you may experience. Only moves that are unavoidable (due to unforeseen changes in registration and the Ministry of Education mandated class sizes) will be made.

Bell Schedule

8:25 a.m.	Supervision Begins
8:40 a.m.	Learning Block #1
10:40 a.m.	Nutrition Break #1
11:20 a.m.	Learning Block #2
12:40 p.m.	Nutrition Break #2
1:20 p.m.	Learning Block #3
3 p.m.	Dismissal

With a balanced day schedule, students will have two nutrition breaks, each 40 minutes in length. The first will begin at 10:40 a.m. and the second will begin at 12:40 p.m. Half of the school will eat for 20 minutes while the other half is outside for recess. After 20 minutes, there will be a switch so that every student has both an opportunity to eat and to go outside for recess. This balanced day schedule allows for larger uninterrupted learning blocks and cuts down on the number of transitions typical of a traditional day schedule.

FAITH IN OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Our Parish Partner

We believe in fostering a strong relationship between your home, our school and Holy Martyrs of Japan Church. Our parish works closely with our school community to provide our children with an education rooted in the Catholic faith. Throughout the year, there will be opportunities for our students to participate in the sacraments, Mass and prayer celebrations. You will often see our pastor, Father Joshua Roland, celebrating special events with our community.

Sacramental Preparation

We work closely with our parish community to support our students as they get ready to receive their sacraments.

Each year, students in Grade 2 have the opportunity to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Communion. Parents will work with Holy Martyrs of Japan Church to prepare for these sacraments. Our school supports and complements what children are learning at the parish through classroom learning.

In Grade 7, students will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Again, arrangements for this sacrament are made through the parish, but the preparation and celebration of the sacrament is an important part of the students' year.

POSITIVE SCHOOL CLIMATE

Promoting a Positive School Climate

Maintaining a positive school climate at St. Angela Merici Catholic School is a key priority because it helps students feel safe, welcome, and secure. Using Catholic values as a guide, we have procedures and guidelines to ensure that our students and staff learn and work in a positive and productive environment.

Student Behaviour

Our school has established some key statements to outline expectations around student behaviour.

Students at St. Angela Merici Catholic School:

- will be active, positive, and enthusiastic participants within our Catholic community as we strive to live out the Gospel message;
- will come to school on time and prepared to work with an enthusiastic and positive attitude, while striving to achieve their academic goals;
- will be familiar with and practise the school procedures as outlined in this school agenda in addition to any policies outlined by administration during the school year;
- will respect and obey those in authority within our school community including, but not limited to, teachers, early childhood educators, educational assistants, custodians, secretarial staff, noon hour supervisors, and volunteers. Students will address staff and visitors to our school community in a polite and courteous manner; and,
- will respect fellow students as they listen actively, speak honestly, and respond positively in the classroom, on the schoolyard, on the bus, and as ambassadors of our school in the community.

Dress For Success

Students will be participating in a wide range of activities at school – both inside and outdoors – and so, it is important that they wear comfortable and durable clothing that is suitable for the weather.

We model ourselves after Jesus Christ. How we present ourselves must reflect our commitment to promoting a safe, positive, and respectful learning environment.

Appropriate Dress Guidelines:

Choice of dress is an individual's and family's responsibility. However, it is our belief that dress should be appropriate for a Catholic school and must support our efforts to provide "learning environments that are safe, nurturing, positive,

and respectful." Students, staff, volunteers, and visitors are expected to dress appropriately at school and at all school-related activities.

The following are attire expectations at St. Angela Merici Catholic School:

- no clothing or accessories with drug, alcohol, or racist slogans, images, or inappropriate language;
- no clothing which promotes violence or gangs, either explicit or implied;
- accessories such as heavy wallet chains or excessive jewelry are deemed to be inappropriate or unsafe;
- hats, hoods, bandanas, or any other form of headgear, are not permitted inside the school or portables;
- sunglasses (except as prescribed by a doctor), are not to be worn inside the school or portables;
- no inappropriately torn or ripped clothing;
- pants/shorts/skirts/skorts must fit at the waist, and be worn at the waist;
- shoes with laces must be tied. Indoor and outdoor shoes are mandatory. Sandals that are secured with a strap are permitted but proper fitting athletic shoes must be worn for all athletic activities. Flip-flops are not permitted at any time. Any footwear with a heel greater than 1 inch or 2.5 cm is not permitted;
- shorts, skorts or skirts must be at least mid-thigh in length;
- no spaghetti straps, low cut, off-the-shoulders, midriff exposing or backless tops, muscle, halter or tube tops; and,
- no clothing exposing undergarments.

Physical Education and DPA (Daily Physical Activity) are part of the provincial curriculum.

Students are therefore expected to wear appropriate clothing for gym classes, including indoor, non-scuffing shoes for the gym and classroom.

When a discretionary decision is necessary, the principal, vice-principal, or designate will make that decision. Each case will be dealt with individually. Parents will be notified of repeated offences.

Footwear

For safety reasons and to maintain cleanliness in the classrooms, students must have indoor shoes to wear inside their class. Outdoor footwear is not to be worn in teaching areas.

SAFE SCHOOLS

Safe Arrival and Attendance

Children are expected to arrive at school on time. It is important that your child learns the value of being punctual. Our Safe Arrival Program, which includes communicating with our office when your child is late or absent, helps ensure student safety. Any children entering the school after the morning or afternoon entry bell, must first report to the office to obtain an "Admit" slip.

When a student is absent and a call has not been placed to the school, you will receive an automated call. At this point, you will have an opportunity to provide a reason for your child's absence.

Compulsory School Attendance

Did you know that Ontario law states that children between the ages of 6 and 17 must attend school? We appreciate that sometimes there are circumstances beyond your control, such as illness, that might prevent attendance at school. However, these situations should be rare and students should be at school during all other times. The school principal will address prolonged absences.

If your child is away for more than 15 days consecutively due to illness, a medical note will be needed to maintain your child on the school register. There are many supports in place to encourage regular school attendance, including school counsellors and community agencies. Please contact the school if you have questions or concerns.

Reporting Your Child Late or Absent

Please follow this simple, but critical process when reporting your child as late or absent.

If your child will be absent from school or will arrive late, please contact the school at 289-231-2085 and leave the name of the student, teacher, and reason for absence (illness, vacation, appointment, etc.) on our school voicemail. The voicemail is accessible 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

Safe Welcome Program

All of our elementary schools have front door intercom and video technology installed as part of the Ministry of Education's Safe Welcome Program.

The intention of the program is for all elementary schools in Ontario to have doors locked throughout the school day. This means that

students who are late for school or return to school after an appointment will need to be buzzed in through the main entrance. This enhanced security measure provides us with one more way to monitor visitors to our school and helps us ensure that all visitors sign in at the office.

Picking Children Up During the Day

Please come to the office when picking up your child at any time during the school day. The Office Administrator will then arrange to have your child meet you in the office area. For security reasons, parents/visitors may not visit classrooms/portables or enter the schoolyard to pick up children. If you plan to pick up your child early in the day, before dismissal, please send a note to your child's teacher.

Please note that children will only be called to the office once a parent arrives at the office since Office Administrators are neither responsible for nor permitted to supervise. In addition, parents are sometimes delayed getting to school at a predetermined time and valuable learning time is lost when students have to wait lengthy periods.

Pick-up or drop-off of your child is not an appropriate time to meet with the teacher. Parents are asked to please make an appointment if they wish to speak to the teacher so that there will be no distractions as daily routines get underway. This is extremely important.

Yard Supervision

Yard supervision begins at 8:25 a.m. A bell will signal the start of supervision. Students should not arrive at the school before 8:25 a.m.

Students will remain outside until the 8:40 a.m. bell, unless there is inclement weather. On wet mornings or when the temperature is extremely cold, students will be directed indoors.

All students are to enter and exit the building through their designated doors (the same doors they use for recess). Students should only use the main front doors when they are being signed in due to late arrival or signed out by a parent or guardian prior to the end of the school day.

If your child takes the bus and you are picking up your child at the end of the day (outside of normal routine) please ensure you inform the office.

Active Transportation

Our school, together with the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury, is actively promoting walking to and from school. Walking is a great form of

daily exercise. Our students arrive invigorated and better prepared for learning. Please encourage your child(ren), when appropriate, to walk or “wheel” to school on a regular basis. “Wheeling” can include riding a bike, scooter, skateboard, etc. Students must follow safety rules and laws, including wearing a properly fitting helmet.

Students must walk their bikes, scooters, or skateboards when on school property. Please note that the school cannot accept responsibility for damaged or stolen bicycles, scooters, or skateboards.

Riding the Bus

We are committed to providing safe and reliable bus transportation for students who qualify, i.e., whose home address is at least 1.6 km from the school, as determined by the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium. Riding the bus should be an enjoyable and positive experience for our students.

In order to ensure the safety of children riding the bus, we ask the following:

- students who normally ride the bus must take their bus home in the evening unless they have a note from a parent or guardian indicating that they can remain at school or walk home;
- a note from a parent/guardian must be provided to the office if a student plans to get off the bus at a different stop. This note will be approved by the office and then provided to the bus driver; and,
- occasionally, we receive requests from parents to allow their child to ride the bus in order to visit a friend's house. Unfortunately, we are unable to accommodate these requests.

Ensuring Safety on the Bus

It is helpful to periodically remind your child about the rules and expectations of riding a school bus. Although it is very rare, school bus privileges can be suspended temporarily or permanently if a child does not respect the rules and regulations that are in place for the safety of everyone. Here are some basic guidelines to follow:

- your child must always enter the bus in an orderly manner and immediately find a seat;
- once on the bus, he or she must always follow the instructions of the school bus driver;
- all students must remain in their seats while the bus is in motion. With children sitting quietly, the bus driver is free from distractions and able to focus on road safety;

- parents are financially responsible for any willful damage to the bus caused by their children;
- keeping in mind the safety of all riders, we ask that your child not bring any objects onto the bus that may hinder safe operation;
- students must also refrain from eating or drinking on the bus;
- heads and arms must stay inside the bus at all times and aisles should be kept clear; and,
- students must not throw any objects/ litter out of the windows.

Bus Cancellations Due to Inclement Weather

On inclement weather days, we urge you to visit simcoecountyschoolbus.ca or listen to a local radio station to find out if buses are cancelled.

When buses are cancelled in the morning, they are automatically cancelled in the afternoon. Please note that on days when buses are not running, students in attendance will continue to receive the same level of supervision as on any other school day. Regular classroom programs, however, may be suspended if a large number of students or staff are absent. These days provide a good opportunity for students to get caught up on work, receive one-on-one support, or small-group instruction.

Know Your Weather Zone

Weather zones are used to allow for partial bus cancellations. St. Angela Merici Catholic School is in the **SOUTH weather zone**. There are four weather zones and it is possible that buses will run in our zone, but be cancelled in another zone and so it is important for you to know your zone.

Custody

We rely on and appreciate your cooperation in helping us ensure the safety of the students entrusted to our care. In some family situations, there may be custody issues, visiting rights, and special instructions – it is critical that we be made aware of any such situation. Please ensure that the office staff and the classroom teacher are aware of legal agreements between separated or divorced parents and copies of current legal documents are on file in the office.

Emergency Situations

At St. Angela Merici Catholic School, procedures are in place so that we are fully prepared for an emergency situation. Staff and students routinely practise these procedures. If it is necessary to evacuate the school, our students will be relocated to Holy Trinity Catholic High School. In the case of an emergency, relocating students to this location is the responsibility of the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board. In any emergency situation, our school would work

closely with the school board and emergency personnel to provide updates via websites and the media (e-Blasts, Twitter, etc.).

In very rare circumstances, for example a power outage or loss of heat in the winter, we may be required to close the school early. In emergency situations or early school closures, your child may be picked up by you or an authorized designate. If a parent authorizes a designate to pick-up a student, the office would appreciate a signed and dated note.

Major Incidents

We know that being proactive and preparing for the potential of a major incident is a key way to keep our students and staff safe. As part of our Safe Schools initiative, St. Angela Merici Catholic School has worked with the local police service to develop a response plan should a violent incident occur.

This involves immediate contact with the police and a lockdown of the premises. Although highly unlikely that something like this would occur, our staff regularly reviews and practises procedures with the students. Your child may mention to you that they were involved in a “Lock Down” drill because that is what our response plan is referred to within the school. Similarly, staff and students are required to participate in six fire drills (three in the fall and three in the spring), bomb threat drill, and severe weather drill. Efforts are taken to educate and prepare our students ahead of these events.

GETTING INVOLVED

Communicating With You

Establishing a positive and open relationship between parents, teachers and students is a critical part of achieving excellence in education.

The Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board uses the SchoolMessenger Communicate Tool to send messages and updates to our staff and families. These messages can be sent via email, text message or phone. Our school will use this tool to send regular updates to families throughout the year and it will also be used by the Board or the school to communicate information during crisis or emergency situations. It is important that the school office has your most current email address and phone number on file so that you receive the messages in a timely manner

We welcome opportunities for parents to meet with teachers and other school staff as necessary throughout the school year. This student agenda is also an excellent way to communicate with your child’s classroom teacher. You can share questions or concerns via this agenda on a daily or weekly basis.

Online Payment Using School-Day

Our school is excited to offer online payment!

A letter has been sent home to families who are new to the school with details about this new tool. This letter contains a 10-digit “Secure Match Key.” You must use this key to register and set up an account for the online payment tool. Families who have had access from last year are required to use the same access code.

Once you register, you will be able to:

- Approve permission forms and pay online instantly;
- Register your child for extracurricular activities;
- Order and pay for hot lunches; and,
- Reduce the amount of paper sent home in backpacks.

Visit www.school-day.com to register. Once you have registered, you can pay for items and approve permission forms by clicking on the “Online Payment” quick link on our school website or logging in directly on the school-day website: www.school-day.com.

School Boundary

Due to the large number of students at St. Angela Merici, we are designated as a “closed boundary” school. This means that only families residing within our school boundary or catchment area can send their children to our school. Unfortunately, we cannot accept out-of-boundary exemption requests. Parents will be asked to confirm their residence by providing a recent utility bill or other document mailed to the parents’ address. We thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Contact Information

Please inform the school office if your address or any other pertinent information such as home or work telephone numbers, or email addresses, change throughout the year. We need to ensure that our records are accurate and up-to-date.

Making the Most of the School Day

In order to promote the best learning environment possible, we ask that parents keep school day interruptions to a minimum. Planning in advance

and maintaining regular communication through this agenda will help maintain a harmonious and smooth day at school.

- **Dropping off items** – parents are not permitted to go to their child’s classroom to drop off items, check-in, etc. If you need to see your child for some reason or would like to drop something off during the school day, you must check-in at the office.
- **Speaking with the teacher** – if you have questions, we encourage you to speak to your child’s teacher, but we recommend that you arrange discussion for either before or after school hours. In addition, if you are making a change to your child’s regular routine, please make these arrangements well in advance and communicate changes with your child’s teacher in writing.
- **Last-minute messages** – our office is very busy during the day and so we urge you not to rely on us to get last-minute messages to your child, unless it is an emergency.
- **Using the telephone** – students will not be permitted to use the office telephone unless they have permission from their teacher or office staff. If a phone call is necessary, it will be made by the teacher or another adult (this includes calls regarding illness or injury).
- **Use of cell phones** – cell phones are permitted ONLY when supervised by their classroom teacher and ONLY when used as an educational tool. Cell phone use out of these parameters will result in the cell phone being confiscated and held in the office until a parent can pick it up. Emergency calls need to go through the office. Students must keep their cell phones in their backpacks, unless instructed otherwise by their teachers for educational purposes. **At the end of the school day, students must wait until they are off school property to use their phones.**

Catholic School Community Council

Our Catholic School Community Council is composed of parents, a teaching staff representative, a support staff representative, a parish representative, a representative from the community and the principal. Members are elected each fall and serve as an advisory body to the principal on many significant school issues throughout the year. Council represents the school community and works effectively with the school

to communicate and respond to the needs of the community.

Anyone is welcome to attend the meetings. Dates are regularly sent out in our school newsletter. Council believes that school goals should be supported and assisted by parents of our school population. To support these goals that benefit the students directly, Council relies on parents to support fundraising initiatives.

All parents are encouraged to get involved.

HEALTHY SCHOOLS

We know that parents want us to promote a healthy environment at school. This includes promoting healthy food options, opportunities for physical activity, and minimizing exposure to illness, all of which contribute to better learning.

Scent-Safe Schools

Please be advised that a Scent-Safe Schools program is now in place for all schools and board office locations. This means that we are asking for the cooperation of students, staff and visitors in not using scented products in our working and learning environments.

We know that allergies and sensitivities to scents can have severe health implications and so we must do everything possible to ensure that all students, staff and visitors with scent allergies and sensitivities are safe and fully included.

A scent is a smell or odour from products and it can be natural, such as flowers, or synthetic, such as perfume. Examples of products that may have scents include shampoos, deodorant, hairspray, soap, detergents, perfumes, lotions, candles, and cleaning products.

Not using scented products is a simple thing to do and it will help ensure a safe and comfortable environment for all of our students and staff.

Accident or Illness

If your child becomes sick or gets injured while at school, we will contact you as soon as possible. If you are not available, or unable to be contacted, we will call the emergency contacts that you have listed in your child’s record. It is essential that parents and guardians notify the school of changes to phone numbers or contacts. If your child is well enough to attend school, he/she will be required to go outside for recess. We do not have staff supervision to keep students in for this reason.

Concussion Protocol

We have a new concussion protocol that we follow after a student suffers a blow to the head or other event and a concussion is suspected. A parent or guardian will be contacted following the incident. A concussion package will be provided for follow-up with a medical practitioner. A return-to-school plan will be developed after a concussion is confirmed.

Communicable Diseases

The *Health Promotion and Protection Act* requires that children with certain communicable diseases must remain at home.

The following list defines some of the more common childhood diseases and how long your child should stay home if he/she becomes ill with one of these illnesses:

- **Chickenpox** - for 5 days after the rash begins or until all blisters have crusted.
- **Impetigo** - until the antibiotic prescribed by the doctor has been taken for at least one full day (24 hours).
- **Pink-eye** - until the antibiotic prescribed by the doctor has been taken for at least one full day (24 hours).
- **Scabies** - until treatment has been given.
- **Scarlet Fever** - until the antibiotic prescribed by the doctor has been taken for at least one full day (24 hours).
- **Strep Throat** - until the antibiotic prescribed by the doctor has been taken for at least one full day (24 hours).
- **Fifth Disease** - even though this is not a communicable disease, it should be reported to the office because there is a risk posed to pregnant women.

Visit the simcoemuskokahealth.org for more information.

Head Lice

Any situation related to head lice will be dealt with in a discreet manner, thereby protecting the dignity of the child and the privacy of the family. Our school will educate students about preventative measures and we will also send current information from the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit home to parents.

We are asking parents and guardians to help us prevent incidents or the spread of head lice by doing the following:

- Examine your child's head for possible infestations at regular intervals.
- Notify the school of any infestations.

- Ensure that proper and full de-infestation takes place within a reasonable length of time.

The major signs and symptoms of head lice are: intense itching, frequent and persistent head scratching with scratch marks, or an apparent rash on the neck and scalp. Further information regarding head lice is available through the school office or by visiting the Health Unit's website at simcoemuskokahealth.org.

Immunizations

In Ontario, under the *Immunization of School Pupils Act*, you must provide proof that your child's vaccinations are current. When you register your child for school for the first time, you will be asked for a record of your child's immunization. Students, who do not have up-to-date immunization or a valid exemption on file at the Health Unit, may be suspended from school. You can find out more about immunization programs on the Health Unit's website at simcoemuskokahealth.org.

Administering Medication

Some students may require regular or special medication. Our board has a medication administration policy, which states that no medication can be administered by staff without written permission from parents. Students may not carry medication with them at any time, with the exception of an EpiPen (for anaphylaxis) and/or inhaler. Informed consent must be provided from parents should a child be required to carry it with them. If a child requires medication, we will gladly administer it, but only by assigned staff in the office.

For medication to be administered, a consent and instruction form must be filled out. These forms and our board's policy are available at our office or on the board's website at smcdsb.on.ca.

HEALTHY EATING

Nutrition Breaks

With a balanced-day schedule, our students will have two 40-minute nutritional breaks each day. Our students will be divided into two groups so that half will eat first while the other half has recess. Then, after 20 minutes, they switch.

Nutritional Break #1

10:40 a.m.	Group 1 eats/ Group 2 recess
11 a.m.	Group 2 eats/ Group 1 recess

Nutrition Break #2

12:40 p.m. Group 1 eats/ Group 2 recess
1 p.m. Group 2 eats/ Group 1 recess

*Please note that hot food lunch orders will be ordered for Nutritional Break #2. Any changes to this arrangement will be communicated to parents well in advance.

By maintaining split nutritional blocks, we can better manage our numbers outside during recess. With roughly half the student population out at one time, students will have more space in which to play and enjoy recess.

Students will eat their lunches at their desks and will remain on school property, unless special permission has been granted. Students who walk to school may go home for lunch if they have written permission from a parent. For the safety of your child, we ask that a consistent routine be established. If your child is going to a friend's house for lunch, written permission is required from the parents of both children.

Snacks

Students will be provided with time in the classroom to have snacks and drinks. All food and beverages must be consumed in the classroom and are not to be consumed in the hallway, gym, washrooms, or outside at recess. We discourage students from using glass bottles and containers for their drinks and snacks.

Allergies

Many children have allergies, but for some students an allergy can be life threatening. For example, even a minimal exposure to peanuts can prove fatal within minutes. Some other common allergens include tree nuts, shellfish, eggs, milk and latex – all of these can cause severe reactions.

If your child has a severe allergy, it is absolutely critical that you let us know. With your help, we will do our best to reduce risk and make sure all our students are safe, healthy, and able to concentrate on learning.

Staff is instructed on how to deal with anaphylactic shock. However, our best course of action is to prevent exposure to potentially life-threatening allergies. As a school community, we must work together to ensure the safety of all students.

Here is what we are doing to reduce the risk of allergic exposure:

- All food and beverages must be consumed inside the classroom – under no

circumstances are students allowed to have snacks in the schoolyard.

- Our school is a peanut and tree nut aware zone. Please ensure that all food sent to school with your child meets the nut-aware standard. **This includes “Wow Butter” and hazel nut spread (Nutella, etc.) products. Board policy does not permit “Wow Butter” on school premises.**
- Your child's teacher will inform you if there are other allergies in your child's classroom. We ask that you please understand and appreciate the health and safety of every student by not sending food and beverage items that may be a cause for concern.
- **We ask that you not provide treats for the classroom for special occasions. There are many students with a variety of food allergies and so we err on the side of caution to make sure all of our students are safe. Please consider non-food options as treats.**

Selling Food and Beverage

We know that making healthy food choices while in school supports learning. The Government of Ontario has a school food and beverage policy, which has impacted the kinds of food and beverages we can sell at our school. The policy encourages selling lunches, snacks and drinks that follow the principles of healthy eating in *Canada's Food Guide*.

Please note that St. Angela Merici Catholic School is fully compliant with the school food and beverage policy as mandated by the Ministry of Education. We will be offering healthy food options to our students. Additional information will be provided in the fall.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Recess

Getting some fresh air and participating in physical activity at recess is important. Unless the weather is unsuitable, students are expected to be outside during recess. We cannot leave children unsupervised inside the classroom and so they must go out to the yard where supervision is provided.

Dressing for the Weather

We ask that students dress in clothing that is suitable for the weather – this is especially important during the winter months. Durable and warm clothing will help ensure that your child's outdoor experiences are enjoyable. It is also advisable to label all clothing, i.e., mitts, hats and

indoor shoes, with your the child's first and last name.

Yard Safety

While outside at recess, we expect students to play safely and respect the rules of the schoolyard at all times. During the winter months, it is essential to leave all snow on the ground. Throwing snowballs or kicking snow is not acceptable and poses a safety risk to others.

Bringing Personal Property to School

Please remember that the school is not responsible for damage, theft or loss to personal property. Valuables must not be brought to school. Mobile devices are not to be used on school property, unless approved by the classroom teacher, using the BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) policy — typically for Grade 6, 7 and 8 students. Inappropriate and unsupervised use of cell phones will result in the phone being confiscated and held in the office until a parent can pick it up.

Lost and Found

We encourage our students to regularly check the lost and found for any misplaced items. If you know your child is missing something, you are welcome to check the lost and found yourself (please check-in at the office first). Unclaimed items will eventually be donated to a local charity.

Field Trips

Students enjoy going on trips outside of the school. Field trips are a fun and informative way of providing your child with a new learning experience. Our board has a field trip policy, which you can find in the Policy and Procedures section of the website at smcdsb.on.ca.

The classroom teacher will inform parent volunteers of responsibilities and expectations as well as appropriate strategies for dealing with misbehaviour. Prior to the field trip, the teacher will discuss the purpose of the field trip and learning outcomes for students.

Volunteers

We would like to thank all of our volunteers for the wonderful things they do to enhance our students' experiences at school. From volunteering in the classroom to assisting on school trips, your assistance is much appreciated.

As a parent, if you wish to help out in any way at St. Angela Merici Catholic School, please be aware that a current Criminal Background Check (CBC) with a Vulnerable Sector Screening (VSS) is required to be on file with the office. This applies to all school-related activities including

driving students, assisting around the school with hot lunch, or accompanying students on class trips. The form can be picked up from the school. Once signed by the principal, you will need to take it to the South Simcoe Police Service at 81 Melbourne Drive, Bradford.

A CBC is valid for one year. Each year thereafter, you may complete an Annual Offence Declaration (AOD) Form at no additional cost. To be able to continue to volunteer in our school, please pick up this form from the office and return it as soon as possible. Lapsed CBCs and AODs will require a new check to be completed.

Co-curricular Activities

There are various clubs and sports teams offered at the school. Many take place during nutritional breaks, as well as before or after school. These co-curricular activities provide opportunities for students to learn new skills and form friendships. They help to teach teamwork, co-operation, and demonstrate school spirit.

In order to participate in co-curricular activities, students must make a sincere effort in their academic endeavours, and demonstrate acceptable levels of trust-worthiness. Students must conduct themselves in an appropriate manner both in and out of the school. It is important for students to represent our school community by showing good sportsmanlike qualities and by dressing appropriately for all events.

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING

Homework

Homework is an integral part of a student's learning experience. In order to get the most out of school, students will be required, at times, to finish or continue their studies outside of the classroom. Research clearly shows that students who successfully complete homework achieve greater academic success in school.

On occasion, parents become concerned with the amount or content of homework assigned by the classroom teacher. If this is the case, please contact your child's teacher.

It is recommended that all students read each night, and, in the case of younger students, be read to by a parent or older sibling. For families whose first language is not English, we have some wonderful dual-language books available through the library (English-Portuguese, English-Polish, English-Italian, etc.). It is recommended that

parents read to their children in their native language.

Students can also practice important math skills daily. The best, and most fun way of doing so, is by playing card, dice, and board games as a family. For example, Dominoes is a great way to develop the skill of “subitizing” — this is the ability to recognize a grouping of dots without having to count each dot individually. Using dice also facilitates the acquisition of this skill.

Notebooks

Our school provides students with notebooks for subject areas or projects to support them in their learning. The notebooks provided to our students for school use are to be kept neat and organized. Only items pertaining to your child’s learning should be written in the books. Defacing or marking of notebooks is not acceptable.

Library Resources

Students will have the opportunity to sign out books or resources from the school library. These items must be returned the next time they visit the library. Students will not be able to sign out new material until their previous items have been returned. If a book is lost or damaged, it is expected that the student or parent will replace the item or cover the cost of replacement.

Once your child has signed an Internet Use Agreement form, he/she will be able to access the Internet. All time spent on the Internet will be closely supervised. Students who repeatedly misuse this privilege will lose it. Dependent on the severity of the incident, other consequences, including suspension, are possible.

Wishing You a Successful Year

We hope you have found the information in this agenda informative and useful. If at any time throughout the school year, you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child’s teacher or office staff. We know that each child will grow tremendously – both in learning and in faith. We look forward to working with you to provide your child with a fulfilling and memorable year.

Dates At A Glance: 2020-2021

September 8: First Day of School
October 12: Thanksgiving
November 19/20: Parent-Teacher Interviews
December 19 – January 3: Christmas Break
February 2: PA Day
February 15: Family Day
March 13 – 21: March Break
April 2: Good Friday
4: Easter
5: Easter Monday
23: PA Day
May 24: Victoria Day
28: PA Day
June 29: Last day of school
30: PA Day

