



NOTRE DAME
CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL

Good Afternoon Notre Dame Families,

We hope everyone was able to stay warm during the blustery weather this weekend. Congratulations on being in the home stretch of semester one. We are almost there ND! Keep pushing through, and ensuring that you are attending regularly, checking in with your teachers when you need assistance, and finishing the semester strong.

Semester one final report cards will be emailed to parents and guardians on February 21. If you have any questions about your child's progress, please reach out to their teacher directly. Their email contact information can be accessed on our [Notre Dame website](#).

As we near the end of the semester we wanted to share some reminders and information updates.

Prayer Before an Exam

Dear Lord, as I take this exam, I
thank you that my value is not
based on my performance, but on
your great love for me.

Come into my heart so that we can
walk through this time together.

As I take this exam, bring back
to my mind everything I studied
and be gracious with what I have
overlooked.

Help me to remain focused and
calm, confident in the facts and in
my ability, and firm in the
knowledge that no matter what
happens today you are always
here with me.

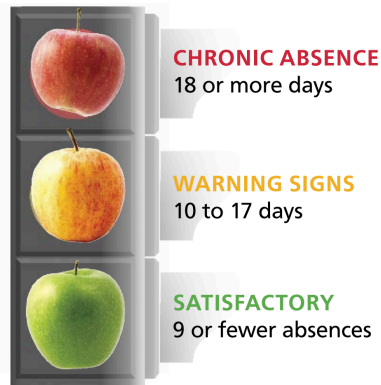
Amen.

Attendance:

Regular attendance is an important predictor of student success. Attendance is critical at this time of year as students are working on culminating activities and preparing for exams.

This week, parents and guardians will receive an email with their child's absences so far this year if they have more than 15 absences this semester as a check-in and opportunity to start a conversation.

When Do Absences Become a Problem?



Note: These numbers assume a 180-day school year.

We recognize that there are many factors that impact a student's attendance. These can include health challenges, mental wellness, and peer dynamics. Our intention with sharing this information is to stress the importance of attendance and provide resources and support to families when there are barriers to attendance. If you have concerns about your child's mental health and well-being, we would encourage to consider accessing the following resources:

- Consulting your family doctor
- Contacting Access & System Navigation (centralized intake for youth services in Halton) at 289-266-0036
- Speaking with your child's Vice Principal about school-based supports

Absences can be reported:

- By phone- 1-844-445-4505
- Via the School Messenger website- <https://go.schoolmessenger.com/#/home>
- Via the School Messenger mobile app

Please note, you must use the email address and/or phone number associated with your child's school to sign up. **Please do not give the login or password information to your child. Absences must be reported by a parent or guardian unless the student is over the age of 18.**

Semester One Exam Schedule:

Exams start on Thursday January 25, 2024. Please review the [exam schedule](#) posted on our ND website.



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SEMESTER 1 - FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE - JANUARY 25, 2024 – JANUARY 31, 2024

THURSDAY JANUARY 25	FRIDAY JANUARY 26	MONDAY JANUARY 29	TUESDAY JANUARY 30	WEDNESDAY JANUARY 31	THURSDAY FEBRUARY 1
PERIOD 1 FINAL EXAM	PERIOD 2 FINAL EXAM	PERIOD 3 FINAL EXAM	PERIOD 4 FINAL EXAM	Exam Contingency Day	EXAM REVIEW DAY* *Teachers will be available for students to review exams in designated rooms from: 8:20 am – 12 noon & 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

- All exams begin at 8:30 A.M. Locations will be posted in the spectrum and on our ND website and socials.
- Grade 9 & 10 Exams are 1 ½ hours in length; Grade 11 & 12 Exams are 2 hours in length
- Students must be in full uniform
- Students do not attend school on days they don't have exams

Please Note: Parents are requested to schedule holidays and family events so as not to conflict with the final exam period - January 25 through to February 1, 2024.

If you have a conflict with the exam schedule, please ensure you reach out to administration as soon as possible.

Anticipating Bus Delays:

Due to a recent increase in bus driver absences, largely attributed to illness, Halton Student Transportation Services (HSTS) is expecting potential delays in school bus services in the coming weeks. Driver absences necessitate the redistribution of their routes among the remaining drivers. This can unfortunately lead to delays in bus schedules. HSTS is actively working to mitigate these delays as much as possible, and is diligently coordinating to ensure that all routes are covered and that delays are minimized. However, given the current circumstances, some level of disruption is inevitable. Parents and guardians are encouraged to regularly check the [HSTS website](#) for delay/cancellation updates.

Uniform:

Students are expected to be in full uniform during the school day and in all areas of the building. Students are reminded that the McCarthy Notre Dame hoodie is the only acceptable uniform hoodie. SHSHM, team, club and spirit-wear are not part of the uniform. Additionally, track pants are not part of the uniform.



Students are expected to be in full uniform during exams. The only exception is on exam review day, on February 1, when students come into the school to review their assessments.

Washrooms:

As we continue to work to improve accessibility in our washrooms, students are reminded:

- Students are not to congregate in washrooms.
- Students are not to sit on the floor or eat in washrooms
- There should only be one student in a stall at all times
- Backpacks are not permitted in the washroom

Students that are unable to adhere to these expectations will face progressive discipline.

Community Bulletin Board in the Cafeteria:

We are excited to announce a new student-led initiative in the cafeteria. The community bulletin board will not only be the place where clubs, sports, and unions can promote themselves, but also each month, the board will take on a different theme, showcasing and honouring the various heritages and cultures represented in the Notre Dame community. If you have anything you would like posted on the board, please reach out to administration for approval **before** posting.

School-Based Supports:

If your child is struggling academically or with their mental health, we are here to help. Please reach out to your child's Vice Principal to discuss the situation and determine next steps and resources available.

Sincere thanks,

The Notre Dame Admin Team, @InsideND