

# WELCOME BACK!

Welcome to the 2023-2024 School Year! Our dedicated team of principals, educators, and staff have been working tirelessly to ensure a safe, enriching, and inspiring learning environment for everyone. We are excited to welcome our students and families on the first day of school on Wednesday, August 30.

It is with immense joy that I extend a warm and heartfelt welcome to each and every one of you. As the Director of Education at Kenora Catholic, I am deeply honoured to be part of a community that values faith, compassion, and academic excellence. Our commitment to fostering not only academic growth but also spiritual development sets us apart.

Our schools are not just a place of learning; they are a sanctuary where faith flourishes, friendships are forged, and dreams take flight. Families are encouraged to participate in school and board events, and join us in prayer as we navigate the year ahead together.

The theme for Catholic Education Week for 2024 is, 'We are called to love', and was inspired by the following considerations:

- In his visit to Canada last summer, Pope Francis gave us hope for our continued work for Truth and Reconciliation. Kenora Catholic will be acknowledging the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on Friday, September 29th. All students will be provided with an Orange Shirt to wear to school on September 29th. Watch for your child's shirt coming soon!
- Catholic Education Week comes at the same time as Mental Health Awareness Week. Through love and compassion, we continue to support each other's well-being.
- In our continued work for Equity and Inclusion in Catholic schools, a focus on love reminds us that all God's children are loved unconditionally. All are welcome and belong.

Let us work together to instill the values of the Catholic faith, foster academic excellence, and ensure the well-being of our students while also providing them with the knowledge and skills necessary to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

Thank you for your dedication and service to our students and schools. Our families and students are at the heart of why our schools are filled with warmth and feel so special.

May this year be filled with growth, joy, and success.

*Nicole Kurtz*  
Director of Education

