

## MISSION STATEMENT

Niagara Catholic High School, a college preparatory community that integrates faith and life, is committed to educating and nurturing leaders who are rooted in Gospel values.

## PHILOSOPHY

Niagara Catholic High School has a tradition of excellence that reaches back to its predecessors: St. Mary's, Bishop Duffy and Madonna. Building on those foundations, we continue to provide a comprehensive and holistic secondary education in the Roman Catholic tradition.

We see four intersecting spheres of influence that converge around the formation of our students. Therefore our philosophy emphasizes the collaboration of the faculty and staff, the families of our students, the parishes of our area, and the wider community of Niagara and northern Erie counties.

Our school is in a unique position as the only Catholic secondary school in Niagara County. We strive to create an atmosphere that is conducive to learning, intentional about its religious and moral formation, responsive to students' needs, and challenging both in its curriculum and extra-curricular opportunities. We want to give our students values and skills

that will enable them to be faithful Christians, concerned citizens, and life-giving leaders, now and in the future.

In the academic realm, we provide a college preparatory curriculum that meets the standards of the New York State Regents. Through our partnership with Niagara University, our students are able to take college courses and gain advanced standing. We instill principles of hard work, self-discipline and academic excellence while providing the necessary help for the student who struggles.

As a community of faith, we seek the healthy integration of faith and life. We seek to foster a personal relationship with Jesus Christ in each of our students. We show them how membership in the Church can nurture that faith. Recognizing the nature of adolescent faith, we approach their questions with openness and take them seriously. By word and action, we lead our students to understand that being a Christian also involves service to those in need and working to overcome injustice.

We are also attentive to the personal development of our students. We seek to provide a safe and secure environment in which students may attain their potential. We foster the development of social skills, physical and athletic

abilities, artistic and cultural appreciation, and the ability to discern what is right and just. We emphasize the importance of healthy relationships among our students, as well as between students, parents and staff.

We hold ourselves accountable to the values and principles we espouse and to the standards we have set. Students are taught to be responsible in all areas of life. Their academic progress is assessed and they are given feedback in other areas of life as well. Faculty members are evaluated on a regular basis. The involvement of the Parents association in the life of the school brings an important area of feedback.

An independent audit ensures financial accountability. The Board of Trustees develops and directs the plans and future of the school. Middle States accreditation provides another opportunity for ongoing evaluation. Each of these groups contributes to our faithfulness to the standards we want to attain.

As a Catholic Christian community, we hope to accomplish all of this through a process of openness with each other, a willingness to cooperate, and a strong commitment to our Judeo-Christian heritage. We seek to teach as Jesus did by word and example.