



## **SAINT MICHAEL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL** **VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN SELECTION**

**Valedictorian:** The valedictorian will deliver the farewell/congratulatory address to the graduating class after the awards and diplomas have been conferred.

**Salutarian:** The salutarian will welcome guests to the Catholic faith-based graduation ceremony on behalf of the graduating class.

The Niagara Catholic valedictorian/salutarian selection process is designed to be an inclusive, transparent and comprehensive process to ensure that all graduating students have an equal opportunity to represent their graduating class.

All Grade 12 graduating students in each Niagara Catholic secondary school will be provided with the opportunity to complete and submit the valedictorian application for review/consideration by the Graduation Committee. The application is a Google Form with can be found by clicking on this link:

<https://forms.gle/CrdqoYi16JA5JN3c8>

Applications must be submitted no later than 12:00 p.m., on Friday April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024 this year. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

### **VALEDICTORIAN APPLICATION**

The valedictorian application is comprised of the following five categories:

1. Academic achievement - Overall grade point average for Grade 11 and 12 courses only
2. School leadership - Outline leadership qualities within your school
3. Co-instruction involvement - Outline involvement and experiences in clubs, teams, or other activities at school
4. Community involvement - Outline community involvement, experiences, and activities
5. Self-reflection - Student choice

### **THREE-STEP SELECTION PROCESS**

#### **Step One: Application Review by the Graduation Committee**

- The Graduation Committee will review all valedictorian applications based on academic achievement, strong school leadership qualities and demonstration of exceptional character while embodying a commitment to the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations.
- Upon review, the Graduation Committee will select no fewer than five, and no more than 10 candidates for peer voting.
- The Graduation Committee will notify the successful candidates and confirm that their names will appear on the ballot prior to peer voting.

#### **Step Two: Peer Voting**

- The successful candidates will be invited to complete a Valedictorian Candidate Profile (see details below) which will be posted outside of the guidance office and provided to all graduates via their Niagara Catholic email address.
- A link to access the valedictorian voting ballot will be provided to all graduating students via their Niagara Catholic email address.
- Students are to rank their top three choices. A ballot is considered a SPOILED BALLOT if the same candidate is ranked more than once on the ballot.

### **Step Three: Scoring of the Ballots by the Graduation Committee**

The Graduation Committee will score the eligible ballots and award the candidates with points as follows:

- Three points for a first vote
- Two points for a second vote
- One point for a third vote

Valedictorian: The candidate receiving the highest overall score will be selected as the Valedictorian.

Salutatorian: The candidate receiving the second highest overall score will be selected as the Salutatorian.

The Graduation Committee will provide the names of the valedictorian and salutatorian to the school principal. The school principal will inform the successful candidates after the graduation mass. The Valedictorian and Salutatorian must submit a copy of their farewell/congratulatory address to the school principal for review and approval at least two weeks prior to the graduation ceremony date.

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**\*\*\*INFORMATION BELOW IS FOR SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES\*\*\***

### **VALEDICTORIAN CANDIDATE PROFILE**

The Graduation Committee will select the candidates for peer voting. Each candidate will provide a maximum of 4 Google slides (minimum font size of 12) outlining the following:

**1. INTRODUCTION SLIDE** - Your first and last name and picture(s) (for our graduates who are new to our school).

**2. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT** - Outline your community involvement, community experiences and activities.

**3. SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT** - Outline your school involvement and experiences over your past 4 years (clubs, teams, sports etc.) including specific accomplishments or positions of leadership where applicable.

**4. CHURCH/PARISH/FAITH INVOLVEMENT AND CATHOLIC GRADUATE EXPECTATIONS** - Describe your activities and involvement with your church, parish, or faith. Include faith-based activity involvement and leadership within the school during your time at Saint Michael. How have you exemplified the qualities of a Catholic Graduate as outlined in the "Catholic Graduate Expectations" (see below)?

#### ***Catholic School Graduate Expectations***

- *A discerning believer formed in the Catholic faith community who celebrates the signs and sacred mysteries of God's presence through word, sacrament, prayer, forgiveness, reflection and moral living;*
- *An effective communicator who speaks, writes and listens honestly and sensitively, responding critically in light of gospel values;*
- *A reflective, creative and holistic thinker who solves problems and makes responsible decisions with an informed moral conscience for the common good;*
- *A self-directed, responsible, life-long learner who develops and demonstrates his/her God-given potential;*
- *A collaborative contributor who finds meaning, dignity and vocation in work which respects the rights of all and contributes to the common good;*
- *A caring family member who attends to family, school, parish, and the wider community;*
- *A responsible citizen who gives witness to Catholic social teaching by promoting peace, justice and the sacredness of human life.*

The slides will be printed and posted outside of the guidance office and provided to all graduates via their Niagara Catholic email address.