



Student/Parent Information Handbook
#300, 56 Holt Street, RED DEER, AB T4N 6A6
Phone (403) 343-3238 Fax (403) 343-2503

PRINCIPAL - Ms. Cathy Cameron
VICE PRINCIPALS - Mr. Brandon Heck and Mrs. Mandy Reed

School Website: stpatsschool.ca
Facebook: facebook.com/StPatsRD
Twitter: twitter.com/Stpatsrd
Instagram: instagram.com/stpatsrd/

Greetings from Your Administrator Team:
Ms. Cathy Cameron, Mr. Brandon Heck, and Mrs. Mandy Reed

Welcome to 2020 - 2021 school year

We are very excited to begin another year of Catholic Education with the students, parents and staff at St. Patrick's Community School. Due to COVID 19, St. Patrick's will be following the traditional calendar for the 2020-21 school year only. We take great pride in our Catholic educational programming that we provide to our families. We live by our mission that as partners in God's community, we believe that we are responsible to build an atmosphere of Christian learning and love through praying and learning together as contributing members of St. Patrick's Community School. We believe that by having and displaying a growth mindset, working hard and collaboratively, we can attain success within St. Patrick's School community, through the grace of God. We ask for God's continued blessings on everyone who encounters and contributes to our school community and pray that all students, parents, and staff have a rewarding year.

Our division theme this year is
"Trust the Lord with all your heart."

Division Mission Statement

Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools is committed to serving the children and the parents with a complete offering of learning opportunities delivered within the context of Catholic teachings and tradition, and within the means of the district.

Our schools are gospel-centered communities of hope, fostering a Catholic Christian value system within a pluralistic society. We endeavor to build a Catholic Christian community by following eight Principles of Practice.

We make Christ's life, mission, and teaching our focal point of belief and conduct within our Catholic schools. Therefore, the education of the whole child – intellectual, aesthetic, emotional, social, physical, and spiritual – IS OUR SERVICE COMMITMENT.

Principles of Practice

We honor our children

Our schools are child-centered communities. We celebrate each student as a unique child of Christ through our love, caring and respect.

We provide a safe and secure environment

Our schools provide an environment of belonging for all children through gospel-centered communities of hope.

We live and proudly proclaim our Catholic Christian faith

Our faith permeates our thoughts, words and deeds as we model Jesus, serving children first.

We provide quality education in a Catholic environment

Our schools maintain high standards of academic achievement while fostering lifelong faith development.

We pray as an education community

Our Catholic Christian education system reflects the communion of home, school and church providing daily opportunities for prayer and celebration of our faith

We practice servant-leadership

Staff members are committed members of our faith community who serve the family, school and church.

We focus on our mission through clarity of purpose

Our Catholic Christian faith is clearly and consistently communicated and supports our unique and distinct ministry.

We value our staff

Our staff members are an integral part of our community and we affirm their ministry and life long journey.

2020 - 2021 St. Patrick's Calendar

Office Opens	August 26
Teacher Organizational Day	August 27
PD Day (no school for students)	August 28
1st day for students	August 31
Labour Day Holiday	September 7
PD Day (no school for students)	September 25
PD Day (no school for students)	October 9
Thanksgiving Day Holiday	October 12
PD Day (no school for students)	October 23
Remembrance Day (no school)	November 11
No School in Lieu of PSTI	November 12
Fall Break (no school)	November 13
PD Day (no school for students)	November 27
PD Day (no school for students)	December 11
Christmas Holidays	Dec 21 - Jan 1
PD Day (no school for students)	January 29
Family Day Break	Feb 15 - 17
Teacher PD and Convention	Feb 18 and Feb 19
PD Day (no school for students)	March 5
No School in Lieu of PSTI	March 19
PD Day (no school for students)	March 22
Easter Break	April 2 - April 9
PD Day (no school for students)	May 7
PD Day (no school for students)	May 21
Victoria Day Holiday	May 24
PD Day (no school for students)	June 4
Last Student Day	June 29
Teacher Organizational Day	June 30

ReEntry

[Please check our division website for up-to-date information on school re-entry.](#)

School Hours

Office Hours: 8:00am - 4:00pm

Class Hours: 8:40 am - 3:10 pm

During the COVID-19 Pandemic, our school is open for students and staff ONLY. If you need to speak to a teacher, please email or phone. If you require administration support, please call to make an appointment.

The doors to the school open and supervision of students starts at 8:25 am and students are dismissed at 3:10pm.

St. Patrick's Community School promotes a Peanut-Safe School. Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee a nut-free environment.

Students' Rights

All staff and students of St. Patrick's Community School will make every effort to ensure that students in our school have the right to:

- Learn in a safe, peaceful, and Catholic environment
- Know what behavior is expected of them while at school or on school functions
- Be protected from physical harm and verbal abuse
- Have positive behavior recognized and reinforced
- Have their concerns heard
- Be treated fairly, with kindness and caring

LIFE (Lived Inclusion for Everyone) Framework

Schools may establish a student group, which engages in discussion and activities related to diversity and justice issues, including support for students belonging to social minorities. Students may provide leadership and will receive support from staff to continue to build inclusive communities, aligned with our Catholic teachings.

Parents will be notified if any groups are formed that engage in discussion and activities related to diversity and justice issues, including support for students belonging to social minorities. If you wish further information please contact your principal.

Students' Responsibilities

All students are expected to:

- Perform their role as a student learner to the best of their ability
- Treat others in the school with kindness and respect
- Promote the safety of our entire school
- Respect, listen to and respond to teacher or adult supervisors

- Follow school and classroom rules and regulations set out by teachers
- Take pride in the facility and resources at school and treat them with respect
- Monitor other students and encourage positive conduct by everyone
- Attend school every day - on time

Student Cell Phones

Research has proven that cell phones can be distracting to your child's learning. During the COVID-19 Pandemic, all cell phones must be silenced and placed in the student backpack.

Parents, if you need to contact your child during the school day, please call the school office at 403-343-3238. This expectation supports and protects students' rights as well as upholds the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act. Parents, we appreciate your support in reinforcing this policy with your child. Accommodations can be discussed for emergency situations. On a first occurrence, the cell phone will be taken away by the teacher; on a second occurrence, the cell phone will be turned in to the office to be picked up at the end of the day; on a third occurrence, the cell phone will be taken to the office to be picked up by the parent.

All cell phones brought to school by students are at their own risk. Lost and/or misplaced cell phones will not be replaced by the school.

SCHOOL PROGRAMS

RELIGION CLASSES AND CELEBRATIONS

During the COVID pandemic, celebrations and liturgies will take place within your child's classroom.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

The Core Program for Middle School includes: English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies and Religion. Other required courses are: Physical Education, and Health.

The Career and Skill Development (CSD) courses will meet the CTF requirements - Career and Technology Foundations as set out by Alberta Education.

The school year is divided into 3 trimesters. Report Cards for all students in Grades 1 - 9 are available online and are not printed off. Parents are encouraged to access current academic information as well as important school information at any time using the internet via ("PowerSchool" at <https://powerschool.rdcrs.ca/public/home.html>). Information regarding the website and your student's ID and Password will be sent home at the beginning of the school year.

More information about the Program of Studies can be found on the Alberta Education Website:

<http://www.education.alberta.ca/>

Parent/Student/Teacher Interviews

As a result of the COVID Pandemic, teachers will provide parents/guardians with personal student updates

using:

- Edsby and PowerSchool
- Email
- Phone calls
- Digital meetings

FINAL EXAMS

Final exams, including Provincial Achievement Tests are currently under advisement.

HOMEWORK

Students are expected to complete unfinished classroom assignments as homework. All students are encouraged to do daily home reading. Students having difficulty keeping up with assignments will be given extra assistance. Teachers are encouraged to communicate with parents/guardians through the St. Patrick's webpage, email, PowerSchool, Edsby, phone calls and/or parent meetings.

DIGITAL FLUENCY

In support of digital fluency, students complete monthly "digital citizenship" lessons where they learn about: internet safety, privacy and security, creative credit and copyright, information literacy, cyberbullying, digital drama, hate speech, relationships and communications, digital footprint and identity, media balance and well being.

DAWE CENTER LIBRARY

We are privileged to utilize Red Deer Public Library Dawe Branch as our school learning commons. During the COVID Pandemic, the librarian at the Dawe library will visit each classroom to exchange books and support student reading. For more information call (403) 341-3822 or visit www.rdpl.org. For more information call (403) 341-3822 or visit www.rdpl.org.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education is compulsory for all students. During the COVID pandemic, students will remain with their own cohort class for Phys. Ed. As changerooms are currently closed, we request that all students bring a change of shoes only. In middle school, all students are asked to use personal hygiene products, such as deodorant.

AWARDS

At middle school, an awards celebration is held after each term with a final celebration in June to recognize students who have achieved a high level of academic, social, athletic, and spiritual excellence. As a result of dedication, hard work, continuous improvement and demonstration of a Christian attitude, students have the opportunity to be recognized for their worthy contributions in making St. Patrick's an excellent learning community.

Elementary success assemblies are held throughout the year to recognize academic achievement, spiritual growth, and good citizenship. We endeavor to acknowledge students' hard work and encourage continued dedication throughout their school career.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

COUNSELLING SERVICES

St. Patrick's uses several different approaches in meeting students' needs. One method is the 'teacher as counsellor' which is the situation where a teacher will offer a student general guidance and direction. A second method is through our Family School Enhancement Counselor and the third is by making referrals to our Mental Health Therapist. For further inquiries about our counseling services, please call the office.

Our counseling programs offers the following services:

- Programming and planning for grade nine students entering high school
- Personal counseling to assist students with personal or family concerns, and peer relationships
- Peer support
- Assistance with referrals to community supports
- In-class presentations on various topics
- Liaison between home and school
- Family support
- Meeting times and locations are flexible

OTHER SERVICES AVAILABLE

Medical Concerns

Individuals who have allergies or ongoing health issues and who are exhibiting COVID-like symptoms must be tested at least once according to the Alberta Health Services Guidance. This will establish a baseline for the individual. If symptoms change (worsen, additional symptoms, change in baseline) the individual must stay home and be tested and cleared. Schools will track typical symptoms that may be confused for COVID-19 for students in PowerSchool as they would with other medical conditions.

Parents, for your child's safety, please make the office staff aware of any medical problems that may affect their children during the school day. Parents or designated contacts will be notified immediately if an emergency arises. Staff are not permitted to provide students with any medication. Student medications must be stored in the office.

Property Damage –Theft

Any student involved in the damaging of school property or theft will be expected to pay for the damage or theft incurred. Other school consequences may be applied that are appropriate to the offence.

Supplies And Valuables

It is strongly suggested that students do not bring valuables to school. All clothing (ie: boots, mitts, coats) and school supplies should be clearly labeled with the child's first and last name. All students are to have a pair of indoor shoes which are stored in their classroom.

Lost And Found

Items of value that have been found are retained in the office. Clothing and miscellaneous items are kept in a hallway "lost and found". Periodically these items will be displayed for retrieval. Those items not collected will be given away to a charity.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Attendance

All students are expected to attend school as per the Alberta Education Act. Students absent from school without good reason are considered truant. All absentees are checked by telephone from the school. Parents are required to phone the school when their child is ill. Students who are late must check in at the office for a late slip. Late slips must be given to the classroom teacher upon admittance to class. Chronic truancy and late students will be dealt with according to the Alberta Education Act.

Student Leadership Team

This group of students assists with school events that build school spirit.

Field Trips

Field trips and activities requiring group transportation are postponed, in keeping with provincial guidelines.

Dress Code

Outer clothing and backpacks are to be stored in backpacks during class time. All clothing is to be appropriate and respectful for the classroom. We promote modesty. Outer clothing items with slogans inappropriate to a Catholic school are not permitted. Students' shirts must cover their shoulders and must be long enough to be tucked in. Shorts, dresses and skirts should be no shorter than mid-thigh. All pants must cover undergarments. Bandanas for all students are prohibited.

School Visitors

For the safety of our students and staff, the school is currently restricted to only students, staff, and parents with a pre arranged appointment with the principal.

Bicycles/Rollerblades/Skateboards

Students may ride bicycles to school provided they are locked up throughout the day in the bicycle racks provided. Students must wear helmets when riding bicycles, rollerblades and skateboards. If riding bikes or skateboards to school—students must dismount and walk when they enter school grounds.

Students may blade to school; however, roller blades are to be removed at the school entrance area and carried into the school.

Aerosol Spray Products

To maintain a safe environment for students with allergies, students are asked to refrain from using aerosol spray products such as deodorants, perfumes and body sprays at the school and instead use stick forms or non-aerosol products when used.

Clubs, Organizations and Events

Clubs and organizations include Ambassadors, school teams, Health Champions, Middle School Student Voice team, recycling team, and Edge Ministry. Events include St. Patrick's Day festivities, liturgical and other celebrations, track & field meet, elementary fun day, theme days, Grade Nine Farewell, and awards recognition assemblies.

School Council

We are excited to renew the School Council's presence at St. Patrick's. If you are interested in having a direct impact on your child's educational experience, please contact Cathy Cameron, Principal, at 403-343-3238. Currently, meetings will be held by either Google Meets or Zoom. Please consider this wonderful opportunity to shape the future of St. Patrick's community.