

August 21, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

'Trust in the Lord with all your heart.' This year's district theme could not be more fitting as we consider the circumstances that we face together as a faith and educational community. Trust in one another will be vital as well. Our faith will remain at the core of all we do and the relationships that have been built amongst us will provide a powerful foundation for continuing on our journey together.

This letter will not be able to cover all the details of school start up but there will be more information provided as we approach the first day for students to be back in the building. A few key points are provided here along with some links for you to refer for comprehensive information.

- Safety Considerations - Please refer to the one page [relaunch document](#) for a list of safety protocols. A link to the complete handbook is provided below.
 - All protocols being enacted are based on safety guidelines developed by Alberta Health Services and the provincial government.
 - Modifications have been made to enhance safety protocols for everyone. There will be signage and markings for students to follow when moving through the halls and minimal movement through the halls will be promoted. Classes will remain in their room for all programming besides Phys. Ed and there will be no combined class activities. As well, any materials that are unable to be sanitized daily have been removed from classrooms.
 - The district has mandated that parents will not be allowed in the building and this will be enforced. This will include dropping off lunches. Students without lunch will be provided healthy food that we have on hand. We know that this will be challenging at times but minimizing the volume of people entering the premises is critical to maintaining the highest level of safety for students and staff.
 - Students will have assigned doors through which they will enter and exit for any movement in and out of the building (fire evacuation exits may be an exception.)
 - Hand washing and sanitizing will be promoted and taught along with masking procedures for the students for whom masks are mandatory. Staff will be wearing masks at all times when they are not able to socially distance from students or colleagues.
 - Parents are expected to screen their children in the morning before sending them to school. Any children that are experiencing symptoms of COVID -19 must be kept home and safety protocols followed. Parents with children that have an ailment that mimics COVID-19 symptoms need to communicate with teachers. There is a process that can be completed to determine the baseline for that child.
 - Students will not have access to lockers/hooks for storing materials. Teachers will be outlining which supplies to bring with them to start the school year. The rest of the supplies will be requested by teachers over the course of the year. Backpacks will be kept at the students workspace in the classroom.

- Meet the Staff
 - As a result of pandemic protocols, you will be receiving a personal phone call from your child's teacher on or before Friday, August 28th at 3 p.m. This is an introduction to the new year and important information about the first day of school protocols will be discussed during this call. If you are unavailable during this time, a message will be left in your voicemail from your child's teacher.
- Staggered Entry - Refer to staggered entry dates on the document link below
 - In order to acclimate to the safety procedures and classroom adjustments there is a staggered entry being implemented. Due to the scheduling of our Early Learning programming, we are not able to accommodate requests for students in those programs to attend on the same day as siblings. We apologize for this unavoidable inconvenience. Pre-K & K parents will be notified by your child's teacher of specific times the kids will attend as they will not be full days.
- Curriculum Expectations
 - Students will have full programming reinstated. We know that the online learning environment that occurred to finish last year will have varied effects on student progress. Our focus will be to determine what gaps may exist due to that interruption and meet the needs of every child to progress successfully in all areas.
- School Council
 - We are excited to renew 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.

[Parent/Student Relaunch Handbook](#)

Further details regarding the 2020-2021 school year will be provided next week on staggered entry. We look forward to facing the unique challenges this school year will bring and growing in our faith together as a community. Please contact us with any questions, feedback or input that you might have. Let's make it a great year everybody. God bless!

Sincerely,

The St. Patrick's Administrative Team

Lord Jesus, we ask for Your help as we begin this new school year. Allow us to experience Your presence in the many blessings You put before us. Open our eyes to the new challenges and exciting opportunities that this new school year brings. Open our hearts and minds to new friends and new teachers. Give us a generous spirit to be enthusiastic and courage to accept new opportunities. Help us to be attentive and let us experience Your presence in each new day. Jesus, inspire us to do our very best this year! Amen.