

January 16, 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Last year, after an extensive boundary development process, the Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools (RDCRS) Board of Trustees approved new school boundaries for the 2023-2024 school year at the May 24, 2022 Regular Board Meeting. For more information on boundaries, please visit our Division website at [www.rdcrs.ca](http://www.rdcrs.ca).

As RDCRS continues to prepare for the opening of St. Lorenzo Ruiz Middle School, we now need to begin to look at student enrollment for the 2023-2024 school year. Based on the approved boundary revisions by school trustees, the following *Grandfathering Guidelines* listed below applies.

Grandfathering Guidelines:

Families are permitted to grandfather their child(ren) based on the following guidelines:

1. Any students entering Grade 6 are required to attend their designated catchment school. Grade 6 students will not be grandfathered, regardless of the school their siblings attend. For more information on boundaries, please visit our Division website at [www.rdcrs.ca](http://www.rdcrs.ca).
2. Students in Grade 7, 8, and 9 can choose to remain at their current school if they fall out of catchment at the start of the 2023-2024 school year. Transportation will be provided for ***one year only***. Following that year, transportation will be at the parents' expense and responsibility to organize their child(ren)'s transportation, for example, The City of Red Deer Transit system.

Any students who are part of a congregated program, for example, the Blended Program at St. Francis of Assisi Middle School or the Knowledge and Employability Program at St. Thomas Aquinas Middle School, will continue to remain at the school where these programs are housed.

For any student approved to attend a *RDCRS Program of Choice*, they will remain at the school where these programs are housed. *RDCRS Programs of Choice* include the Ball Academy at St. Thomas Aquinas Middle School, and the Year-Round Program at St. Patrick's Community School.

If a Grade 7 - 9 student was to move out of their program of choice, they could remain at the current school; however, transportation will be at the parents' expense and responsibility to organize their child(ren)'s transportation.

Please note, Division transportation eligibility and associated transportation fees may change for your family based on the Division's new boundaries. If your residence is located more than 2.4 km from your *designated school*, no fees apply. If your residence is located less than 2.4 km from your *designated school*, the current fee of \$300 (subject to change) will apply. If you are unsure of what school is your child's designated school, please access the boundary information on our Division website at [www.rdcrs.ca](http://www.rdcrs.ca).

Schools will provide a Google form on **Tuesday, January 17, 2023** in order for parents to indicate their plan for the 2023 school year and if they are wanting to have their Grade 7, 8, or 9 student remain at their current school through the grandfathering process.

In order to appropriately staff for the next school year, we need this information in a timely fashion. Families will have until **Friday, February 3, 2023** to indicate their choice to their child's current school to support staffing allocations.

If you have any questions regarding this process, please reach out to your child's current principal to gain further clarification.

We are pleased to announce that Mr. Rob Coumont will be the Principal at St. Lorenzo Ruiz Middle School, and will take over responsibilities on January 16, 2023. Rob has served in the Division since 2005. He has been a teacher at St. Patrick's Community School, an Assistant Principal at Father Henri Voisin School, and Director of Inclusive Education at Montfort Centre, before his current role of Principal at École Our Lady of the Rosary School.

We are excited to be opening St. Lorenzo Ruiz Middle School in September 2023. As always in RDCRS, we will continue forming faith-filled students who are ethical decision makers, model principles that govern their decisions through their actions, and embody honesty, respect, and social responsibility.

God bless,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Finnigan".

Dr. Kathleen Finnigan  
Superintendent