



ST. MATTHEW
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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October 2, 2020

We hope this letter finds you well as you are enjoying some of the great weather that we have had over the past couple of weeks. We want to thank you for your support as we have had a very successful re-entry with our students and staff transitioning well to school and our new safety protocols. Thank you for your support as we continue to adapt to our school community's needs.

Here are some important upcoming changes for our school community:

1. **Daily Screening:** We ask that parents ensure that they are continuing to complete the [daily screening](#) of your children prior to sending them on the bus or dropping them off at the school.
2. **Staggered break times:** As we transition into October as a school we will be moving to only two staggered recess and noon hour breaks for our students. We have rearranged our schedule to ensure students will have staggered break times throughout the day to adhere to AHS guidelines to reduce the number of students in common areas at any one time.
[OCTOBER STAGGERED BREAK SCHEDULE](#)
3. **Lockers/Coat Hooks:** We will be transitioning to use of our hallway lockers and elementary coat hooks. Students will have some controlled use of the lockers and hooks ensuring the social distancing occurs, as well as minimized congregating in the hallways. Some materials may still be kept in desks or separate bins within the student's classroom depending on the classroom teacher.
4. **Cohorts:** Students will remain in their assigned classrooms for most of the day. Teachers will be the ones moving from classroom to classroom, sanitizing upon entry and exit of the classrooms. Teachers are expected to be mindful of the students in the cohort (class) and ensure they are given breaks as needed.
5. **Music:** We will transition at this time to allow students to travel to the music room for their designated music class at the teachers discretion with proper mask wearing for Gr 4 -8. At this time all singing and use of wind instruments is not allowed therefore students will still be given music but it looks different. There will be no concerts, singing groups or camps at this time.
6. **PE:** Classes will occur with some added sanitizing and social distancing practices. We are encouraging classes to occur outside. Students will not be required to wear masks during activity. Change-rooms have max occupancy and teachers will develop in-class practices to respect these.

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart.
Fais confiance au Seigneur de tout ton coeur.*

7. **Canteen/NFL:** Our Nutrition for Learning and Canteen programs will be starting after Oct 5th for our students.
8. **Volunteering:** It is our hope that we will be permitted to have volunteers within the school to help out in the classrooms in the near future, as long as paperwork is up to date. We will share this information with you as it becomes available.
9. **Parent/Teacher Interviews:** Our parent teacher interviews will look different than in past years. We will share the information once we have a plan developed.

Again, we thank you for your support and for working alongside us at this uncertain time. Please know that we are so excited to be back with our school community - we have enjoyed seeing our student's smiling faces. The safety of our students and staff will continue to be a priority as we take our direction from the Alberta Government, the Chief Medical Officer, and our Superintendent. Thank you in advance for your support and understanding as we do our best to create a safe and comfortable school experience. Our theme this year is "Trust in the Lord with all your heart" we are asking the same of you to put your trust in our staff and community that we are doing our best to create safety and comfort for you and your children.

As always, please do not hesitate to ask questions or reach out. We will continue to seek the guidance of God as we navigate these unprecedented times.

God Bless



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