



St. Ann's Catholic School

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August 26, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Myself and all the staff at St. Ann's Catholic School are so excited to welcome all our students back to school in-person full-time starting Sept. 9, 2020! We have received guidance from the Province on returning to school in Stage 2 of the BC's public health guidelines. Our school plan mirrors the plans outlined in the [BC Back to School Plan \(Aug. 21, 2020\)](#), the [CISKD Health & Safety Protocols](#), the [Provincial COVID-19 Health & Safety Guidelines for K-12 Settings \(Aug. 17, 2020\)](#), the BC Music Educators Association's *Guidance for Music Classes in BC* (Aug. 17, 2020), and the [WorkSafeBC guidelines during COVID19](#).

Throughout all our planning, the spirit of this verse has been in the back of my mind: "If anyone should cause one of these little ones to lose his faith in me, it would be better for that person to have a large millstone tied around his neck and be drowned in the deep sea." Matthew 18:6, *Good News Translation*. How deeply Jesus cared for children! How deeply God cares for us all as His children, and desires for us our highest good. In all of our planning, we have the health, safety, education and well-being of your children as our first priorities.

Here are some details pertaining to the beginning of school this year:

- a.) School starts for all Preschool-7 students Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2020.
- b.) Students must arrive at school with their Health Commitment Form already completed and signed, which is included in this package.
- c.) Parents must complete a Daily Health Check on their child(ren) prior to putting them on the bus or bringing them to school, using the Daily Health Check checklist included in this package. Keep this checklist with you to use every morning. If your child(ren) have any of the symptoms on this list, they must remain home until they can be checked out by a doctor and cleared to return to school.
- d.) If students develop symptoms during the day at school, they will be given a mask and isolated from their learning group until they can be picked up by their parent/guardian.
- e.) First Day Drop-Off and Pick-up: Parents/Guardians will remain outside and physically distance from other families. Students must hand in the

completed and signed Health Commitment Form at the door before entering the building. Students will line up in locations as they have in the past, outlined below:

- Morning Care students will go to the gym between 7:15-8:10, hand in their completed and signed Health Commitment Form, perform hand hygiene, and physically distance as directed by staff. Students from the same cohort or household may interact.
- Preschool students go directly to the Preschool doors, meet Miss Blair to give her their signed and completed Health Commitment Form at the door, and perform hand hygiene before entering.
- K/1 students arriving early will go to the circle on the upper field with their Homeroom Teacher Ms. Veitch waiting for them. At the 8:25 bell, K/1 will line up on the sidewalk leading to the ramp of the Preschool doors. Staff will be present to assist with line up, form collection and hand hygiene.
- 1/2 students arriving early will go to the circle on the upper field with their Homeroom Teacher Mrs. VanBakel waiting for them. At the 8:25 bell, 1/2 students will line up at the far doors (East) as directed by staff and wait to be brought inside, after they have handed in their completed and signed Health Commitment Letter and performed hand hygiene.
- 2/3 students arriving early will go to the circle on the upper field with their Homeroom Teacher Ms. Leonard waiting for them. At the 8:25 bell, 2/3 students will line up at the far doors (East) as directed by staff and wait to be brought inside, after they have handed in their completed and signed Health Commitment Letter and performed hand hygiene.
- 3/4 students arriving early will go to the circle on the upper field with their Homeroom Teacher Mr. Walsh waiting for them. At the 8:25 bell, 3/4 students will line up along the front sidewalk leading to the main doors as directed by staff and wait to be brought inside, after they have handed in their completed and signed Health Commitment Letter and performed hand hygiene.
- 4/5 students arriving early will go to the circle on the upper field with their Homeroom Teacher Mrs. Cameron waiting for them. At the 8:25 bell, 4/5 students will line up along the sidewalk leading to the far doors as directed by staff and wait to be brought inside, after they have handed in their completed and signed Health Commitment Letter and performed hand hygiene.
- 6/7 students arriving early will go to the circle on the upper field with their Homeroom Teacher Mr. Weston waiting for them. At the 8:25 bell, 6/7 students will line up along the sidewalk leading to the main doors as directed by staff and wait to be brought inside, after they have handed in their completed and signed Health Commitment Letter and performed hand hygiene.
- After school, at the 2:30 bell, bus students will gather their belongings and perform hand hygiene before lining up on the sidewalk as they have in the past to board the bus, as directed by staff. Students being picked up will physically distance from other cohorts while waiting on the playground. Parents may park along the North bank as they have in the past to collect their child(ren).

- Parents waiting in the parking lot are asked to please continue to physically distance from other households.
- Afterschool Club students will perform hand hygiene and physically distance as directed by staff. Afterschool Club students within the same cohort may interact without physical distancing.

f.) Cohorts will be identified and communicated to parents on Wednesday, Sept. 2, 2020, after staff have returned to work and grouping decisions can be made collaboratively.

g.) Once students have entered the building after the 8:25 line-up bell, they will be given instruction from their teacher as to where to put their belongings in the shoe cubbies and classroom coat spaces.

h.) Students will receive Covid-19 Health & Safety Orientation from their Homeroom Teachers on the first day of school.

i.) Students will bring their lunches, personal labelled water bottle and school supplies on the first day as usual, per the supply lists distributed last spring. Bottle filling stations will be provided for each classroom. Water fountains will not be available for use.

j.) After School Club begins at 2:45 and ends at 6:00pm, or until the last student is picked up. After school staff will blow a whistle after 2:45, and students will accompany them to the Music Room, perform hand hygiene at the door, and physically distance as directed. Students from the same cohort or household may interact.

k.) On the Bus:

- Parents, Guardians and Caregivers will perform a Daily Health Check using the checklist sent home with the Health Commitment Letter, to ensure their child(ren) have no symptoms before boarding the school bus.
- Students will wash or sanitize their hands before boarding and after disembarking the bus. We will continue to bus our students as before and have ample space in our bus to physically distance students. Students who share a cohort or a household may sit together.
- Students will be boarded back to front and disembark front to back. Sanitization of the bus interior and doorway will occur after each bus load disembarks. The bus driver will be responsible for cleaning and disinfecting the bus according to BCCDC's guidelines. The bus driver will be responsible for arranging the route, as well as the seating plan.
- Elementary students are not required to wear masks but may do so if they wish. Masks are encouraged as an option for students who expect to be in close contact with someone outside of their cohort, when physical distancing is not possible. An example might be students bussing from the District bus and then transferring to ours, or if they are in after school care with students outside of their cohort and

household. A student who is medically unable to tolerate a mask will not be required to wear one.

- Students who transfer from the District bus to ours will follow the back to front boarding order, and the front to back disembarking order as well. Transfer students must sanitize before boarding our bus. If District 28 is unable to accommodate our transfer students at any point this year, we will have parents bring students to a drop-off point, and St. Ann's bus will pick them up along our route from there. While students are on the District's school bus, they will follow District 28's bussing protocol. Once District 28 has released their new bussing guidelines, we will forward a copy home for those transfer students.
- A plexiglass partition for the bus driver is under consideration but may not be practical. In the meantime, the bus driver will be provided with a clear face shield and a mask. Windows will be opened. The driver will wash or sanitize his or her hands prior to starting the bus, and after completing the cleaning and sanitization duties once students have disembarked. The driver may also sanitize as needed throughout the route if she or he comes into contact with a student or their belongings.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. As mentioned above, we will send you the cohort assignments next Wednesday after meeting with staff. As we move forward, we may tweak fine details for effectiveness and safety as needed, or if we have changes to our Provincial Stage guidelines, and we will communicate all changes with you every step of the way. Please keep us in your prayers, as we will continue to keep your families in our prayers.

Thank you for everything you do to support our students. We are so blessed to have you with us in Catholic Education.

Blessings on you and your house,

Ms. Amanda Gilmore
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