

Dear Parents and Guardians of Holy Cross School,

With various information in the media over the last many days, I thought I should let you know how Holy Cross School is preparing for back to school in September.

We will be having Orientation (only for new students) on September 8, 2020 - 1:00 pm followed by full day classes (with all students) on September 9, 2020. In the morning of September 9, all students will meet outside in the back of the school-parking lot, each grade (with students names) will be posted at a designated area. Teachers will be available to facilitate and explain to student cohorts which doors they will need to use in order to enter into the school according to the protocols set out by Manitoba Public Health Officials prior to starting full time.

Student school entrance will be done in a staggering fashion - not all at once. When entering, all persons will hand sanitize. Each class will have on hand sanitizer for students. Encouraged hand washing will occur when students blow their nose or sneeze. Recess will also be staggered with Kindergarten - grade 5 in one cohort (group) and grade 6-8 in another cohort. Cohorts will only interact during entry and exit into the school and at recess time. Students will strictly remain with children in their own grade. Desks will be separated by at least a meter. Where this is not possible there will be clear desk barriers at some desks in some classrooms.

Students from grade 4-8 will be expected to wear non- medical masks- except at lunch time and when they are outside for recess. Students in kindergarten to grade 3 may choose to wear non-medical masks as well (I would strongly recommend they wear a mask). Please make sure that you have a mask that fits your child for school. We will discuss proper mask usage at school.

Parents will be expected to screen their children for COVID-19 related symptoms, and all flu and cold related symptoms, including but not limited to: runny noses, sore throat, cough, fever or chills, shortness of breath, fatigue or weakness, body aches, loss of smell and taste, headache, gastrointestinal symptoms abdominal pain, diarrhea, vomiting, feeling very unwell. Please note that children have been more commonly reported to have abdominal symptoms, and skin changes or rashes. Please click on the Government of Canada link to familiarize yourselves with COVID-19 screening. **Children will not be allowed to attend school with any of these symptoms.** Any child found having symptoms upon arrival at the school or suspected of having developed any of these symptoms during the school day, will be removed from other children immediately and placed in isolation for immediate pick-up by a parent or someone on their designated emergency contact list.

Staff will be self-screening every day, wearing masks and possibly face shields depending on the close proximity they are working with others.

Parents will have to make appointments to enter the building. We will be limiting visitors into the building. At the beginning and ending of the day **parents will not be permitted to enter the building**- students will meet family members outside the school.

Additional cleaning will occur several times a day for high touch surfaces. All water fountains **will not be accessible** as we are not able to clean and disinfect after each use. Students will need to bring filled water bottles from home. An adult will re-fill them, if needed during the day.

Limited mobility will be in place in and around the school for all children. When possible, teachers will be assigned to specific classrooms to avoid student mobility. At this time singing will not occur during music classes. All physical education classes will be happening outdoors (weather permitted) and children from Grade 4-8 will not be required to change into sport uniforms for Phys-Ed classes until further notice.

Manitoba Education has instructed school principals that students are expected to attend school unless there is a medical condition that does not allow a child to attend due to a compromised immune system.

You will be informed should any updates come from the Manitoba Government regarding school matters.

Should you require any further information please contact the office at our school.

God Bless and thank you for your support.

*Alexander Cap, B.Ed., M.Ed.*

*Principal, Holy Cross School*