

August 23, 2021

To Parents/Caregivers of our Students,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to St. Mark School for the 2021-2022 school year. There is a great deal of excitement in the air as we prepare for a new school year in which all the wonderful activities and traditions that your child deserves, and what makes St. Mark school great, will be starting in September. Unfortunately, the risks of COVID 19 are still real, and we want you to know that our school is taking them seriously. Your child's safety is still our number one priority! You received an email from Edmonton Catholic Schools last week which outlined our school's opening [plan](#) for Wednesday, September 1st; please read through it carefully so you and your child feel comfortable. We, the staff at St. Mark, are dedicated to your family's safety and teaching our students to be the leaders of tomorrow.

Although this school year will be closer to normal than last year, we have learned that many of the procedures that kept all of us safe last year are important to continue this year. Below are some of the safety precautions that we will maintain when we start the school year. **Let's work together to ensure everyone is safe and learning.**

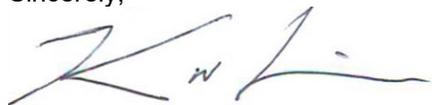
- Masks will be mandatory for all students and staff when they are within two meters of other people indoors.
- Hand Sanitizer will be used whenever a student enters the building or a new classroom.
- Our custodians will continue to do enhanced cleaning, especially high-touch surfaces, throughout the day.
- All students and staff will do the Alberta Health Services (AHS) Daily [Checklist](#) before coming to school.
- Students that receive a positive COVID 19 test will be required to quarantine according to AHS procedures.
- All visitors are required to wear a mask and make an appointment before coming to the school.
- Microwaves will not be available.
- Breakfast will be delivered to the students in their classroom by staff.
- Grade 7s will enter and exit the building through the front door.
- Grade 8s will enter and exit the building through the sports field door.
- Grade 9s will enter and exit the building through the door by the construction/computer lab.
- Students will be eating their lunch with their grade cohort or in the classroom.

The information you need to be prepared for the school year is on our website, including our new daily class [schedule](#) that will maximize learning and keep all our students safe. The timetable will include options which we understand is an integral part of our students' development and engagement. Option classes will be organized in a manner that will try to maintain grade cohorts through physical distancing in the classroom, buses, and outdoors. We are also proud of our daily physical education plan for all students that will start this September. You will notice that the school day will start at 8:25am, and students will be allowed into the building at 8:15am. Students will be asked to leave the school at the end of the school day unless they are involved in extra-curricular activities to mitigate the risk of COVID 19. Each student will receive a combination lock from the school and a locker to secure their belongings throughout the school day. If your child needs a bus pass, please call the office, and we will add it to your PowerSchool account.

We understand the anxiety that occurs when new grade seven students start junior high. To help reduce this anxiety, we will have a grade seven orientation morning on Wednesday, September 1st. That means all grade eight and nine students are expected to arrive after lunch at 12:30pm on Wednesday, September 1st. Grade seven students will be in-school for the whole school day: 8:25am – 2:58pm. The second day of school (Thursday, September 2nd) will be for all grades and will follow our Thursday, regular early dismissal, schedule which runs from 8:25am – 11:46am.

"The righteous are as bold as a lion." (Proverbs 28:1) We are so excited about this school year and working with your children. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the office: (780) 455-1684.

Sincerely,



Kevin N Myskiw
Principal
St. Mark School