

August 26, 2021

Dear parents and guardians,

We look forward to welcoming your children back to school on **Wednesday, September 1**, for the first day of the new school year. Our theme for this year is “God Calls Us Each by Name”. We are guided by Jeremiah 29:12 - *I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord...plans to give you a future with hope.* We are truly filled with a renewed sense of hope as we return to school this year.

To support the division theme, we will also have a theme book for our school that will guide our St. Paul school community to come together and focus on God’s Plan. Each class will receive a copy of the theme book, and we hope that the messaging and words presented will guide us in all that we do. Our theme book will be introduced to the students at our opening school celebration, and each class will receive a copy. The book is called “The Plans I Have for You” by Amy Parker. The link below is a quick snapshot of the guiding message that will encapsulate our school community and culture for the 2021-2022 school year!

[The Plans I Have for You](#)

As we embark on a new school year, we revisit St. Paul’s mission statement: *Our students will learn together, work together and pray together in answering the call to a faith-filled life of service.*

The following information below will support a smooth school start-up for students, families, and staff of St. Paul Catholic Elementary School.

As outlined by the [Back to School Plan](#), St. Paul will continue with the following protocols:

- Self-screening by students and staff for symptoms using the [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#)
- A focus on hand hygiene, including increased handwashing and availability of hand sanitizer in locations throughout the school where soap and water may not be available
- Mask use
- Enhanced cleaning
- HVAC systems will be maintained in accordance with manufacturer operational guidelines

In addition, St. Paul will continue with the following site-based protocols:

- Assigned entrances for student entry/ exiting of school (see map attached for details).
- Staggered recess and cohorted lunch breaks to allow for smaller groups of students transitioning within the school.
- Assigned areas for all personal belongings.
- Lockers will not be used or be accessible for student use at this time.
- Assigned seating for all students.



- Measures will be in place to promote physical distancing in all areas of the school.
- Individual classrooms will be cohorted together, however there may be more than one teacher who shares instructional responsibilities with specific classrooms.
- Masks remain strongly recommended for children in Kindergarten to Grade 3.
- Students in Grades 4-6 must wear masks in all common areas. Masks remain strongly recommended during class time.
- Masks are mandatory on the yellow school bus and all Division provided transportation.
- All school staff must wear masks in all common areas, the yellow school bus, and all Division provided transportation. Masks remain strongly recommended during class time.
- At this time, there will be no large school assemblies.
- All visitors are required to make appointments, use the daily screening checklist, and remain masked when visiting the school.
- At this time, volunteers are not allowed to work directly with students.

Please know the safety, health, and well-being of our students and staff remain our first priority and a safe return to school is a shared responsibility. Students and staff must stay home if they are sick, and families play a critical role in preventing the spread of COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses. We thank you in advance for your support in mitigating the risk of illness within our school community.

Every student and staff member who prefers to wear a mask at all times will be completely supported in that decision. Our plans stress the ability to be continually reviewed and adapted to support all safety measures in place. As changes and/or updates are made, parents and guardians will be informed.

General Information for the 2021 - 2022 School Year

- School District calendars for the 2021 - 2022 school year, please [click here](#).

St. Paul Hours of Operation

Grades 1-3			Grades 4-6		
Mon/Tues/Wed/ Fri		Thursday	Mon/Tues/Wed/ Fri		Thursday
First Bell	8:20 AM		First Bell	8:20 AM	
Instruction	8:25 – 10:00AM		Instruction	8:25 – 10:20 AM	
Recess	10:00 – 10:15 AM		Recess	10:15 – 10:30 AM	
Instruction	10:15 – 11:45 AM	Dismissal at 11:57 AM	Instruction	10:30 – 11:45 PM	Dismissal at 11:57 AM
Lunch Recess	11:45 – 12:00 PM		Lunch	11:45 – 12:00 PM	
Lunch	12:00 – 12:25 PM		Lunch Recess	12:00 – 12:25 PM	
Instruction	12:25 – 1:45 PM		Instruction	12:25 – 1:50 PM	
Recess	1:45 – 2:00 PM		Recess	1:30 – 1:45 PM	
Instruction	2:00 – 3:05 PM		Instruction	1:45 – 3:05 PM	



Kindergarten – Half Day AM (No programming on Thursdays)

- 8:25 AM – 11:22 AM
- Staggered entry for Kindergarten students is on September 1st and 3rd; their first full day of regular programming is Tuesday, September 7th.

School Fees

- Supplemental Education Fees for 2021 – 2022 (School fees are to be paid through PowerSchool. *Please note payments can be made starting September 15, 2021*).
- **Kindergarten** **\$30.00**
- **Grades 1- 6** **\$50.00**

Bussing

- Please [click here](#) to access the Division’s Transportation Information, including Safety Rules and Procedures for riding the bus.
- Students residing outside of our boundary area who wish to take an ETS bus will be required to purchase a bus pass. The cost of an ETS bus pass is \$36.75/month for elementary students. The cost to replace a lost or stolen bus pass is \$5.00 for yellow busses and \$73.00 for Edmonton Transit (the full cost of an ETS bus pass). Payments for bus passes may be made through PowerSchool. Students without a bus pass will not be permitted on the school bus. If your child usually rides the yellow school bus and will not be riding the bus home on a particular day, please inform the school.
- Currently, we do not have kindergarten noon service bussing in place.

August Office Hours

- Our school office will be open on Friday, August 27th (9:00 AM – 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM). Appointments must be made to visit the school, or please feel free to call if you have any inquiries.
- Monday, August 30th and Tuesday, August 31st are staff-only days as we prepare for the first day of school.

Communication

- At St. Paul, we make every effort to keep parents informed. Important information that needs to be sent immediately is shared with parents via email and/or telephone calls via our SwiftK12 messaging system. We make every effort to keep email communication from school administration to a minimum. Teachers often communicate with parents via email as well. Please help us by ensuring that we have current email addresses on file.
- Weekly Principal Memos will be sent to parents via K12Swift and posted to the school website.



Stay connected to St. Paul via social media!

Follow us on Instagram and Twitter!

- Instagram - st.paul_ecsd
- Twitter - StPaulECSD

Medications to Students

- On occasion, we have been asked by parents to ensure their child receives prescribed medication. Please be aware that in order for school staff to do so, parents must complete a “Request for Administration of Medication at School” form and have it signed by their family doctor. The school will administer the medication according to the doctor’s prescription, provide safe and limited access, store the medication, and keep a record of each student receiving medication.
- Students who administer their own medications are asked to assist us by ensuring that prescribed pills, liquids, and inhalers are not casually left in student-frequented areas. In addition, students with EpiPen’s are required to have them with them at all times (i.e. fanny pack or small purse) to ensure immediate access if necessary.
- **Medical Alert:** If your child has a condition that would require special medical attention, please complete the Medical Alert Form as accurately as possible and return it to the school as indicated each year. You must keep us informed of any changes in your child’s medical status.
- If you require a medical form, please contact the office and we can send a copy.

PowerSchool/ Parent Portal

- All parents are asked to sign up for PowerSchool. This website allows parents to access information about attendance, missed assignments, homework and upcoming events. As well, ongoing reporting, summary reports, and report cards are accessed through PowerSchool.
- Payments for school fees and field trips are made through PowerSchool.
- School Staff will assist new families with creating PowerSchool accounts early in the school year.
- Don't hesitate to contact the school if you are having difficulty accessing the parent portal.
- The PowerSchool site is accessed at: <https://powerschool.ecsd.net/public/>

Healthy Hunger/ Hot Lunch

- Will be reviewed, and information will be forthcoming. We hope to get this service up and running for families as soon as we can. Currently, we are looking at having this service every Friday.



School Council Information

School councils are an important forum through which members of school communities play an advisory role in school improvement planning. Key factors in collaborative relationships are building meaningful, two-way communication and supporting respectful interactions among education partners. School council is a structured group of parents, principals, teachers, and community representatives whose purpose is to advise the principal and the school board respecting matters relating to the school. It is a means for parents and community members to work together with the school to support and enhance student learning.

Our Annual General Meeting will be on Wednesday September 22 @ 6:30 pm. This meeting will be virtual, and a Teams Link will be sent out for all to join. For the upcoming school year, we have 3 vacancies on the Executive Committee. Chair, Co-chair and Secretary will need to be filled. These positions will be filled at the upcoming AGM. Please see below a short description of each of the roles. If interested in joining the executive, please fill out the following Form ([click here](#)) to put your name forward. Please have this completed prior to our annual meeting.

1. School Council Chair

- **School Council Chair** It is expected that the school council chairperson will be a parent of a student attending the school. The chair should be someone who can work collaboratively and knows how to organize both programs and people. The chair should actively encourage others to become engaged in meaningful ways.
- Typical chairing duties include:
 - chair all meetings of the school council
 - coordinate with the principal to establish meeting agendas
 - ensure that the operating procedures are current and followed
 - be the official spokesperson of the school council
 - ensure there is regular communication with the whole school community
 - stay informed about school board policy that impacts school council
 - comply with the School Councils Regulation by providing the school board with an annual report that summarizes the school council's activities for the previous school year, including a financial statement relating to money, if any, handled by the school council
- **Chair's Relationship with the Principal**
 - The chair's role is key to the success of the school council. An important responsibility is regular and ongoing communication with the school principal. This relationship of mutual trust and respect must be nurtured and supportive of common goals for the learning community.

2. Vice-Chair

- On some school councils, the role of chair is shared, either through the creation of co-chairing positions or through the chair's dependence on the vice-chair to undertake part of the work. Typically, the vice-chair's duties are, in the event of resignation, incapacity or leave of absence of the chair, to fulfill the



chair's responsibilities, and in the absence of the chair, supervise the affairs and preside at meetings of the school council.

3. Secretary

- The school council secretary typically acts as a recorder at each meeting and ensures that the minutes are prepared accurately to reflect the directions agreed to at the meeting.

If you have any questions regarding the School Council, please feel free to contact the school.

SAVE THE DATE!

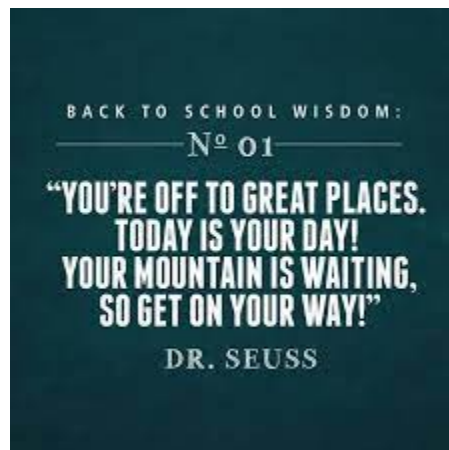
September 2021

- 1 First Day of School
- 1/2 Kindergarten Staggered Entry
- 6 Labour Day (No School)
- 15 Meet the Staff @ 6:30 p.m. - virtual
- 17 School Picture Day
- 22 **AGM** School Council Meeting 6:30 p.m. - virtual
- 30 Truth & Reconciliation Day (No School)

Please visit our school website for additional information, as it is updated regularly. Our staff have been working extremely hard in preparing for our new school year. We are eager to greet families and students next week, and I look forward to meeting all of you very soon! We are going to have an AMAZING year together!

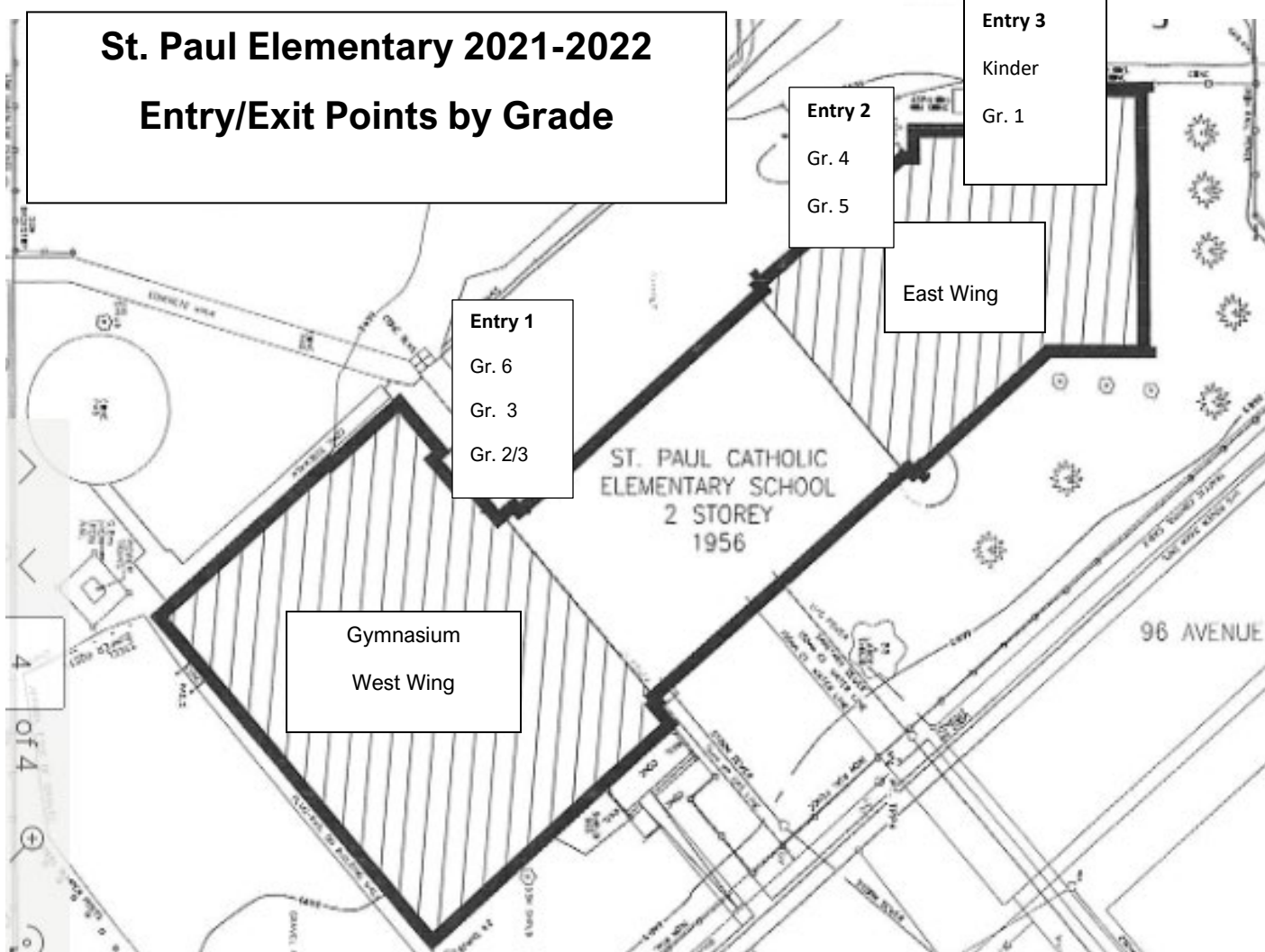
Many Blessings,

Crystal Jones, Principal
Kerry Carr-Jeschke, Assistant Principal





St. Paul Elementary 2021-2022 Entry/Exit Points by Grade



- Please note that there will be signs indicating where each grade will line up at their designated door.
- Teachers will be meeting their classes outside and will escort them into the building by class.
- Please remember to physically distance where possible when lining up.
- Students will require a mask upon entry as hallways are considered a common space within our school.

God Calls Us



EACH BY NAME

*"I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord... plans to give you a future with hope."
Jeremiah 29:11*

September 2021

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year! Our theme for this year is "God calls us each by name" and is guided by scripture from Jeremiah. At its root, our theme is a message of hope. Catholic education is entirely about building a future with hope. When we serve the children of Edmonton Catholic Schools, our goal is to instill in them a sense of wonder in themselves as children of God so that they see themselves as members and builders of his Kingdom. There is nothing more hopeful than this.

We are filled with a renewed sense of hope as we return to school this year. We have created a [Back to School Plan](#) that is designed to support our schools in reducing the risk of transmission of illness and maintaining safe and healthy environments for our students and staff. Some procedures we introduced in our schools last year will continue because we know they are good practices in minimizing the transmission of respiratory infections, including COVID-19, influenza, and common colds. Many activities are returning to our schools this year, including local and provincial field trips, athletics and extracurricular activities, all fine arts and options classes, assemblies and special events, and graduation and school farewell activities.

At the beginning of September, teachers will be focusing on welcoming students back to their school communities, whether in-person or online. As part of getting to know students as individual learners, teachers in K - 6 will be screening students in numeracy and literacy. They will determine student knowledge and skill based on previous curricula and target instruction for any missed learning. In addition, the Division is preparing post-assessments to help teachers measure learning growth. In junior high and high school, subject-area teachers will also be targeting their instruction to support students in their transition back-to-school.

Our work for this year is directed by our [Division Plan for Continuous Growth](#), which has four priorities: Growing in Faith, Student Success, An Excellent Place to Work and Learn, and Building our Future Together. You can monitor our progress in these priorities by exploring our measures and results as represented in our [Assurance Dashboard](#). Results will be updated throughout the year as new ones become available. Each school also has its own School Plan for Continuous Growth to address its own needs and a school specific Assurance Dashboard for their results and measures. Visit your school's website; you will find the Assurance Dashboard with the school plan under About / School Information.

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LUMEN CHRISTI Catholic Education Centre

9807-106 Street NW | Edmonton AB T5K 1C2 | T: 780 441-6000 | www.ecsd.net



OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

September 2021

Dear friends,

A New Beginning in Hope

Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand (Isaiah 41:10).

As the month of September fast approaches, and the start of another school year looms from behind the shadows, we look forward to a new beginning; a year filled with promise and hope. Over the past seventeen months, we have witnessed the state of society and our lives change in ways we might never have imagined two years ago. From the closing of borders to the adherence to strict protocols, life has been challenging, and for some, even devastating.

Throughout the pandemic, we learned many valuable lessons: we learned to depend on the support of family, friends, neighbours, our health care systems, and especially our faith communities. We learned that a world concerned with the plight of others is better than a world centered on ourselves. We learned that even though we could not practice our faith in person, technology made it possible for us to gather and pray virtually. Most important of all, we learned through the sorrow and pain how we depend fully upon the steadfast love and saving help of God, who never abandons us..

COVID-19 is just the latest hardship in a long line of civil unrest and human suffering. Once again, we have seen that, in difficult circumstances, God gives us the capacity to overcome the challenges through faith in His Son, Jesus Christ. As we embark upon a new academic year, may we know daily the joy of the victorious help of our Lord.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

✠Richard W. Smith
Archbishop of Edmonton

We are very excited to add another school to our ECSD family this fall. Genesis Online School is opening its virtual doors and will serve over 1200 students from kindergarten to grade 9. Construction on the Ben Calf Robe replacement school and Joan Carr Catholic Elementary School is well underway, and we're getting ready to break ground for Father Michael McCaffery Catholic High School.

Pope Francis shared a catechesis on hope several years ago. There was much wisdom shared with us over many months... it's a deep examination of the nature of hope to the people of God who live in His abundant love. As we begin this school year and come together again in our Christ-centred school communities, I will leave you with a thought from our Holy Father. He says, "*... one does not learn to hope alone. No one learns to hope alone. It is impossible. Hope, to be nourished, necessarily needs a 'body', in which the various members support and revive each other. This means, then, that if we hope, it is because many of our brothers and sisters have taught us to hope and have kept our hope alive.*" (General Audience, February 8/17)

Have a wonderful school year!

Yours in Christ,

Robert Martin
Chief Superintendent



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