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February 22, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Edmonton Catholic Schools is committed to offering exceptional and diverse programming options throughout the Division that will meet the individual learning needs of each student. We strive to engage and inspire students to reach their greatest potential.

Preparations for the upcoming school year are now underway. To this end, we would like you to share your intentions for the 2021-2022 school year. Beginning today, a new [PowerSchool](#) Icon “Intentions for Next Year” will appear on the parent portal. For the 2021-2022 school year, parents/guardians will be able to identify and select their community school or alternatively, a focus program at another school. Parents/guardians will be given the choice of indicating if it is their intention to receive in-person instruction or enrol in one of the Division’s Online Schools.

Parents/guardians who have multiple children registered with ECSD must fill out the “Intentions for Next Year” form for **each child**. Your cooperation is critical as this is a significant step in the preparations and planning necessary at the respective school level. Parents and students will have until **March 22, 2021** to make their intentions known as to their choice to receive in-person or online instruction.

Families may sign-up for online learning upon registration for the 2021-2022 school year. **There will be no other entry points where a family can choose for their child to access online learning once the new school year has begun.**

We remain responsive to the direction and guidance of Alberta Education and Alberta Health Services in addressing the needs of our students that may arise due to the pandemic. We will monitor and adjust as required and keep our stakeholders informed. The options are as follows:

Option A – In-Person Learning: Students will be attending school in-person and able to access the full compliment of core classes and options. They will be learning in-class with a teacher and their peers. We believe in-person learning is the best environment for our students. Growing together in community is at the heart of Catholic education.

Option B – Online Learning: Edmonton Catholic Schools will be offering online synchronous (real-time instruction) education for Kindergarten to Grade 12, including French Immersion Grades 4 to 9 for the 2021-2022 school year. No other programs of choice will be offered online. Student success is tied to regular attendance and



engagement. Students will be learning online and follow a schedule that requires active attendance and participation throughout the day. Pre-Kindergarten programming will be offered through a blended approach at the designated 100 Voices sites.

Upon closure of the intention screen on March 22, the Division will embark on programming for our new online schools. When registering for online learning, students may have to leave their community school. Large cohorts of students coming from specific schools may be directed back to their community school only if their community school can manage their own students and administer the programming within their current structure/resources.

Students choosing online learning will have one opportunity to return to in-person learning at their school of origin – at the start of the second semester on February 1, 2022. Parents will be given ample time prior to February 1 to inform the Division of their intention. For our Junior High and Senior High students, it is important to realize course choices for a return to in-person learning will be reflective of space and resources available at their community school in the second semester.

To explore if online instruction is right for your child and for the specific course offerings/schedules of our Online schools, please contact your child's school or visit our website ECSD.net/online.

Sincerely,

John Fiacco
Superintendent Educational Planning