

ST. CLEMENT BACK TO SCHOOL PLAN

Wednesday, September 1st, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the 2021 – 2022 school year! Please take the time to review the updated contents of this letter as we have important information to share in preparation for the upcoming school year.

The St. Clement Back to School Plan is designed to mitigate the risk of transmission of illness so that our students and staff are safe and healthy in their school environment. Our plan is aligned with Edmonton Catholic School Division's Back to School Plan which parents received on August 16th, under the guidance of Alberta Education and Alberta Health. Since then, the number of positive COVID-19 cases have increased significantly. As a result, the Edmonton Catholic School Division has now made masks mandatory for Kindergarten – Grade 12 students. The protocols and practices that were in place last year will continue this school year to ensure the safety of everyone. The School Division will continue to review its plan on an ongoing basis.

The government of Alberta stated that all restrictions for schools may be removed. As you are aware, the following resumption of activities were announced:

- Local and provincial field trips
- Athletics and extracurricular activities
- All fine arts and options classes
- Assemblies and special events
- Provincial exams
- Graduation and School Farewell activities
- In-school School Council meetings

Positive Covid-19 Cases in Schools

- Alberta Health Services is no longer notifying close contact exposures including close contacts in school settings. Therefore, contact tracing will no longer take place unless there is an outbreak.
- If a student tests positive, parents are to contact the school administration immediately. Cases that are reported continue to remain confidential.

Daily Screening

- Staff and students are to reference the Alberta Health Daily Checklist <https://bit.ly/3koQLsf> to conclude whether or not they stay home or attend school.
- If students are experiencing any symptoms or are ill, please do not send your child to school. Your child should stay home and seek health care advice and complete the Alberta health Services Online Self-Assessment Tool. Students who test positive for Covid-19 will follow the same procedure as last year that was outlined by Alberta Health Services. Students will self-isolate and will not be able to attend school. If a child tests negative, they may return to school once symptoms are resolved.

Illness Procedure

- Should a student exhibit signs of illness at school, they will be moved to a designated private area within the school. Parent/Caregiver will be notified and advised to pick up their child immediately. Please ensure that student emergency contact information is up to date in the event that parents cannot be reached. Should a student become ill, a parent/caregiver or emergency contact must pick up the student as soon as possible.
- Staff supervising symptomatic students will keep all other staff out of the designated area.
- Wear recommended Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
- If students are ill and away, the school will be responsible for the continuation of learning.

(UPDATED) MASKS ARE MANDATORY (KINDERGARTEN – GRADE 12)

PYP - 100 Voices, Kindergarten to Grade 3

- At this age, masks are mandatory. Please note that masks are also mandatory on the yellow school bus when coming to and from school.
- Masks are mandatory for all division-provided transportation for all students, staff and/or visitors.
- Students are not required to wear a mask when they are outside for recess, engaging in physical education (any activity) are outdoors, or when they are in music class.

PYP/MYP Grades 4-9

- PYP/MYP students too must wear masks on the yellow school bus when coming to and from school.
Staff and students are to wear masks at all times.
- To begin this year, St. Clement will not take part in any assemblies or religious celebrations until the reassessment by the Division on September 27th. As we move towards a return to 'normal', we would like to mitigate the risk and avoid hundreds of students gathering as a whole group.
- Teachers and students who are situated in their homerooms must wear their masks during class time.
- When students are interacting with one another in close proximity, they must wear their masks.
- When students are outside, engaging in physical education (any activity) are outdoors, or during music class and or are playing a school organized sport, they are not required to wear a mask. For MYP junior high students who play indoor organized sports, they are not required to wear masks, however spectators and parents are required to wear masks.

Transportation

- Students who take the yellow school bus have assigned seating and are to wear their masks at all times for safety and to minimize any close contacts with other students on the bus. Masks are mandatory on the yellow school bus or any other division provided transportation.

Classroom Seating

- While in classrooms, PYM/MYP students will sit in their designated desks or seating areas. Group work will be limited until the re-evaluation on September 27th.
- Staff and students will not be able to utilize area rugs until the re-evaluation period at the end of September.

Staff and Visitors

- All school staff must follow the same procedures in terms of mandatory mask wearing at all times, including the yellow school bus or division provided transportation.
- Any staff, division staff or visitors that enter the building must wear a mask. Visitors must make an appointment. At this time, volunteers in classrooms are not allowed. However, volunteers may help by putting up a bulletin board or any other support of a school activity whereby they are not directly with students. Please contact the office to make an appointment or to discuss volunteer support situations. The school number is 780-462-3806. The principal can be emailed at Liliana.Kucy@ecsd.net. Teacher emails can be found in the parent portal on PowerSchool.

Recess and Lunch Procedures

- Recess will continue to be staggered for PYP and MYP students.
- All PYP and MYP students will sanitize or wash their hands prior to, and after recess.
- PYP – All recess equipment will be controlled (distributed and collected) by the homeroom teacher. Any recess equipment distributed will be sprayed and sanitized before and after recess by the teacher.
- MYP – (Gr. 6-9) – students will sanitize or wash their hands prior to and after recess. There will be limited outdoor equipment for use during lunchtime recess for the first few weeks. Ideas for safe distribution and use of equipment will be revisited during the first month of school. Equipment that is used will be spray-sanitized before and after use. Students will also have their hands sanitized by a supervisor heading out into the field and upon returning into the school.
- The playground park will have a rotating schedule. Students will be in their grade specific cohorts during this time.
- For safety reasons and touch points PYP/MYP students will not be able to access microwaves during the lunch hour.
- All PYP/MYP students will eat lunch in their homerooms as this remains good practice.

Lockers

- MYP students will be able to access lockers this year to store their personal belongings, books and school supplies.
- PYP students continue to use bins to store their personal supplies.

Technology

- Students are encouraged to bring their own personal device or purchase a Chromebook through the school district program. Information about this program can be found here: <https://emerge.compugen.com/emerge/Access?GUID=ce5f0c831fbc300f2516beac45c039ff>

Entrance and Exit Locations

- All students will enter and exit the school building using their designated grade level doors. Students will use these entrances for recess and emergency fire evacuations.
- Parents /Guardians, please ensure you wait outside and have arranged a pick up or drop off spot for your child.

Washrooms and Water fountains

- In order to ensure physical distancing, students who access the washroom will be limited to two students at a time. In the event there is more than two, students will patiently wait in line.
- For the short term, students will not be able to access the water fountain, however they will be able to use the water bottle filling station. It is highly encouraged and recommended that students bring their own water bottle to limit the touch points.

Physical Distancing

- Physical distancing continues to be a priority at all times and will be highly promoted.
- Unfortunately, we will be unable to host a Welcome Back Barbeque/ Meet the Teacher Evening. Rather, Meet the Teacher Night will be held virtually as to avoid gathering of large crowds.
- School Council meetings will resume in person, however masks must be worn and physically distanced procedures will be practiced.
- Spacing will be a priority for MYP students who are enrolled in Band and play a musical instrument.

Field Trips

- Local and provincial field trips have resumed. Unfortunately, international field trips are cancelled and national field trips will be paused until further notice (September 27th).

Junior High Athletics

- School organized sports are back on. Students are highly encouraged to be fully clothed as possible during away games as to avoid using the change rooms in other locations where there are large gatherings.
- The Fitness Room is available for MYP students as part of their Physical Education program. Equipment will be sanitized before and after use. Students will use hand sanitizer or wash their hands prior to using the equipment.

Handwashing, Sanitizing, Enhanced Cleaning and Other Measures

- Upon entering the front doors of the building, hand sanitizers will continue to be available so that students, staff, division staff and any visitors are equipped and continue the practice of hand sanitizing.
- Each entrance will be equipped with hand sanitizer that all students will access upon entry and exit,
- Students are encouraged at all times to hand sanitize and to wash their hands during recess, washroom breaks and during the lunch hour.

Cleaning

- We have an amazing custodial staff who are conscientious in cleaning and sanitizing all areas of the school daily.
- Enhanced cleaning and HVAC systems will be maintained in accordance with manufactured operational guidelines.
- 100 Voices and Kindergarten learning tools will be sanitized and cleaned daily.
- Custodial staff and staff will continue the practice of wiping desks, tables and working stations after use, especially in spaces that are used by other classrooms. For instance the IB Learning Commons/Library, Foods Room.

Vaccinations

- Alberta Health Services will be providing opportunities for eligible students aged 12 and up and staff to be vaccinated at school sites this fall through vaccination clinics. Opportunities for vaccinations will follow a schedule for the months of September and October depending on numbers. More information will be provided and shared when we know more.

We at St. Clement School are taking reasonable measures to carefully return to normal activity and operations. On behalf of the staff, we wish you all a healthy and engaging school year. It is with great pleasure, gratitude and faith that we welcome you all to this new school year!

God bless,

Lily Kucy, Principal and Joseph Estephan, Assistant Principal