

ST. PIUS X CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

BACK TO SCHOOL PLAN - 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

Please review the information below to allow your family to plan for the start of the school year. Should you wish to have a more detailed review of ECS D protocol, please review the 'Edmonton Catholic Schools Division Back to School' <https://www.ecsd.net/page/7013/back-to-school-plan-for-the-2021-2022-school-year>

FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL

School begins for students in grades 1-6 on Wednesday, September 1st. Kindergarten students will follow a separate staggered entry schedule. Students are to arrive at their exterior doors, which will be labeled by grade and numbered, and line up with respect to social distancing.

Parents may escort students to these exterior doors, and from there only students will enter the school. Please note that we ask that ALL students and parents wear face masks upon arrival.

Staff will welcome children into the school and direct them to their nearby classrooms. A reminder that parents waiting for their children to be dismissed are asked to wait outside the school, and/or to park only in designated areas.

Please note:

*ALL visitors must have an appointment in order to enter the school and must enter through the main entrance.

*Bussing will begin on Wednesday, September 1 for grades 1-6 and on September 7 for Kindergarten.

ASSIGNED DOORS

Please ensure that your child is NOT dropped off for school prior to 8:15 A.M., which is when supervision begins, as all exterior doors will remain locked. Parents who are accompanying their children to school are asked to proceed to the appropriate exterior door and refrain from entering the school or using the main entrance. Teachers and educational assistants will greet children at their doors and lead them into the school. **Parents are asked to wait outside of their child's exterior doors as an appointment is necessary to come into the school to meet with the teacher or visit the office.**

Door 1: Grades 3A, 3B

Door 2: Grades 1A, 1B and 2A, 2B

Door 3: Kindergarten/Extensions

Door 4: Grades 5A, 5/6

Door 5: Grades 4A, 4B, 6A



MASKS

As part of our Back-to-School Plan, we are intentionally being cautious to start the school year. Our masking policy is reflective of vaccination rates and increasing COVID-19 cases in our city. We are committed to continually reviewing and adjusting our plans as more guidance is provided by the Government of Alberta. Our hope is to eventually remove all extraordinary protocols when it is reasonable and safe for everyone.

Anyone unable to wear a mask due to a medical condition will require a medical exception letter from an authorized health professional. The medical exception letter must come from a nurse practitioner, physician, or psychologist.

The safety, health, and well-being of our students and staff remain our first priority. The use of masks helps to reduce the potential for transmission and exposure. Parents are encouraged to purchase a supply of masks for their child(ren) in addition to traditional school supplies.

All students K-12 will be required to wear a face mask while on ETS or yellow bus.

Students in grades 4-12 will be required to wear masks in all common areas, hallways, and in classroom contexts in which physical distancing cannot be maintained.

Students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 are strongly encouraged to wear a face mask, if they are physically, developmentally, and psychologically able to.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING

All members of the school community are asked to physically distance as much as is practical and are strongly encouraged to wear masks other than times of eating, physical play (P.E./recess) or working independently at their desks.

In classrooms, student seating will be arranged so they are not facing one another, to mitigate the risk should a student sneeze or cough. Classrooms will be arranged to promote physical distancing as much as possible and will be organized with a reduced number of objects (such as carpets/pillows/plush toys) that cannot be sanitized. Assigned seating will be implemented.

RECESS/LUNCH

Morning recess will be staggered to allow for fewer cohorts to be in the playground/field. There will be two recess blocks and cohorts will be assigned to each block.

A 'reverse lunch' will be implemented, whereby several cohorts will eat lunch and then have recess play, while others will first have recess play and then eat lunch. This will allow for less traffic in hallways as well as to allow for fewer cohorts to be on the playground/field at one time. Please note that students should not be bringing lunches to school that require heating, and utensils will not be provided for student lunches from the office.

*Please note: There are clear provincial guidelines around food in schools during COVID-19. As a result, treats cannot be sent from home for birthdays or special days, and teachers will not hand out food or treats in the classroom.

HEALTH SCREENING

Parents/caregivers must assess their child for symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19 every day before sending them to school. Staff will assess themselves daily for the same symptoms. Any parent/caregiver who enters the school grounds or school building must also do the same.

The following link should be used for daily self assessments: [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#)

ILLNESS WHILE AT SCHOOL

Should a student exhibit signs of illness at school, they will be moved to a designated private area within the school/site. Parents/caregivers will be notified and asked to pick up their child immediately. It is essential that the student emergency contact information is up-to date. Please contact the office with any changes in phone numbers/emails.

Should a student become ill, a parent/caregiver or emergency contact must pick up the student as soon as possible. Supervising staff will follow strict Division protocol to ensure the safety of students and staff until he/she is picked up.

HAND HYGIENE

Anyone entering the school will be required to practice hand hygiene. Proper hand hygiene will help mitigate any virus transmission. Washing hands using soap and water for 20 seconds is the preferred method for cleaning hands. If a sink is not available, alcohol-based hand sanitizer may be used.

Staff and students will practice hand hygiene:

- Before leaving home, on arrival at school, and before leaving school
- After using the washroom
- Before and after any transitions within the school setting (ex. To another classroom, indoor-outdoor transitions, etc.)
- After sneezing or coughing
- Before and after breaks and sporting
- Before and after using playground equipment
- Before and after eating any food, including snacks
- Before touching face (nose, hands, or mouth)
- Whenever hands are visibly dirty
- Regularly throughout the day

CLEANING

ECSD has developed a COVID-19 cleaning standard. The increased measures include:

- purchasing provincially recommended COVID-19 cleaning supplies
- additional training for custodial staff
- frequently cleaning high-touch surfaces such as water fountains or door handles
- more frequent cleaning and disinfecting throughout the school, with specific attention to washrooms, high-traffic areas and classrooms

*Please note that the Division is providing all COVID-19 cleaning and safety items on behalf of all our schools. This will help ensure all schools use products that adhere to health standards and meet requirements to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. As a result, external donations of cleaning supplies or PPE cannot be accepted.

PPE (PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT)

Within the context of K-12 education, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is primarily focused on non-medical masks. Practices such as physical distancing, hand washing, staying home when sick, and increased environmental cleaning continue to be priority public health measures. PPE is necessary and will be the expectation when a student, staff or guest becomes ill at school and is required to isolate until they can be safely picked up and taken home. Other contexts include staff working with medically complex students for whom it is impractical to maintain two metres while working with the student.

WATER FOUNTAINS

Students will be encouraged to bring water bottles from home, filled to start the day, and may subsequently fill those bottles throughout the day as needed. Water filling stations will be available for students to refill their personal water bottles.

COMMON AREAS

Common areas, such as foyers, learning commons, library or T-intersections in hallways can result in students gathering. Measures will be in place to promote physical distancing in these areas, such as limiting the number of students allowed in the area at a time.

In high-traffic areas, such as the school office, signage such as posters and floor decals will remind students and staff to keep a safe physical distance. Staff will supervise these high-traffic areas and remind students of the need to adhere to any physical distancing protocols in place.

PLAYGROUNDS

The playground is off limits before school. During the day, students will be provided access to the school yard and playground equipment in a manner that supports cohort integrity and the maintenance of physical distancing. As playground equipment will not be cleaned between student use, students will be expected to wash their hands using proper hand hygiene both before and after using playground equipment.

TECHNOLOGY USE

Devices /Chromebooks will be assigned to specific cohorts at certain times, or to individual students for extended periods of time based on learning needs; the number of devices available for student use is limited. Devices will be disinfected between uses according to Division COVID-19 cleaning guidelines.

CLOSED CAMPUS

In order to maintain cohort integrity for contact tracing purposes, St. Pius X will have a closed campus for lunch. If your child must go home for lunch, we ask that you contact the office to make arrangements.

VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL

ALL visitors/parents must arrange for an appointment to enter the school. This includes visits to the main office or to meet with individual teachers. All visitors must wear a mask and maintain physical distancing. All visitors must practice hand hygiene upon entry to the school site. Parents are key partners in their child's education.

We encourage parents to make phone or online appointments/meetings with school staff to minimize in-person visits to the school.

When a parent or visitor enters the school with an established appointment, they are to use the main entrance of the school by the office.

Visitors must use the health assessment checklist to assess themselves daily prior to entering the school/site. Any person who selects "yes" on any of the screening questions will not be permitted to enter the school, pending further testing for COVID-19.

TRANSPORTATION/BUSSING

Parents and children/students should not be in the pick-up area or enter the bus if they have symptoms of COVID-19.

Students will be designated waiting areas for bussing to allow for social distancing and supervisors will oversee loading and unloading of students.

Families are encouraged to make alternate arrangements for transportation should they not feel comfortable with their children on yellow busses or transit.

VOLUNTEERS

Currently, we are not allowing volunteers in schools. We value the support they provide us, however, this is to maintain a closed campus and promote physical distancing. We hope to be able to welcome parent volunteers at a later date.

HOURS OF INSTRUCTION

Grades K – 6: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday (*No school on Thursday afternoon)

Warning Bell	8:24 A.M.
Instruction	8:30 – 10:15 A.M.
Recess (K-2)	10:15 – 10:30 A.M.
Recess (3-6)	10:30 – 10:45 A.M.
Instruction	10:30/10:45 A.M. – 12:05 P.M.
Lunch/Recess	12:05 – 12:47 P.M.
Instruction	12:47 – 3:00 P.M.
Dismissal	3:00 P.M.

Grades K – 6: Thursday

Warning Bell	8:24 A.M.
Instruction	8:30 – 10:15 A.M.
Recess (K-2)	10:15 – 10:30 A.M.
Recess (3-6)	10:30 – 10:45 A.M.
Instruction	10:30/10:45 – 12:02 P.M.
Early dismissal	12:02 P.M.

Kindergarten Extension Program (Mon., Tues., Wed., Fri.)

Kindergarten Extensions Class A

Warning Bell	8:24 A.M.
Classroom Instruction	8:28 - 10:15 A.M.
Recess	10:15 -10:30 A.M.
Classroom Instruction	10:30 – 11:30 A.M.
Studio Play	11:30 A.M.– 12:05 P.M.
Lunch	12:05 – 12:50 P.M.
Studio Play	12:50 – 3:00 P.M.

Kindergarten Extensions Class B

Warning Bell	8:24 A.M.
Studio Play	8:28 - 10:15 A.M.
Recess	10:15 -10:30 A.M.
Studio Play	10:30 – 11:30 A.M.
Classroom Instruction	11:30 A.M.– 12:05 P.M.
Lunch	12:05 – 12:50 P.M.
Classroom Instruction	12:50 – 3:00 P.M.

Kindergarten Extension Program Thursdays (*No school on Thursday afternoon)

Kindergarten Extensions Class A

Warning Bell	8:24 A.M.
Classroom Instruction	8:28 – 9:55 A.M.
Studio Play	9:55 – 10:15 A.M.
Recess	10:15 – 10:30 A.M.
Studio Play	10:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.
Early Dismissal	12:00 P.M.

Kindergarten Extensions Class B

Warning Bell	8:24 A.M.
Studio Play	8:28 – 9:55 A.M.
Classroom Instruction	9:55 – 10:15 A.M.
Recess	10:15 – 10:30 A.M.
Classroom Instruction	10:30 – 12:00 A.M.
Early Dismissal	12:00 P.M.

As a Catholic school community, we are blessed with the opportunity to grow in faith, live in hope and learn in love. We ask for your cooperation, understanding, patience and support as we journey through these unprecedented times together.

Lord our God, as we begin this new school year, allow us to experience and appreciate your presence in the many blessings you lovingly put before us despite the challenges we may face. May we seek to keep You first in all things. May we remember your ways and know that your presence, your light, is with us during every moment of every day...and that the light in our midst is Jesus.

Amen.

Mrs. P. Binassi-D'Amours
Principal
St. Pius X Catholic Elementary School