



RE-ENTRY PLAN – ST. PIUS X CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

WELCOME TO THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR!

The end of the 2019-2020 school year was unprecedented as COVID-19 changed the parameters for education across the globe. We certainly experienced the impact in ECSD and at St. Pius X, yet our amazing staff persevered to offer the best 'remote learning' education possible for our children as the year concluded, while dearly missing the children in our classrooms and hallways. We have now planned for a 'near normal' re-entry for families who choose this option, as well as a remote learning alternative. The Edmonton Catholic School Division has provided much information over the past months regarding the re-entry procedures and protocols that will be in place to ensure the safety of children and staff, and the integrity of education for the 2020-2021 school year.

Our experiences from the past months have reminded us of the resiliency, flexibility, patience, and perseverance needed to navigate the uncertainty of this pandemic. As a Catholic community, we continue to set our minds on Christ; for it is in Christ that we find our peace, our comfort, and our joy in times of trouble. We thank all our families and staff for walking together in Christ during these uncertain times.

Please review the information below to allow your family to plan for the start of the school year. Further information will be communicated in the first week of school in the St. Pius X Month-At-A-Glance for September.

Should you wish to have a more detailed review of the ECSD re-entry plan, please review the 'Edmonton Catholic Schools Division Entry Plan' <https://www.ecsd.net/>.

AT-SCHOOL / ON-LINE LEARNING

Please respond to the ECSD survey to select at-school or on-line learning. If you have already selected and wish to change options, please contact the office.

Please Note:

*Families who choose on-line learning may not have the same teacher for at-school learning, which is different from what occurred last spring (For example - 2020-2021: Ms. Smith teaches 2A at-school, but is not the grade 2 on-line teacher). Should a student move from one format of learning to another, the teacher will not remain the same.

*Cohorts/homerooms for at-school learning will be established at school with a classroom teacher. Cohorts/groupings for on-line learning will be established either at school (community school) or within the division (community cohort) for remote learning. There is a possibility that a teacher for online learning may not be a teacher from St. Pius X depending on the number of students accessing on-line learning, although children remain students of St. Pius X.

*There is a likelihood that on-line learning will occur in a combined grade cohort, depending on the number of students per grade whose families selected on-line learning.

*Curriculum for both at-school and on-line learning will be paced the same (follow the Division's Curriculum Pacing Guide) to allow for ease of transition should parents choose to return to at-school

learning or choose to move to on-line learning during the year. The online content for Kindergarten will focus on numeracy and literacy, while grades 1-6 will focus on the 4 core subjects in addition to Religion and Health. For more specific information regarding curriculum and instruction, please go to the 'Edmonton Catholic Schools Division Entry Plan' <https://www.ecsd.net/>.

FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL:

Wednesday, September 2 and Thursday, September 3 – students attend school as per the schedules below. They are to arrive at their exterior doors, which will be labeled by grade, and line up with respect to social distancing. Parents may escort students to these 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:

*Only students/parents new to St. Pius X are permitted to wait at the front entrance for admission to the school.

*Kindergarten students will follow a separate staggered entry schedule.

*Bussing will begin on Tuesday, September 8.

Wednesday September 2 - Staggered Entry Schedule (Half Day - Grades 1-6):

8:30 – 11:30: Grades 1, 2, 3 (morning only)

12:30 – 3:00: Grades 4, 5, 6 (afternoon only)

Thursday, September 3 – Grades 1-6 (Half Day – dismissal at 11:56 AM)

Grades 1-6 students arrive as per the regular school bell schedule (8:24 AM).

Grades 1-6 students will be dismissed by 11:56 AM.

Friday, September 4 – NO SCHOOL

Professional Development Day for All ECSD Staff

On-Line Learning begins September 8, 2020

PHYSICAL DISTANCING

All members of the school community are asked to physically distance as much as is practicable and are asked to wear masks other than times of eating or physical play (P.E./recess).

Signage and directional arrows will be in place to control the flow of foot traffic in the school. There will also be maximum capacity limits for washrooms and assigned washrooms.

Staggered times for movement through the hallways, assigned entrance and exit doors and limiting access to common areas will be implemented.

In classrooms, maintaining physical distancing of 2 metres may not be possible. 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.

At this time, lockers will not be available for use. Students are to keep their personal belongings with them in the classroom. Therefore, students are asked to minimize the number of belongings they bring to school.

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.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES / FIELD TRIPS

At this time, field trips will not take place. Additionally, extra-curricular athletics as well as choir/ drama/ glee/social justice clubs are postponed for September. Once directed by the Division, field trips and extra curricular clubs will be reinstated.

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: [healthassessmentchecklist](#)

Any person who selects "yes" on any of the screening questions will not be permitted to enter the school, pending testing for COVID-19.

Signs will be posted reminding persons not to enter if they have COVID-19 symptoms, even if symptoms resemble a mild cold.

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 is practicable. Supervising staff will follow strict Division protocol to ensure the safety of students and staff until he/she is picked up. The student will not be permitted to return to school until testing for COVID-19 has taken place.

If any cases of COVID-19 are identified at St. Pus X, the Zone Medical Officer of Health will work directly with the school division and school administration to provide follow-up recommendations and messaging for staff, parents/guardians, and students.

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.

All staff are mandated to complete training on the use of PPE and on cleaning protocols. Staff will instruct students accordingly and will oversee Division protocol with the use of PPE, masks, and cleaning/sanitizing within the school.

MASKS

The use of masks helps to reduce the potential for transmission and exposure. All students and staff K-12 will be provided reusable masks. Staff will also receive face shields for their use. Parents are encouraged to purchase a supply of masks for their child(ren) in addition to traditional school supplies. Masks are particularly recommended in circumstances where there is prolonged close contact (greater than 15 minutes) and distance of two metres cannot be maintained. Proper protocol for mask use will be instructed to students by their classroom teachers. 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 from Kindergarten to grade 3 are strongly encouraged to wear a face mask, if they are physically,

developmentally, and psychologically able to. Should a student forget their mask, a disposable one will be provided to them. Schools will have masks available for students to use if they become ill during the day and are awaiting pick-up, or on the occasion that they forget or damage theirs.

WATER FOUNTAINS

Water fountains present a challenge in the effort to reduce transmission of the COVID-19 virus. 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. The use of water fountains in their traditional manner will not be available for use. Water filling stations will be the source of water 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. There will also be a maximum number of individuals who can be in the school office at one time. Staff will supervise these high-traffic areas and remind students of the need to adhere to any physical distancing protocols in place.

Please note that for the first quarter of the year, the general library will be closed. Classroom libraries will remain operational.

PLAYGROUNDS

The playground will be off limits before and after 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. Families who choose to have their child participate in online instruction require access to a device and a reliable internet connection at home.

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 assigned seats and a record of this seating plan will be kept to assist with contact tracing in the case of a student having COVID-19. Students who live in the same household will be seated together.

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

Students will load from the back to the front according to their seating plan.

Students start unloading from the front seats to the back of the bus.

If a child becomes symptomatic during the bus trip, a mask will be made available. The driver will contact the school to make the appropriate arrangements to pick up the child/student.

There will be an increased frequency of cleaning and disinfection of high-touch surfaces by the bus carrier, such as door handles, window areas, rails, steering wheel, mobile devices, and GPS prior to each run.

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 cohort integrity and promote physical distancing. We hope to be able to welcome parent volunteers at a later date.

A QUARTERLY SYSTEM FOR 2020–2021

Families will be able to decide, at four key times throughout the school year, whether their child will attend school in person or choose to learn at home through online instruction. To offer this choice, we are organizing the year into four instructional with these key entry or exit times:

Quarter 1: September 3 to November 9

Quarter 2: November 10 to January 29

Quarter 3: February 1 to April 20

Quarter 4: April 21 to June 25

Three weeks before the start of each quarter, families will be asked to indicate their choice for the following quarter. Whether families choose in-person or online learning, they remain enrolled in the school where they registered or pre-enrolled for 2020–2021.

HOURS OF INSTRUCTION

<u>Grades K – 6: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday</u>		<u>Kindergarten Extension Program</u> <u>(Mon., Tues., Wed., Fri.)</u>		<u>Kindergarten Extension Program</u> <u>(Thursdays)</u>	
		Kindergarten Extensions Class A		Kindergarten Extensions Class A	
Warning Bell	8:24 A.M.	Warning Bell	8:24 A.M.	Warning Bell	8:24 A.M.
Instruction	8:30 – 10:15 A.M.	Classroom Instruction	8:28 - 10:15 A.M.	Classroom Instruction	8:28 – 9:48 A.M.
Recess	10:15 – 10:30 A.M.	Recess	10:15 -10:30 A.M.	Studio Play	9:48 A.M. – 10:15 A.M.
Instruction	10:30 A.M. – 12:05 P.M.	Classroom Instruction	10:30 – 11:30 A.M.	Recess	10:15 – 10:30 A.M.
Lunch	12:05 – 12:47 P.M.	Studio Play	11:30 A.M.– 12:05 P.M.	Studio Play	10:30 – 11:54 A.M.
Instruction	12:47 – 3:00 P.M.			Early Dismissal	11:54 A.M.
Dismissal	3:00 P.M.			*No school on Thursday afternoon	
<u>Grades K – 6: Thursday</u>		Kindergarten Extensions Class B		Kindergarten Extensions Class B	
Warning Bell	8:24 A.M.	Warning Bell	8:24 A.M.	Warning Bell	8:24 A.M.
Instruction	8:30 – 10:15 A.M.	Studio Play	8:28 - 10:15 A.M.	Studio Play	8:28 – 9:48 A.M.
Recess	10:15 – 10:30 A.M.	Recess	10:15 -10:30 A.M.	Classroom Instruction	9:48 A.M. – 10:15 A.M.
Instruction	10:30 – 11:56 A.M.	Studio Play	10:30 – 11:30 A.M.	Recess	10:15 – 10:30 A.M.
Early dismissal	11:56 A.M.	Classroom Instruction	11:30 A.M.– 12:05 P.M.	Classroom Instruction	10:30 – 11:54 A.M.
*No school on Thursday afternoon		P.M.		Early Dismissal	11:54 A.M.
		Lunch	12:05 - 12:50 P.M.	*No school on Thursday afternoon	
		Studio Play	12:50 - 3:00 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, Jesus,
You call us out of darkness into the light of faith...
Lord, have mercy.
Christ Jesus,
You call us out of discouragement and fear, and give us a Spirit of hope...
Christ, have mercy.
Lord Jesus,
You call us out of bitterness, selfishness, and indifference, and teach us to love...
Lord, have mercy.

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