

Dear St. Francis Parents and Guardians,

Welcome back to school! We are very excited to welcome our students and families back to our community for in-person, face-to-face learning with enhanced safety measures in place to protect everyone.

Please read the following information carefully and connect with us at the school (613-342-0510) should you have any questions or concerns.

Back to School September 2020

Our staggered start and your child's first day of school is as follows:

JK/SK Tuesday September 8

Grades 1-3 Wednesday September 9

Grades 4-6 Thursday September 10

This year, all belongings will be transported home each day in your child's backpack. Children in Grades 4-12 must wear a mask. Two disposable masks will be provided daily to those students who do not bring one with them. We highly recommend that all children wear a mask. No indoor or outdoor toys from home are permitted.

Students will have their own markers, pencils, erasers, scissors, etc., provided by the school. These will not be shared amongst students and will remain at each student's workspace.

The following are recommended items to pack with your child(ren). Please label everything.

• Kindergarten:

- ✓ Weather-appropriate clothing
- ✓ A plastic bag for wet clothing to go home at the end of the day which can be kept in your child's backpack
- ✓ A backpack, lunch kit and re-usable water bottle
- ✓ Two pairs of shoes (Velcro or slip on only) -- one pair for inside and one for outdoors
- ✓ Complete change of clothes including socks and underwear in a clear Ziploc bag to be kept at school. (Please label the Ziploc bag!)
- ✓ Empty pencil case
- ✓ Cloth or disposable mask(s)

• Grades One-Six:

- ✓ A backpack, lunch kit and re-usable water bottle
- ✓ Two pairs of shoes (indoor and outdoor—tie-up shoes only if child is proficient in tying shoes themselves. ***(Teachers are unable to assist due to physical distancing practices.)***)
- ✓ Outdoor clothing appropriate for the weather
- ✓ Headphones for iPads
- ✓ Empty pencil case
- ✓ Cloth or disposable mask(s)

School Start and End Times and Drop-Off/Pick-Up Procedures

- The school day begins at 9:15 AM and ends at 3:35 PM.
- Students will proceed directly to their zone when they arrive at school and follow directions of the supervising yard staff to enter. Students will be escorted to their bus, walker gate or pick up gate at the end of the day.
- We ask that you please bear with us in our first few days as we anticipate that James St. will be quite busy due to the increased number of parents opting to drive their children to and from school. Please be patient and flexible. It is important to note that parents and guardians need to maintain physical distancing when dropping off and picking up their children.
- Parents and visitors are not permitted inside the school or on school yard at this time. If you need to pick your child up for an appointment or early departure, please call the school in advance and we will escort your child from the school.

Communication

- Please check your email, school social media, and phone messages frequently. As we navigate our “new normal”, we will be updating policies and procedures as needed and will use these platforms to communicate with our parent community.
- Your children’s teacher(s) will be in touch with you via Microsoft Teams. This platform will continue to be used as a means of communication between the classroom and home. If you are not set up on TEAMS, please call or email the school and we will work together to come up with a solution that works. We are attempting to minimize the amount of paper coming and going from school.

Thank you for your ongoing patience and support as we work together to safely welcome all students back to school. We ask for your continued prayers as we embark on this new learning adventure together.

Stay safe, stay well.

Yours in Catholic Education,

Mrs. Becky MacDonald, Principal