



Sept. 4, 2020

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: Students, Parents/Legal Guardians, and Staff

Welcome back! [We are delighted](#) to have our students and staff in our schools again, and we look forward to another year of growing in faith and knowledge. Thank you for participating with the province-wide Catholic community in [praying this novena](#) for a safe, healthy, and successful return to school and for working together to make our school re-entry this week a resounding success.

Last week, we launched the *Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools Online Learning Pathway K-12*, which is now coordinated through [St. Gabriel Education Centre](#) (formerly St. Gabriel High School). Our Board of Trustees [approved a formal name change](#) of the school at its regular public meeting on Aug. 31. This change was necessary to reflect the growing scope of the school, which provides diverse programming (outreach, distance education, and online learning) to a wide range of students. As part of this evolution, approximately 520 Kindergarten to grade 9 students will start online classes on Sept., 8, while approximately 130 grades 10-12 students began this week. We congratulate Mr. Evan Holstein on his recent appointment as acting school principal of St. Gabriel Education Centre.

On Sept. 2, Alberta's Minister of Education [unveiled](#) the provincial government's plan to distribute new federal funding – as [announced by Prime Minister Trudeau](#) on Aug. 26 – to help support schools across the province. The \$1,980,300 that our Division will receive will be used to address increased costs of expanded online learning and ongoing expenses related to school re-entry and COVID-19. Examples of such expenses include personal protective equipment, sanitizing and disinfecting supplies, and costs for retaining substitute teacher and casual support staff. We are grateful to both the federal and provincial governments for their support and assistance.

Our Division has put in place multiple [measures](#) to help keep our students, parents/legal guardians, staff, and communities safe. These protocols are described in detail on [our website](#) and in our just-updated [Parent Guidebook for School Re-Entry: 2020-2021](#) (revisions are noted in red). On Sept. 2, Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health mandated [CMOH-order 33-2020](#), which articulates the guidelines for [mask use](#) in schools. More information is available in our *Parent Guidebook* and on our website.

We will continue to keep you informed through these weekly Superintendent's updates, and detailed information about School Re-Entry is available on our [website](#) (gsacrd.ab.ca/schoolreentry), which is updated regularly. As well, by following our official social media platforms ([Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#)) you can stay in-the-know. If you have any questions, please reach out to [your child's school directly](#), or [send us an email](#) (schoolreentry@gsacrd.ab.ca).

Just as we continue to follow and implement the direction of Alberta Health Services, the Chief Medical Officer of Health, and all levels of government, we encourage you to do the same. Credible information about COVID-19 is available at:

- [Health Canada](#): canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-COVID-19.html
- [Alberta Government](#): alberta.ca/coronavirus-info-for-albertans.aspx
- [Alberta Health Services](#): albertahealthservices.ca/topics/Page16944.aspx
- [City of St. Albert](#): stalbert.ca/city/eps/preparedness/resources
- [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#): who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019

I encourage you to visit these websites often and to follow the suggestions to keep you and your family healthy.

Finally, may we continue to be thankful for the boundless care and guidance that our loving God provides every day. Thank you, as always, for your continued support, patience, and prayers as we work in partnership to serve the needs of our students through these unique and ever-changing times. Blessings!

Sincerely,

Dr. Clint Moroziuk
Superintendent of Schools