

May 1, 2020

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: Parents, Students, and Staff

I look forward to sharing with you our celebration of Mary in this month of May. Our Blessed Mother cares for each of us every day by continuously and powerfully interceding in our lives. Let us thank Mary for her grace and strength and for caring for us in our times of greatest need, just as she cared for her own son – Jesus Christ. For ideas on how to honour and celebrate the Month of Mary, please access [these resources](#) on our website.

Just today, The Hon. Adriana LaGrange, Minister of Education, explained that, “As announced yesterday by Premier Kenney during the release of Alberta’s [Relaunch Strategy](#), the province has made the decision to not have students return to in-school classes for the remainder of the academic year.” The Minister also confirmed that while a re-entry plan is the focus of current ministry discussions, no decisions have been made about specifics regarding this plan. As is the case in many jurisdictions in Alberta, GSACRD will offer [summer school](#) for high school students (grades 9 to 12). All classes will be delivered entirely online, and there will be no diploma courses.

Our [fifth community story](#) of faith and learning at home features heartfelt messages from our Board of Trustees. In this video, each trustee shares words of encouragement, expressing his or her gratitude to you – our students, parents, families, teachers, and staff – for how you have responded and adapted in these challenging times. The video is posted on [our website](#) (gsacrd.ab.ca), where you can also access previous weeks’ stories.

I encourage you to keep sharing your own stories of faith and learning at home, using the hashtags #ABLEarnAtHome, #GSACRDproud, and #GSACRDgrace. Please tag GSACRD in your posts, and, if you have not already done so, please follow and like us on [Facebook](#) (fb.com/GSACRD), [Twitter](#) (@GSACRD), and [Instagram](#) (@GSACRD_official). You can also [email your stories](#) to us (communications@gsacrd.ab.ca).

We are now accepting nominations for the [2020 Laura Bird Memorial Beacon of Hope Award](#). Initiated by our Board in 2017, this annual award recognizes mentors of faith within our school communities. If you would like to nominate someone, please download and complete this [nomination form](#). The submission deadline is May 15. Complete details about this award are available on our website.

Just as we continue to follow and implement the recommendations of the Chief Medical Officer and all levels of government, we encourage you to do the same. You can find credible and relevant health and safety information, as well as important updates about COVID-19, as follows:

- [Government of 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 wish you and your family a relaxing weekend. Enjoy the beautiful weather, and stay well.

Sincerely,

David Keohane
Superintendent of Schools