

May 8, 2020

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

As we celebrate Mother's Day this weekend, may we also take time to honour our Heavenly Mother, Mary. Let us join together to thank all mothers for their generosity and self-giving love. For ideas on how to celebrate the Month of Mary, please access [these resources](#) on our website.

On May 6, The Hon. Adriana LaGrange, Minister of Education, provided [an update](#) on at-home learning and supports for students and parents during COVID-19 and planning for when in-school classes may resume. While the Minister made it clear that no decisions have been made on school operations for the 2020-21 school year, she also said that the province is working with school authorities and education system partners on developing a comprehensive [re-entry plan](#) that considers three scenarios that could exist by September:

- normal school operations resume;
- schools are partially re-opened, with some level of restrictions; or
- teacher-directed at-home learning continues.

The re-entry plan will prioritize the safety and well-being of teachers, staff, and students; honour collective bargaining agreements; and be informed by both Alberta's [Relaunch Strategy](#) and advice provided by the province's chief medical officer of health.

As is the case in other school jurisdictions in Alberta, GSACRD will offer [summer school](#) for grades 9 to 12 students in July. Due to restrictions around the pandemic, we have streamlined our course options, and only online classes will be offered. Additionally, there will be no diploma exam courses, and assessments will be done at home and online.

We are still 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, complete, and return the [nomination form](#) by May 15. Complete details are available on our website.

I encourage you to keep sharing your 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, 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).

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

This continues to be a challenging time for some families. If you need support, please do not hesitate to reach out to your local school or principal. As an additional resource, Alberta Education has instituted a help-line and email service for parents of students, particularly those requiring specialized supports, during COVID-19 and at-home learning. Call 780.422.6548 (toll-free: 310.0000, followed by the nine-digit phone number), or [send an email](#) to [studentsupport@gov.ab.ca](mailto:studentsupport@gov.ab.ca). This service is available between 8:15 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday.

I wish you and your loved ones all the best as you celebrate Mother's Day this weekend. Stay well.

Sincerely,

David Keohane  
Superintendent of Schools