

St. Michael's School Safety Plan
Fall 2020

The safety of students and staff will be a primary consideration. Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools as well as St. Michael's School have created a plan for the safe return to school following all recommendations of the Chief Medical Health Officer and the Ministry of Education.

Enhanced Personal Hygiene

The staff and students at St. Michael's School will ensure that frequent hand washing, hand sanitizing techniques and proper hand hygiene are a consistent and a regular routine of the school day.

Most of our classrooms are equipped with sinks. "Good Handwashing" posters will be displayed in washrooms and over school sinks. Handwashing time will be provided throughout the day. Hand sanitizer will be provided at all entry points throughout the school and in each classroom. **It is optional and encouraged for students to bring their own unscented hand sanitizer.**

Limiting Physical Contact

At St. Michael's we have endeavored to make every effort to minimize the number of teachers and staff working with a specific group of students. Our strategies include:

- Having classroom teachers remain and teach as much of the grade level curriculum as possible so that an itinerant teacher does not need to enter the room.
- Reduce the number of teachers who have access to groups of students by maintaining a K-4 and a 5-8 timetable with different recess and lunch times.
- Student desks will be spaced out and forward facing.
- Traffic flow in the hallway will be limited and will follow designated paths.
- PAA and Band will be delivered in a block schedule – All PAA students will attend Sacred for one entire week and Band students will have longer band periods with fewer students.
- No large school gatherings. We will develop virtual assemblies and faith gatherings.
- Spaces and school computers will be booked in blocks to allow cleaning between use.
- Staggered entry and exit points to reduce crowding when entering and exiting the building.
- Gym and recess activities adapted to provide non-physical contact.
- Assigned playground area, play apparatus, and equipment. Hand cleaning before and after use.
- St. Michael's school has arranged for Increased supervision outdoors at recess
- Staggered recesses and noon breaks are currently scheduled
- Teachers will be allowed the latitude to take students for recess on an ad hoc basis

Facilities and Cleaning/Sanitation

School level planning for cleaning and sanitization is as follows:

- Signs will be posted at entrances to the school (not to enter if signs of illness).

- Provide designated washrooms rotation (i.e. certain classrooms before recess and others after recess) as much as possible. Limit the number of students in the washroom at each time. Washrooms will be cleaned throughout the day.
- Classrooms will be set up to maximize social distancing and to allow for proper cleaning and sanitization.
- Classrooms will clean food contact areas before and after use.

The use of face masks

Christ the Teacher Catholic School Division in consultation with public health has decided to begin the school year at Level 2 of the Safe Schools Plan which includes the use of masks.

- All Grade 4-12 students are required to wear a mask when using CTTCs transportation.
- Students in Prekindergarten to Grade 3 will be encouraged, but not required, to wear masks while in school or when using CTTCs transportation.
- It is strongly recommended that students in Grade 4 and up wear a mask in high traffic areas and all other areas where physical distancing is not possible.
- It is recommended that all staff wear a mask and/or face shield.
- Students are welcome to bring their own masks. Additional disposable masks will be made available to students when needed and required.
- In some situations, wearing a mask may not be possible for a student. In these instances, staff members will work with the parents/caregivers to consider accommodations.

Managing Guests/Volunteers/Visitors

Protocols for guests to St. Michael's School include:

- All guests are to self-assess before entering the building.
- All guests are to wear a mask when entering the building.
- All guests are to sign in and use hand sanitizer .and then report to the office
- Bins of used pens and disinfected pens will be available.
- Parents/Guardians will be asked to minimize visits (avoid dropping off homework, lunches, clothes, etc.)
- Parents/Guardians will wait outside to pick up students for appointments. Please call the office to notify that you are at the school.
- **No birthday treats or food brought into the school**

Arrival/Dismissal/Movement of Students

Students will have designated areas and times to leave and enter the school.

- The school day begins with the first bell at 8:50. Non-bus students are encouraged to arrive shortly before 8:50. The school day ends at 3:20. Kindergarten students will be ready for dismissal at 3:10
- When the bells ring, teachers will call specific classes to enter. Exits will also be handled this way. Maps of direction of student flow will be outlined in the school.

Lunch and Nutrition

- Students will still have snack time each morning before 10:00. Students will eat their snack at their desk with proper hygiene and disinfecting before and after.
- Students who are able to go home at lunch time will be encouraged to do so. Students eating at school will eat their lunch in their classrooms and at their own desks. **No student from St. Michael's School will be allowed to go to another student's home for lunch.**
- SCC hot lunches are on hold until further notice.

Transportation of Students:

Busing

- Students will be encouraged to walk, bike or be driven to school as much as possible. Busing should be restricted to those who require this service. A permanent seating plan will be developed to help assist with contact tracing if required and frequent sanitation will be taking place. It is required that all students in grades 4-12 wear a mask when using CTTCS transportation. Students in Prekindergarten to Grade 3 are encouraged but not required.

Parent Drop Off – Parents are asked to use the following locations along the school ground's fenced area:

- K to 1 south drive thru to division 1 entrance (please use as a drop off and not parking)
- gr. 2-3 south Darlington fence entrance.
- 4-6 the East side fence entrances (2 of them)
- 7-8 the Gloria Hayden fence entrance at the intersection of Poplar Gate and Morrison

Student Supplies, Lockers, Shared Materials and Equipment

In order limit and ensure that all contact areas are cleaned, St. Michael's School has implemented the following:

- -No use of student lockers. Students will only bring their jacket and school backpack to school. All student materials will be kept at their desk. (Classroom teaches will contact parents to advise which student supplies are needed to begin school. Remaining school supplies can be stored at home.)
- No removal of student shoes. For the start of the school year, students will not be required to remove their shoes upon entering. Students will only require one pair of running shoes appropriate for school.
- No student entrance into the library. Students can request books that will be brought to their classroom.
- Students will be assigned toys and manipulatives for play and educational purposes. Materials will be cleaned before and after use.
- ALL PERSONAL items such as water bottles and lunch kits are to be taken home for cleaning daily.

Physical Activity and Fine Arts Courses

Physical Activity programs will be held outdoors as much as weather permits. The Physical Education program will focus on individual skill development vs. team play.

Arts. Education classes will focus more on visual art and music theory as singing will be avoided at the beginning of the year.

Band classes will be in small groups with minimal play and regular disinfecting between classes.

The grade 7&8 student PAA program will be run in blocks. Students will go one week every 5 weeks from 1:00 – 3:00. Students will take the school bus and be required to wear a mask.

Extra Curricular Activities:

Extra-curricular activities are currently on hold. Plans for extra-curricular activities and other gatherings will be developed in consultation with the Chief Medical Health Officer.

Illness and Care

As part of our illness prevention, all staff and families at St. Michael's School are expected to use the online Saskatchewan Covid-19 self-assessment tool at <https://public.ehealthsask.ca/sites/COVID-19/>.

Parents are responsible for the daily screening of their child's health. An attached Screening Questionnaire is provided for parents.

Please note: We realize that many staff and students have allergies and coughing symptoms that are not attributed to any specific illness and these symptoms are their baseline symptoms. If a child has symptoms related to a pre-existing condition, the student is encouraged to be tested at least once before the start of school. If negative for COVID-19, these symptoms can be considered a baseline and no future testing is necessary unless symptoms change.

Procedures are in place for students who become ill during the school day.

- Parental contact will be our first step if a child is displaying signs of illness.
- Students will be relocated to a private area within our building, with an identified staff who will take care of them while we contact a family caregiver.
- Families will be encouraged to contact Healthline 811 and follow their directions. School officials will contact Public Health.

As a reminder, parents or staff that travel outside of Canada must complete a mandatory 14-day self-isolation.

Mental Health and Social-Emotional Supports

We understand that this time spent away from school and the changes in expectations and safety might be stressful for you and your child. We will make every effort to support families as we work through these changes. Together with our school counsellors, our strategies include:

- Providing inclusive and compassionate learning environments.

- Understanding coping strategies.
- Supporting independence.
- Helping to minimize additional stress or trauma by addressing individual student needs.

Changes in COVID #s

CTTCS will be in continual contact with our local health region to monitor COVID cases. The government has created 4 levels of school responses that will fall in accordance with local health regions. We will follow the direction of our board as well as the health region as to which phase we will operate in. Please see <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2020/august/04/safe-school-plan> if you wish to read more about each phase.

Supporting Students/Families Unable to Attend School:

Parents of students unable to attend school due to health concerns are asked to contact the school to discuss programming support options. Please call Mr. Baker at 306-782-4407.

Mr. Baker,
Principal

Mental Health Resources

Mental health is as important as physical health. There are several mental health websites to access. The school division will be updating and adding other resources and programming as time goes on. Until then, here are several to consider from [Mental Health During COVID-19](#).

Living through the COVID-19 pandemic can cause anxiety and worry in all of us. Whether you're coping with the loneliness of self-isolation, concerned about the health of your loved ones, or worried about what the future may hold, there are mental health supports available to help you through this difficult time.

- [HealthLine 811](#) - Mental health and addictions service continues to be available, providing 24/7 crisis support, advice to help manage a caller's situation, information, and connection to community resources.
- www.onlinetherapyuser.ca - Free online therapy for adults in Saskatchewan experiencing mental health difficulties or stress, with a focus on depression and anxiety. Available any day, any time, from any computer.
- [Wellness Together Canada](#) - Connects people to peer, support workers, social workers, psychologists and other professionals for confidential chat sessions or phone calls, and also offers credible information and help to address mental health and substance use issues.
- [Mobile Crisis](#) - Centres are located across Saskatchewan and operate 24/7.
- [Kids Help Phone](#) - Offers professional counseling, information, and referrals. You can phone, text, or chat online. It's confidential, free, and available 24/7.
- [Farm Stress Line](#) - Provides support for farmers and ranchers and is available 24 hours per day, seven days per week. To get help, call 1-800-667-4442.

Family Service Saskatchewan, in partnership with the Saskatchewan Health Authority, supports **free mental health walk-in clinics**. These clinics offer free one-time counseling sessions, which are now available by phone.

Walk-in mental health counseling services are available in your local area:

Yorkton

The [Canadian Mental Health Association, Saskatchewan Division](#), has set up phone lines to support those who may be struggling in these changing times:

- Provincial Line: 306-421-1871
- Provincial Youth Line: 306-730-5900