

St. Theodore School

Where the knowledge of God is the foundation of learning

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Christ the Teacher Roman Catholic School Division #212

Return to School Procedures for Parents

As students return to school on September 8th, Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools as well as St. Theodore's School staff are working together to ensure that our students educational programs meet the highest standards established prior to the suspension of classes in March 2020. While an increased emphasis will be placed on multiple layers of precaution such as cleaning, sanitizing, and limiting physical contact, all students will once again receive the full Saskatchewan curriculum taught by their teachers. The safety of students and staff will be a primary consideration. Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools as well as St. Theodore's School have created a plan for safe return to school following all recommendations of the Chief Medical Health Officer and the Ministry of Education.

- *This information details our St. Theodore School Return to School Plan and addresses questions and concerns that were provided in last week's parent survey.*
- *Additional details can be found in CTTCS Return to School Plan <https://www.christtheteacher.ca/cttcs/blog/2020/08/04/return-to-school-plan-fall-2020/>*
- *Please review this document with your child and contact us regarding any further questions you may have.*

Welcome Back - Students will return to school on September 8th for their first day of classes. To help in transitioning all students smoothly in our Return to School plans, Kindergarten students will start on September 10th. New families to St. Theodore can contact the school for a meeting virtually. We are taking extra steps to ensure we have a safe environment for our students to return to as we resume our school year. We have addressed the following areas:

- **Hygiene** - Staff will remove area rugs, cushions, soft furnishings and toys that are soft or made from material and that can't be wiped down with cleaner or sanitizer.

-Staff will start to develop handwashing and/or sanitizing planning as part of routines in classroom (wash hands after recess, sanitize after moving to a new space or work area).

-Establishing proper use of shared sanitizer stations and own personal sanitizer routines will be implemented.

-Students will sanitize their own work area before and after eating – classrooms will have spray bottles and paper towels for student use.

-Regular use of alcohol wipes to sanitize and clean personally assigned school Chromebooks and classroom I-pads. Chromebooks will be signed out to the student for the school year.

- "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. **Students will be provided their own unscented hand sanitizer.**

- **Limiting Physical Contact**

- 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.
- 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.
- Limit school gatherings. We will continue with classroom faith gatherings.
- Gym and recess activities adapted to provide non-physical contact.
- **Masks** - it is recommended that students in Grade 4-8 wear masks to minimize the transmission of COVID. Students in Grades K-3 are allowed to wear masks if their family so chooses.
- **Visitors** - in order to minimize contact, parents are asked to only enter the school if necessary. Visitors will be required to do a self assessment check prior to entering the school, sign into a visitor log and perform hand hygiene. **Please use the main doors and wait for staff member to address/ greet you** as any movement in the school must be tracked. Staff will not be arranging guests to our classrooms or schools at this time.
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- **Limiting Shared Material and Equipment**

- Assigned playground area, play apparatus, and equipment. Hand cleaning before and after use.
- School spaces will be booked in blocks to allow cleaning between use.
- No sharing of school supplies, class sets of supplies, gym equipment, lockers, food or snacks.
- -Students will have their own lockers. Students will only bring their jacket and school backpack to school. All student materials will be kept in desk. Jacket, backpack and lunch kit will be stored in locker and locker will be emptied daily.
- 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.

- **Extra-Curricular and Field Trips**

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.

• Facilities • Cleaning and Sanitation

School level planning for cleaning and sanitization is as follows:

- Caretakers sanitize high touch areas, desks, chairs and door knobs daily.
- Signs will be posted at entrances to the school (not to enter if signs of illness).
- 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.

• Illness in Care

As part of our illness prevention, all staff and families at St. Theodore'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.

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 healthy symptoms. Parents will be consulted in these situations.

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 families.
- 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.

• Nutrition Programs

- Students will still have snack time each morning in their classrooms. Students will eat their snack at their desk with proper hygiene and disinfecting before and after.
- Students eating lunch at school will eat their lunch in their classrooms and at their own desks.
- Lunches and snacks will not be shared among students.
- SCC hot lunches are on hold until further notice.

• 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 counsellor, 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.

Additional resources available can be discussed with the school counsellor.

• Transportation

Busing should be restricted to those who require this service. Parents are encouraged to arrange alternate transportation to and from school whenever possible. A permanent seating plan will be developed to help assist with contact tracing if required. All Grade 4-12 students are required to wear a mask when using CTCS transportation. Students in Prekindergarten to Grade 3 will be encouraged, but not required to wear masks while in school or when using CTCS transportation.

Parent Drop Off/Pick up – Parents are asked to use the following locations:

K-3: Main Street – ahead of the bus drop off on school side of the street.

4-8: Yorkton Avenue- school side of the street

• School Day/Year Structure /Instruction

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 provided virtually.

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. Parents are welcome to transport their children. Students that take the school bus will be required to wear a mask.

All students will once again receive the full Saskatchewan curriculum taught by their teachers.

Parents of students unable to attend school due to health concerns are invited to contact the school to discuss programming support options.

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.

St. Theodore School will continue to keep you updated to changes as we know. Please make sure that the school office has updated email and phone number information. Newsletters will be sent electronically as much as possible.

It is important to acknowledge that the return to school may be met with anxiety for students, families and staff. It is in working together as one, that we will provide the safe, welcoming, faith-based learning environment that has always been the cornerstone of all Christ the Catholic School schools.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school.

We look forward to and new and interesting school year.

Tammy Morrison

Principal- St. Theodore School