

August 4, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope this message finds you well and that you are enjoying this summer heat as the calendar turns to August. As we begin to prepare for the upcoming school year we continue to be agile, adaptive and guided by our Gospel values.

*“Like the disciples in the Gospel, we were caught off guard by an unexpected, turbulent storm. We have realized that we are on the same boat, all of us fragile and disorientated, but at the same time important and needed, all of us called to row together, each of us in need of comforting one another. On this boat....are all of us. Just like those disciples, who spoke anxiously with one voice, saying “We are perishing” (v. 38), so we too have realized that we cannot go on thinking of ourselves, but only together we can do this.”*

In the words of Pope Francis, “we can look to so many exemplary companions for the journey...” All of you have been models of strength to one another. Thank you for being exemplary companions through your words, actions and deeds. Your children are looking for your calm presence and reassuring ways. Continue to rely on God for your strength, as we prepare for the upcoming school year.

The Alberta Government announced this morning that non-medical masks will be mandatory for Grade 4-12 students and staff when school returns for in-person instruction on August 31, 2020. Pre-Kindergarten - Grade 12 students will be provided with two reusable non-medical masks. Non-medical masks will be required in all shared and common spaces, such as hallways and on school buses. Masks will remain optional for Pre-Kindergarten - Grade 3 students. For more information on today’s announcement, please visit the [Alberta Government website](#).

As always, our primary goal is to keep staff and students healthy and safe. Masks are an additional precaution in ensuring that your child is safe along with social distancing, cohorting, disinfecting high touch surfaces, hand washing, completing the daily screening and staying home when sick.

Our RDCRS Relaunch Team is working on Frequently Asked Questions that will be posted to our division website ([www.rdcrs.ca](http://www.rdcrs.ca)) for parents to help address concerns, such as sickness (child), process for confirmed cases, extracurricular activities, drop-off/pick-up zones, staggered entry etc. This will be posted by mid-August.

On Friday, August 7, our division will be sending out a survey to parents to get your feedback if you plan on sending your child(ren) back to school for in-person classes this fall or requiring online learning at home. Your feedback will help us develop a learning plan on how best to support your child moving forward.

Stay safe and please enjoy the rest of your summer. I look forward to seeing you and your children soon.

God bless,



Kathleen Finnigan  
Acting Superintendent