

January 18, 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As you know, the rapid spread of the COVID-19 Omicron variant continues to pose serious staffing and operational challenges to the education system. Red Deer Catholic Regional School Division remains focused on the continuity in learning as a critical goal within our pandemic approach. If we are required to move to online learning, our first response, based on operational concerns, would be to shift to online learning for **grades 7, 8, 9 if and when it becomes necessary**. Shifting these particular grades to online learning will provide the Division with the necessary staffing resources to maintain in-person learning for all other grade levels.

As a proactive measure, we want to make you aware that **if the need arises**, we are prepared to move temporarily to online learning in the following schools/grades:

- St. Francis of Assisi Middle School (Grade 7 to Grade 9)
- St. Thomas Aquinas Middle School (Grade 7 to Grade 9)
- St. Patrick's Community School (Grade 7 to Grade 9)
- École Camille J Lerouge School (Grade 7 to Grade 9)
- St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Catholic School (Grade 7 to Grade 9)
- St. Gregory the Great Catholic School (Grade 7 to Grade 9)
- École Mother Teresa School (Grade 7 to Grade 9: English and French classes)

If this becomes necessary, our decision to move to online learning in these grades will be based on three factors: (a) the ability of a school to have staff available to operate in-school classes; (b) attendance rates; (c) what is occurring within our local context and influencing our school division, such as health data. Short-term shifts will be limited to 10 calendar days.

As always, do not hesitate to reach out to your child's school administrators for additional support or clarification. While this is a challenging time, we continue to trust in the Lord with all our hearts, leaning on each other for support. Thank you for your continued understanding.

Have a safe and blessed day. God bless.



Kathleen Finnigan, Superintendent of Schools
Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools