



# St. Patrick Catholic School

Tel. (519) 759-0380

320 Fairview Drive, Brantford, Ontario N3R 2X6

Dr. D. Petruka  
Principal

Mrs. G. Bennett  
Secretary

August 26, 2020

Dear St. Patrick School Parents/Guardians,

We are looking forward to the first days of school!

This year is going to be a bit different due to the pandemic. The staff and I have been very busy thinking and planning how to do things at St. Patrick's School to keep students as safe as possible.

The staggered entry will be very helpful as teachers will be able to take the time to talk to children, review new procedures, give them the attention they need to feel welcome back at school, and to hear their concerns and questions.

Here is what we came up with so far (subject to change as needed):

As previously announced for the province, children in Grades 4-8 are required to wear a mask. Grade 3 students in the Grade 3/4 class will be required to wear a mask. Although not mandatory, children in grades JK-3 are welcome to wear a mask if you choose since it increases everyone's safety and comfort level.

Each class will enter and exit through their own door located close to their classroom. Before the first day of school, you will see numbers spaced 6 feet apart in front of each door. Children will line up on these numbers. This will keep children in their grade cohorts during entry and exit times.

Parents are asked not to come onto the playground or to congregate. The only parents allowed on the playground will be Kindergarten parents who need to bring their child to the kindergarten gate. We hope that parents from different households will help to demonstrate how to remain socially distant from each other.

When the bell rings, children line up at their door on a designated spot. The teacher will greet them at the door and offer hand sanitizer. Students will bring their belongings and indoor shoes directly into the classroom. Children will sit in assigned seats.

In Grades JK to 3/4, students will have personal spaces marked by tape on the floor. One space will contain their desk and a second space will be where they sit on the floor. Staff may refer to this space as the student's island. Children will keep their belongings (including lunch pail) on their island.

In Grades 5/6 students will have one island containing their desk.

In Grade 7/8, students will sit at the end of long tables separated by plastic drawer partitions.

Students will stay in their personal spaces except when they have permission to go to the bathroom, wash their hands, or fill their water bottle, **or** when the teacher has scheduled time for Daily Physical Education (which will take place outside). Teachers will also give children a chance to stretch during work periods, so they are not sitting at their desk all the time. Please note that children with special needs/concerns are being addressed individually by the principal and special education teacher.

Since students will be mostly in their own personal spaces and not able to roam within the classroom or school, it would be best to send children with their own box/package of Kleenex, a pencil sharpener that collects the shavings, a refillable water bottle, and any school supplies they may need since sharing will not be permitted. Please note, teachers will be sending you a list of items supplied by the school and a list of items they hope you can purchase for your child, if they have not already done that.

Any items needed for the day's lessons (like Math manipulatives) will be given to students in a bin for their personal use. Items will be sanitized before the next student uses them.

We will not be using agendas this year since we do not want to send books back and forth between home and school. Teachers will be communicating to parents through the Brightspace/D2L program.

For home-reading, please note we will not be sending books home this year. Instead, we will be using an on-line program called RAZ KIDS. Families can access levelled books on-line with this program. Information about that will be communicated from the classroom teacher when school starts.

Any homework will be posted on Brightspace/D2L. Students will not be bringing textbooks home, rather the page or questions will be posted on Brightspace and the answers to the work typed into the computer. Teachers will teach students how to do this in class.

At recess, children will play with students in their grade cohort only. The playground and field will be sectioned so that children play in a designated area for that day. The cohorts will rotate through the areas (e.g., Day 1 basketball court, Day 2 field, Day 3 playground equipment). Children will not be able to play contact games (e.g., a basketball game). Teachers will be talking to students about recess activities they can safely do while maintaining social distancing and demonstrate these activities during Daily Physical Activity periods.

Children are not required to wear their masks while eating or when outside at recess if they maintain social distancing. Of course, if they feel more comfortable wearing a mask outside, they may do so. Students in Grades 3/4 and up will need to wear a mask during the transition from inside to outside and vice versa. During recess, children could put their mask in their pocket, bring a zip lock back to store their mask (and putting that zip lock in their pocket). It would be a good idea to label your child's mask.

Parents and students are encouraged to log into Brightspace/D2L on the days during staggered entry that they are not at school. Teachers will have information and activities students may do at home during this time related to learning new procedures and getting comfortable returning to school.

A system will be in place to limit the number of children in the washroom at one time. For example, there will be two small boxes taped on the floor outside the girl's bathroom. One box will be labelled "available space" while the second box will be labelled "in the bathroom". Three pylons will be in the "available space" box. Before a girl enters the bathroom, she will use her foot to slide the pylon to the "in the bathroom" box. When she exits the bathroom and there is no one waiting to come in after her, she can slide

the pylon back into the “available space” box.

There will be signage in the bathroom, in the halls, and on doors to direct traffic flow, remind everyone to wash their hands, remain socially distant, etc. Custodians will be disinfecting high touch surfaces often throughout the day.

We will continue to develop procedures to further improve the safety of all members of our school community as we progress through the school year.

Thank you,

*Dr. Dacubel*

Dr. Petruka

