

St. Mary's Catholic School  
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May 20, 2020

Dear St. Mary's School Parents and Guardians;

Thank you to all families for your patience and support as we begin the careful implementation of Phase Two of BC's Restart Plan (Stage 3 of the Education Plan), as mandated by British Columbia's Ministry of Education. Part of BC's Restart Plan (<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/kindergarten-to-grade-12/safe-caring-orderly/k-12-education-restart-plan.pdf>) includes BC Public and Independent schools providing optional in-class attendance for students on a part-time basis:

- 2 days per week for Kindergarten to Grade 5 students, maintaining less than 50% density target;
- 1 day per week for Grade 6 to 12 students, maintaining less than 20% density target; and
- Continued online learning for all students, as provided during the months of April and May.

**Families have the option of their children returning to school from June 1 – 25, 2020, on a part-time basis. All families will continue to be provided with online learning and support, as has been provided in the months of April and May, until the end of June. Students not returning to school will not miss new material or be penalized for not attending.**

St. Mary's School, under the guidance of the Ministry of Education and WorkSafeBC, has developed protocols for the partial return of students from June 1 to June 25, 2020. **It is important that parents understand that school in the month of June will look very different from a regular June.** A number of safety measures and protocols will be in place to ensure the safety of students, staff, and the community are protected. These include, but are not limited to:

**Health and Hygiene:**

- Handwashing and other hygiene routines will be conducted regularly;
- Health checks at drop off time (parents must come to the door with students);
- Physical distancing enforced between students and staff members;
- Any students who present symptoms of the common cold (runny nose, sneezing, etc), influenza, COVID-19, or other respiratory diseases are immediately moved to the sick room and the parent / caregiver is contacted for immediate pick up. Parents / Caregivers must keep their child at home until they have been assessed by a health care provider to exclude COVID-19 or other infectious diseases and their symptoms have resolved.

**School Structure:**

- Part time attendance according to a schedule that will be built after information is collected via a parent survey and shared when confirmed;
- All students will enter through the main school doors;
- Students will be arranged in small groups conducive to physical distancing;
- Students may not be with classmates;
- Students may not be with their regular classroom teacher;
- Students may not be in their regular classroom;
- Students will not have access to shared spaces, such as the gym or computer room;
- Students will remain in their assigned classroom and desk for the duration of the day, with the exception of time spent outside;
- Students will not have access to the playground (at this time), however will have access to the grassy areas, although contact games or games involving the use of hands are not permitted;
- Students are to bring their own food and water to school for the day as access to water fountains, microwaves, or any other shared item is not permitted;
- There will not be any bus service provided
- Uniforms will be mandatory as per usual

**Academics:**

- Students are to bring all material (pencils, paper, erasers, markers, calculators, books etc.) to complete the online learning plan to school each day as St. Mary's School cannot share writing materials or other supplies with the students;
- Students are to bring optional activities from home (books, colouring, crafts, individual games) for use after academic assignments are complete;
- Students will not have access to school supplies that are not brought from home (rulers, pencils, manipulatives, toys, games, puzzles, etc.).

**Please ensure you have read the above information carefully.** If you would like further information regarding safety protocols at St. Mary's School please visit the school website for the full document ([www.stmaryspg.org](http://www.stmaryspg.org)).

**Once you have read the above information, please complete a parent / guardian survey at: <https://forms.gle/YLv4mQfX5jfdGS5s8> by noon on Friday, May 22, 2020.** It is vital to our planning that all families complete the survey. Any families who do not complete the survey will be contacted by school staff by Monday, May 25. This information will be used to build a schedule for families choosing to participate in partial attendance in June, which will be shared with families later next week.

Thank you for continuing to practice physical distancing, keeping our community safe.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Jenny Schroeder  
Principal, St. Mary's School