



ST. GABRIEL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

14 Flanders Drive, Brantford, Ontario N3T 6M2

Telephone: (519)756-4706

Dear Families,

I hope this letter finds you all healthy and enjoying your summer. By now, you will have seen the plan put forth by the District regarding a safe re-opening for September 2020. It will take all of us working together to ensure that everything goes as smoothly and safely as possible. Families whose children will be taking part in on-line learning are expected to enroll their children.

Please Note: This message is for students who are attending in-class learning only and does not apply to students who have opted for our remote learning program. If you are choosing Distance Learning you must officially register here:

<http://www.bhncdsb.ca/news/register-now-distance-educationonline-learning>

Information about the first day of remote learning will be communicated shortly.

- We are excited to welcome your child back to the classroom in September. As you know, our students will experience significant change when they arrive back at school. To make the transition easier and to ensure all students have a practical understanding of our enhanced health and safety protocols, we will be implementing a **staggered entry approach for in-class school start-up.**
- Students will return to school based on the local school decision for lessening numbers and class sizes, to begin on Tuesday, September 8, 2020. All in-class students JK to Grade 8 will be fully returned to school by Wednesday, September 16th.
- A staggered approach to school start-up will provide the opportunity for all schools to review health and safety practices as well as new school protocols and routines with our youngest students before the full complement of students returns to each building. This approach allows for additional staff to be available to support our students' successful integration into the new school environment. Our goal is to ensure students have the opportunity to develop comfort in their new routines.
- Staggered entry does not apply to students with significant special education needs and it has been identified that it is essential for the student to attend on all days. These are students in self-contained special education classes, on an alternative report card, and who require significant ongoing assistance throughout the entire school day- we welcome these students back to school beginning on Tuesday, September 8th.

- The following chart indicates when your child should attend school based on your last name.

Students **attending in-person** are required to be at school on the following days:

Monday, Sept. 7	Tuesday, Sept. 8	Wednesday, Sept. 9	Thursday, Sept. 10	Friday, Sept. 11
LABOUR DAY HOLIDAY	Surname: A-Do (approx.. ¼ of school)	Surname: Dr- Mac (approx.. ¼ of school)	Surname Mag-Ro (approx.. ¼ of school)	Surname: Ru-Z (approx.. ¼ of school)

Monday, Sept 14	Tuesday, Sept 15	Wednesday Sept 16	Thursday, Sept 17	Friday, Sept 18
Surname: A-Mac (approx.. 1/2 of school)	Surname: Mag-Z (approx.. 1/2 of school)	All students	All students	All students

- At school, students in gr 4-8 will be required to wear masks except while they eat or are outside at recess. While masks for students in K-3 are not mandatory at this time, they are strongly recommended. All staff will also be wearing masks.
- Students will be kept within their classroom cohort and FSL/STEM/Prep teachers will come to them. Students in each grade will also have designated areas on the playground/field and assigned which doors they enter/exit from. Physical distancing will be enforced while moving throughout the halls and maintained in the classrooms where possible.
- Students will be instructed to wash and/or sanitize their hands frequently throughout the day. Students can bring their own personal sanitizer with them.
- Frequent cleaning will occur throughout the day.
- Parents and visitors will be permitted in the school **by appointment only**.
- In the coming weeks, please look for an email from your child's teacher. They will introduce themselves so that you will know who your children's teachers are and they will include some basic guidelines to get us started including where to meet them on the first day.
- On Sept 8th, all JK/SK students will enter through their own classroom doors (a separate email will be coming to K families with more info). All students in gr 1-8 will meet their teachers on the playground in their pre-determined spot. Parents will not be permitted on the school yard but there will be staff outside at the gates to help guide your children to their area.

- To minimize contact and avoid sharing materials we are asking that each student comes with their own lunch, filled water bottle and a pencil case filled with supplies. Your child's teacher will communicate what these items should include (pencils, markers, scissors etc.)
- Please take some time in the coming weeks to have your children wear their masks for longer periods of time, as well as safe removal and storage of their mask when they aren't wearing it (eg: small container, special bag etc). Practicing frequent hand washing and sanitizing and taking care of their own belongings will also assist with a smoother transition in September.

Beginning the week of August 24th, the school office will have limited office hours and messages will be checked and returned at that time. Please continue to monitor our school and board websites: www.stgabrielbrantford.ca / www.bhncdsb.ca and twitter account: **@stgcatholic** for updates. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out.

We are excited about the prospect of your children being back in school!

Peace and Blessings,

Mr. Joe DiFrancesco
Principal