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September 14, 2020

Welcome back to the new school year!

Holy Family School staff is excited to welcome new and returning students for another quality year of teaching and learning. 2020-21 promises to be filled with wonderful learning opportunities for our students, our staff and school families. Our division's faith theme this year is "Trust in the Lord with all your heart". With this theme, we foster a faith relationship with God through daily prayer.

It hardly seems possible that it has been 6 months since our school was alive with the sounds of our students and staff engaged in the joy of learning. It is a wonderful sight and sound in our classrooms to be back together. Our school continues to be vibrant, warm and welcoming. Whether your family has chosen to return to the classroom or at home learning we are excited to welcome you back to this unprecedented year.

The last few weeks we were busy preparing for the reopening of our school and welcoming staff and students. We want to reassure our community that it has been a diligent and well-informed effort. Our staff has worked with the re-entry plans and guidelines outlined by Alberta Government and Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools to ensure a plan that prioritized health and safety. We are grateful and appreciate your support as you entrust us in the role of educating your child.

Our School Council is meeting on Monday, September 14th at 7:00pm; this meeting will be done virtually through a Google Meet. Parents who submitted their name to attend (through the form that was sent to your email earlier this week) will receive an email and a code to enter this meeting on Monday. This first meeting of the year will provide an overview of the goal and role of our School Council. We will be outlining which positions will be elected and volunteer sign up at our upcoming Annual General Meeting. The date of the Annual General Meeting will be determined at the meeting. School Council is an excellent way to become involved in our community; our executive and volunteer representatives work hard to explore ways to support our community and enhance our students' experience at our school. We recognize that many of you may have questions and I encourage you to send an email to our school administration by noon on Monday so that we can ensure we can best share information that will be meaningful for our families and be respectful of everyone's time at the meeting.

We are looking forward to a great year, even though it will look and feel a little different. The 6 days of staggered entry provided both our staff and students an opportunity to learn together our new practices in smaller class sizes. These days were very successful and we are very proud of our students; thank you for all of your support and entrusting us with your children as we all work together.

At this time the staggered entry and dismissal time and recess times will remain to assist with reducing congestion and to support social distancing practices outside and entering the building. Our current recess times ensure that a maximum of 100 students are in each of the playground areas. Thank you to the many parents who have been sending messages and notes of appreciation and encouragement.

**Where all Students Learn Through Christ**




Our school administration team is visiting all of the classrooms to provide an orientation to our school and to review new practices and guidelines. The students at Holy Family school are respectful and are eager to be helpful towards one another; we are blessed.

Our grade 4 and 5 students are unique as they are required to wear masks at school; we are supporting our students and prompting them at times when they can remove their masks including when they are sitting at their desks and are forward facing according to the guidelines shared in the school re-entry plans. If students are standing and moving around the classroom they are prompted to wear their masks. We have noticed that several students are choosing to wear their masks all day including recess times. Our staff will continue to prompt students when it is a good time to remove their masks so they can get a break from wearing a mask.

Helpful Documents for parents

- [RDCRS Parent/Student Re-Entry Plan](#)
- Alberta Government [K-12 School Re-Entry Plan](#)
- [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#)
- [Parents' Guide 2020-21 School Year](#)

We are continuing to accept registrations in grade 1, 2, and 3. Please encourage friends and neighbours to register online at <https://www.holyfamilyschool.ca/registration>.

We work hard to keep our parents informed. Be sure to check our website at <https://www.holyfamilyschool.ca/>. The website contains calendars, school information and is updated regularly. We also engage our community through social media (    ) and we encourage you to follow us. We send out a week at a glance through PowerAnnounce, social media and our website weekly and your child's classroom teacher, for Grades 1-5, will continue to use Edsby this year to share important class-related information. For information on how to set up your Edsby parent Account please visit the division's Edsby Parent Support page and videos [here](#).

As we continue to strive to provide a blessed community, we want your child to be happy and successful at Holy Family School and believe you play an important role. We encourage you to become involved in your child's schoolwork and various volunteer opportunities that present throughout the school year

We are so happy to welcome you back! Please reach out to us if you need help or guidance, and remain confident that we are here to support you, as we walk together as a hope-filled community. #bettertogether #hollyfamilystrong

God bless you and have a great school year.

Rori-Lynn Daniel and Stacey Martz  
School Administration Team