

# *Holy Family School*

## SEPTEMBER - *Welcome* - NEWSLETTER



It is with great pleasure that we welcome all our students and families to Holy Family School for the 2022 – 2023 school year. We would like to extend a warm welcome to our students returning from at home learning and all our new families that will be joining our Holy Family School community, we are so delighted to have you as part of our school! We are excited to work in a learning partnership with you and it is our hope that our students and families will experience a year of spiritual, academic, and personal growth.

Our Division faith theme for the next 3 years is "Inspired by Christ on a Journey to Encounter, Nurture and Serve." We are guided by these words and will focus on the word Encounter this year. May we be inspired by our encounters with Jesus Christ, spread our love for him to others around us, and bear witness to the good works of others as we give glory to our Father in heaven. We are truly filled with a renewed sense of hope and love as we return to school this year.

Our student handbook on the website is currently being updated. The purpose of this handbook is to provide information about the philosophy, major practices, and regulations that guide the daily operations at Holy Family School. Following this letter helpful information for this time of year is included while the handbook is being revised. Please take time to read this helpful information.

Holy Family School is a very special place where staff, parents and parish work together to provide a high-quality Catholic education for our students through a framework of mutual respect and participation. We strive to foster a warm, welcoming, and inclusive culture, where all students are valued and feel they belong, while at the same time maintaining a high standard for student learning and conduct.

The staff and administration are looking forward to all the teaching and learning opportunities and possibilities that this year holds for our students. Together this will be a great year!

Yours in Christ,

Mrs. Rori-Lynn Daniel - Principal

Mrs. Stacey Martz - Vice Principal

*Inspired by Christ on a Journey to Encounter, Nurture and Serve.*

## School / Student Handbook Information

### Meet the Staff of Holy Family School

- The staff at Holy Family School are a group of compassionate educators who strive to make Christ known to your children. View our staff slideshow to learn more about who we are.
  - View our Holy Family School staff slideshow [here](#)
  - Holy Family School staff list [here](#)

### General Information for the 2022 - 2023 School Year

- School Division calendars for the 2022 - 2023 school year, please click [here](#).
- Kindergarten calendar for the 2022-2023 school year, please click [here](#).

### School Hours / Drop off and pick up information

- Our office is open 8:00 - 4:00 pm on school days
- As in previous years, we will continue the practice of having students dropped-off and picked up from their respective grade doors. We found that this practice made for safe and smooth transitions for our students in the mornings and afternoons.
- Staggered Entry and Dismissal Times:
  - Based on positive feedback from our community, we will be continuing with staggered entry and dismissal times. This structure minimizes congestion therefore speeding up the process of families arriving and leaving the school.
  - To further assist with the congestion at the front of the school we kindly ask that our grade 1 parents not arrive prior to the kindergarten bell times (2:53). Those who will be driving their children to school and picking up at the end of the day, we ask you to not park in the angle parking in front of the school until after the kindergarten bell. This will allow our kindergarten parents to drop off and depart in a timely manner which will then free up parking spaces for our grade 1 parents and greatly reduce the traffic congestion.
  - Morning supervision starts at 8:11 am on school mornings, please ensure that your child does not arrive prior to this time.
  - Please share this information with others that may be transporting your children.

Grade	Morning Entry Bell Time	Afternoon Dismissal Bell Time
Kindergarten Grade 2 Grade 4	8:19 am	2:53 pm
Grade 1 Grade 3 Grade 5	8:26 am	3:00 pm

## Recess

- Recess is a regularly scheduled period in the school day for physical activity and play that is monitored by school staff who wear bright coloured safety vests. During recess, students are encouraged to be physically active and engaged with their peers in activities of their choice, at all grade levels, kindergarten through grade 5. For safety reasons our students do not take snacks outside with them, rather our teachers provide nutrition breaks prior to or following recess.
- Recess benefits students by:
  - Increasing their level of physical activity.
  - Improving their memory, attention, and concentration.
  - Helping them stay on-task in the classroom.
  - Reducing disruptive behavior in the classroom.
  - Improving their social and emotional development (e.g., learning how to share and negotiate).
- This year we are returning to common recess times:
  - Morning recess: 10:15 am - 10:30 am
  - Lunch recess: 12:30 pm - 1:00 pm

## Parking

- We have limited visitor parking in front of the school. We ask that we keep this angle parking free for our kindergarten drop off and pick up. Kindergarten has the early drop off and pick up times which will assist with freeing up parking for others following this time. There is also parking along Douglas Avenue in front of the school (please do not park in the City Bus Stop zone).
- With close to 400 students at Holy Family School, drop off and pick up can be challenging at times. Our staggered entry and dismissal times are designed to assist with decreasing traffic congestion and freeing up parking.
- For older grades parking along Duston Street on the southside or at the Deer Park Community Centre on the northside of the school.
- The southside of the school is a one-way bus lane only; please do not drive thru to drop off or pick up.
- Staff parking lots are on the south side and north side of the school. These spots are reserved for staff only at all times. Please do not park in these spots or walk through these parking lots with your children.
- Please share this information with others that may be transporting your child/ren to and from school.

## Busing




- Please click [here](#) to access the Division's Transportation Information, including Safety Rules and Procedures for riding the bus.
- Payments for busing can be made online starting September 19th.

- If your child usually rides the yellow school bus and will not be riding the bus home on a particular day, please inform the school and if possible the bus driver about the change.

### Communication

- At Holy Family School, we make every effort to keep parents informed. Important information that needs to be sent immediately is shared with parents via email and/or text messages and telephone calls via our SwiftK12 messaging system. We make every effort to keep email communication from school administration to a minimum.
- Teachers this year will be using Schoology and teachers at times will communicate with parents via email as well. Please help us by ensuring that we have current email addresses on file.
- A Week at a Glance will be posted on social media accounts, sent to parents via K12Swift and posted to the school website.

### Stay Connected to Holy Family (social media)

- Remember to follow us on   
- As well take time to visit our [website](#)

### Schoology (NEW - Reporting and Communication)

- An important letter was sent home with your child about our **NEW** reporting and communication system. The letter provides information including your personalized access code and QR codes to sign up, create your parent account, how to set up notifications and how to navigate your parent account.
- Schoology will become the primary platform used for communication and sharing of information. Please take the time to sign up to ensure you are not missing important information. If you have misplaced your letter please contact your child's teacher.

### PowerSchool- student updates

- All parents are required to have a PowerSchool account. This program allows parents to access information about attendance and update student information in the fall.
- Student Update Forms will be accessible in PowerSchool in the coming weeks.
  - Once your Student Update Form is available in PowerSchool (you will receive an email notification) forms are DUE SEPTEMBER 30th.
  - Please login to your account to update your records. Even if you have NO CHANGES a form must be submitted.
- School Staff will assist new families with creating PowerSchool accounts early in the school year. Remember to save your username and password.
- Don't hesitate to contact the school if you are having difficulty accessing the parent portal.
- The PowerSchool site is accessed at: <https://powerschool.rdcrcs.ca/public/home.html>

### Healthy Hunger / Hot Lunches - Starting Friday, September 9th

- Healthy Hunger hot lunch will be on Fridays throughout the school year for families choosing to participate.
- All parents must register their children to take part in ordering hot lunch. To create an account and register your children, please click [here](#).
- Visit our website [here](#) for Healthy Hunger Hot Lunch Program

- Please note all lunch orders need to be placed 5 days prior to the scheduled lunch date.
- Kindergarten parents please ensure when signing up for hot lunch that your child will be at school that Friday. See Kinder calendar [here](#)

### School Council

- A huge thank you goes out to all our parents who actively support the School Council. Our School Council is a great way to be informed about what is happening in the school, give your input and ask questions, and help make the school a better place.
- Please consider joining this year as we are always looking for new members. School Council organized a successful return of hot lunches, a Read-a-thon fundraiser in the spring, sponsored field trips, safety patrols, school wide presentations and a Family BBQ in June.
  - **Annual General Meeting and first council virtual meeting:** September 12th @ 7:00 pm
  - **Welcome Back Family Barbecue and Bottle Drive:** Thursday, September 22nd. A great way to connect with others and the opportunity to donate your summer bottles.

### Drop and Go

- The purpose of the drop and go loop at the front of the school is to support a safe and efficient way to drop your child off in the mornings, thank you for your cooperation with the procedures. Please do not allow your child to walk across or between the parked cars.
- When using the drop and go loop please pull up to the stop sign to allow your child to safely depart the vehicle and they will then proceed to the cross walk.
- Please remember not to stop along the fence area to idle or park to pick up or drop off your children, for your child's safety we do not want students to walk through the parked cars. We ask you to please share this information with others that support with transportation of your child to and from school.
- All students are required to walk their bikes and scooters on school grounds and we ask families to not walk through the staff parking lot. We ask you to please model this and speak to your child about walking on the sidewalks. Bike racks are located on the southside of the school on the asphalt. Please lock all bikes here and not on fences, trees or other areas.

### Dress Code

- We believe that proper dress for our students helps to create a positive and safe Catholic learning environment consistent with the mission and values of Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools.
- Students are required to adhere to reasonable and respectable standards in dressing and grooming for a focused working and learning environment. The idea is that there are certain clothes that are appropriate for the classroom, and certain clothes that are not. Holy Family School has a dress code that reflects the principles of modesty.
- Please visit our website [here](#) for more information.

### Student Illness

- At Holy Family School we follow the direction from our provincial government and Alberta Health Services with direction in regards to COVID. Isolation and quarantine recommendations have been simplified as of July 1, 2022, to be more consistent for all Albertans. People who have [symptoms](#) and/or tested positive, should:
  - [Isolate](#) at home for 5 days from the start of the symptoms

- Wear a mask for the next 5 days while in indoor spaces with other people
- Parents of students who are not well at school (regardless of illness) and unable to engage in the learning activities as a result will be contacted to arrange pick up.

### Volunteering and NEW Criminal Record Checks

- **Parent classroom volunteer** : As per Division policy, it is now a requirement that all persons working with students within our division must have a Criminal Record Check completed. Please request a Parent Classroom Volunteer letter from the school office.
- **Parent field trip volunteer** : As per Division policy, it is now a requirement that all persons volunteering to support a small group of students during a field trip within our division must have a Criminal Record Check and a Vulnerable Sector Check completed. Please request a Parent Fieldtrip Volunteer form from the school office.

### Upcoming Important Dates

- September 6- Second Day of School for all students
- September 9- Subway Hot Lunch
- September 15- HFS Opening Mass at St. Mary's Parish @ 10:30am. Parents are welcome!
- September 15- Emergency Evacuation Drill (Kindergarten - Gr. 5)
- September 16- Boston Pizza Hot Lunch
- September 20- St.Patrick's/Dawe Run
- September 21- HFS Terry Fox Run
- September 21- On Alert/Shelter in Place Emergency Drill (Kindergarten - Gr. 5)
- September 22 - New Staff & Student Pizza Luncheon
- September 22- HFS Welcome Back Family BBQ @ 5:30-7:30
- September 23- PD Day (No school for students)
- September 26- 7 Habits Presentation "Motivational Magic" (12:30 - 3:00)
- September 27- Rainout day for St. Pat's/Dawe Run
- September 29- Orange Shirt Day/Indigenous Appreciation Activities
- September 30- National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (No School for staff or students)