

April 28, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We hope everyone in our Calgary Catholic community is staying safe and healthy. It is hard to believe we are already approaching the end of April. It has now been six weeks since classes have been suspended and we transitioned to online learning. We have been hearing many positive stories from our students and families, but we do recognize there are many challenges ahead. Here are a few:

- **Year-Round Education** – In alignment with the provincial direction, announced on Friday, of no summer gatherings larger than 15 people and for budgetary reasons, we have made the difficult decision to move all students who are on the year-round calendar to the traditional calendar starting this September. Thank you in advance for your understanding. The safety of our students is of utmost importance. The schools involved include: Monsignor Neville Anderson, St. Joseph, Father Scollen, Our Lady of Fatima, Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Anthony. We will re-evaluate this for the 2021-2022 school year.
- **Transportation** – After consultation with the community ([Transportation Feedback](#)) and after taking into consideration our budget realities, we have modified our transportation fees and eligibility for September. In the new year, Calgary Catholic will offer transportation services to elementary students who live 1.8 km or further from their designated school. A single student will cost \$415 which is comparable, and in some cases, less than to other school jurisdictions. Changes to the Transportation Fees and the grades 7-12 Calgary Transit Rebate adjustments offer a balance between affordability and reducing the district's transportation deficit. Please note: The provincial expectation is that transportation is provided for students living 2.4 km or further from the school. It is also important to note that distances to your child's school are determined from property line to property line. More detailed information will be forthcoming from principals.

We know some of these difficult decisions may have an impact on you and your family. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we face COVID-19 and our budget reality.

As always, if you have any questions, please reach out to your child(ren)'s teacher or principal for support as we create Calgary Catholic together.

God bless.

Dr. Bryan Szumlas
Chief Superintendent
Calgary Catholic School District

April 21, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope you had a safe and peaceful Easter break. I know that many of you could not celebrate the way you may have planned, but I am thankful to everyone in our Calgary Catholic community for continuing to stay home, stay safe and for helping to contain the spread of COVID-19.

This week we will resume learning from home. Your child's teacher will continue to provide learning materials as per the government's direction of 2.5 hours per week for half day kindergarten, 5 hours per week for elementary, 10 hours per week for junior high and 3 hours per week for each diploma course. If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher or principal. More resources and updates regarding learning from home are available on our website: www.cssd.ab.ca.

COVID-19 is impacting us in ways we could have never imagined. We take direction from Alberta Health Services and we know that group gatherings beyond 15 people are not allowed until the end of June. This reality has resulted in us making the following tough decisions:

Graduations: All in-person graduation ceremonies, masses and banquets at all Calgary Catholic high schools (including Chestermere, Cochrane and Airdrie) are cancelled. We know that this is news nobody wants to hear, but for safety sake it must be this way. We are proud of our 2020 graduates and for all your hard work. Your commitment to living and learning in our Catholic faith will not go unrecognized. It will just be different than the traditional mindset. We are working with our principals and exploring online solutions that will be amazing. More information will be forthcoming. We will make history together.

Travel: We also need to reiterate that all school-organized travel is cancelled until further notice. We have cancelled any existing overnight planned trips and will not plan any upcoming trips for the 2020-2021 school year. Again, this is for the health and safety of our students and staff, which is our top priority.

Please do not let these setbacks overshadow the goodness God has given us in our lives such as our health and family. I ask that you join me in praying for everyone impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in our school district and around the world.

With God at our side, we will Create Calgary Catholic together.

Peace be with you.

Dr. Bryan Szumlas
Chief Superintendent
Calgary Catholic School District.

April 8, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope everyone in our community is doing well, despite the circumstances. As we journey through our Easter Holy Week, I want to wish everyone a peaceful and safe Easter. Even though we are not in our schools, we will continue to follow our district calendar and take our Easter break, beginning this Friday, April 10 for Good Friday until Monday, April 20. For our Year-Round schools, Easter break will begin this Friday as well and continue until Tuesday, April 28.

We hope our teachers, administrators, staff, students and families are all able to take this opportunity and destress during this time, as it has been a very busy few weeks. Everyone has been working hard and we all deserve to take a restful Easter break and spend time with our family.

As an update to my last letter, support staff who will be temporarily laid off will be contacted this week. Every Calgary Catholic staff member is valuable, and it hurts that we must do this. Support staff who are temporarily laid off will maintain benefits and have access to our Employee Family Assistance Program if needed.

During his Palm Sunday address, Bishop McGrattan invited us all to find peace in our faith and trust in the Lord to care for us as we journey through the trials before us each day. If you are looking to pray and connect with our faith, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary will be providing live streamed mass during Holy Week. Please visit <https://www.catholicyc.ca/> for more details.

We also want to take this opportunity to remind everyone of the latest social distancing protocol from the Government of Alberta. Albertans are prohibited from gathering in groups of more than 15 people in both indoor and outdoor spaces. We will also be enforcing this restriction in our schools. For safety, please avoid going to our school sites unless absolutely necessary such as picking up resources. In a case like this, please phone the school in advance of coming. For more information, please visit alberta.ca. We also continue to provide updates on our website at www.ccssd.ab.ca.

I know this Easter may look a little differently than we had all planned, but again we hope you can take this opportunity to destress and find peace with your family. As a Calgary Catholic community, we continue to pray for all those impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic worldwide.

Peace be with you.

Dr. Bryan Szumlas
Chief Superintendent
Calgary Catholic School District