

May 26, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope everyone is doing well as we approach the end of May. Thank you for continuing to be patient and supporting us with “learning from home”. We have a few updates for you:

**Stage 1 Relaunch for Calgary**

As you may have heard, Premier Jason Kenney announced last Friday that Calgary has now been approved for Stage 1 relaunch. This allows businesses such as restaurants, daycares and day-camps to reopen on May 25 with occupancy limits. As for schools, classes continue to be suspended. We are working on resumption plans and will share them with you in the months to come. More information about the relaunch can be found here: <https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-relaunch-strategy.aspx>

**Board Meeting – May 27, 2020**

Our next public board meeting takes place tomorrow afternoon. Everyone is welcome to watch our live stream of the meeting, which begins at 3 p.m. and can be viewed here:

<https://www.cssd.ab.ca/BoardOfTrustees/MeetingAgenda/Pages/default.aspx>

One of the items we will be discussing tomorrow is our 2020-2021 CCSD budget. We will be presenting the budget to our Board of Trustees for their approval. The budget takes into consideration all three scenarios for the resumption of learning in September - normal operations, health restrictions and learning from home. Once the budget is approved, we will share further information.

**We want to hear from you**

We are very focused on asking for feedback from our Calgary Catholic parents and community to help us inform our decisions moving forward. We continue to use ThoughtExchange, an online platform that allows us to ask questions and see your responses in real time. For our latest question, we would like your feedback on our external district website. We are in the early stages of re-designing our website ([www.cssd.ab.ca](http://www.cssd.ab.ca)) and we want to hear what you like/dislike about our website. We also want to know what is working well and what we can do to improve your user experience. This exchange will be open until June 2. [Click here](#) to participate.

Lastly, thank you for your support of Catholic Education Week and Catholic Education Day. It was wonderful to see so many photos of our community wearing blue. [Here is a link](#) to our district Facebook photo album, which showcases the photos.

We encourage our community to continue to follow all public health precautions and stay safe.

Blessings to you and your families.

Dr. Bryan Szumlas  
Chief Superintendent  
Calgary Catholic School District

May 19, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We hope everyone had a pleasant and relaxing Victoria Day long weekend.

### **Catholic Education Week**

This week (May 18-22) is Catholic Education Week and this Thursday (May 21) is Catholic Education Day. Catholic Education Week is a chance to reflect upon the five characteristics of a Catholic school:

1. Each child is precious, gifted and loved
2. Catholic worldview is evident in physical space, liturgical celebrations, and prayer life
3. Our faith permeates every aspect of education including learning outcomes and teaching strategies
4. Catholic educators are living witnesses to the Gospel
5. Catholic schools are safe and caring communities.

We invite everyone to wear blue on Thursday, May 21 to show your support and give thanks for the gift of Catholic education. We also welcome you to send in pictures of your outfits to [socialmedia@cssd.ab.ca](mailto:socialmedia@cssd.ab.ca) to be featured in our Facebook photo gallery.

### **#wearecssdstrong**

We know this is a difficult time for our students, families, and staff. Even though we are apart, there is still so much good happening in our community. We welcome everyone to send in their good news stories and photos using the **#wearecssdstrong** to [communications@cssd.ab.ca](mailto:communications@cssd.ab.ca) or share them with us directly on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) or [Twitter](#). Together we can share some good news during these difficult times.

### **Graduations**

We are still working hard to plan amazing online graduations. We know that the decision to cancel in person graduations was very disappointing, but we want to make sure that our graduates feel recognized no matter what and that they are given a memorable graduation experience. More information will be coming soon.

### **Province Relaunch – Stage 1**

As the province moves into Stage 1 of the relaunch as directed by Alberta Health Services (AHS), all Calgary Catholic staff will maintain the current status quo. Further updates will be forthcoming.

Thank you for your patience, understanding and continued support.

Blessings to you and your families.

Dr. Bryan Szumlas  
Chief Superintendent  
Calgary Catholic School District

May 12, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We hope everyone is doing well and that all moms had a great Mother's Day. Last week, we recognized Mental Health Week. If you need support in this area, please visit the Government of Canada's new [Wellness Together](#) portal or check in with your local [Canadian Mental Health Association office](#). If you are looking for additional opportunities to maintain positive mental health and to connect to your faith, [Ascension Parish](#) offers live mass every morning at 9 a.m.

Here are few other important updates:

**Planning for the fall** – Last week we informed you that Education Minister Adriana LaGrange announced that the provincial government is considering three scenarios for school resumption in the fall: schools may reopen under mostly normal conditions, they may reopen with health restrictions or students will continue learning from home. We will provide further information on plans moving forward as it becomes available. Thank you to all those who participated in last week's Thoughtexchange. You told us that sanitization, small classes, enhanced cleaning procedures and zero tolerance for sick individuals are important considerations. We will consider these and the other thoughts for back-to-school.

**Infrastructure updates** – While we are not physically in our schools, work continues on planning and building new infrastructure. We were recently informed by the provincial government that we have been approved for planning funds for a much-needed modernization and addition project to St. Martin de Porres high school in Airdrie. Construction will also begin shortly on a new Catholic K-9 school in Cochrane. Finally, St. Gianna (K-6 school in Auburn Bay) is expected to open in the fall.

**Catholic Education Week** – Next week, May 18-22 is Catholic Education Week. We are grateful that God has given us this opportunity to educate our children with a faith-based approach. Catholic Education Week is a chance to reflect upon the five characteristics of a Catholic school: 1) Each child is precious, gifted and loved; 2) Catholic worldview is evident in physical space, liturgical celebrations and prayer life; 3) Our faith permeates every aspect of education including learning outcomes and teaching strategies; 4) Catholic educators are living witnesses to the Gospel; and 5) Catholic schools are safe and caring communities. To learn more about Catholic Education click [here](#).

**Board of Trustees Meetings** - If you are interested in learning more about Calgary Catholic, we invite all of our parents and families to tune into our [live-streamed board meetings](#). The next board meeting will be tomorrow (May 13) at 3 p.m. Our trustees and senior administration continue to meet virtually to discuss important issues for Calgary Catholic.

As always, if you have a specific question about your child's education, please contact your child's teacher or principal.

Blessings to you and your family.

Dr. Bryan Szumlas  
Chief Superintendent  
Calgary Catholic School District

May 5, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope everyone is staying healthy and safe. Last week, Premier Kenney released the Alberta Relaunch Strategy with details on lifting some restrictions, while still keeping strong public health guidelines in place. The provincial government has informed us that in-school classes for Kindergarten to Grade 12 students will remain suspended for the remainder of this school year and will be reevaluated in the fall. For more details, please visit: <https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-relaunch-strategy.aspx>

This week is Mental Health week. Mental health is very important during these uncertain times. Everyone is encouraged to wear a hat tomorrow to bring awareness to the importance of positive mental health. There are many supports available for families. Detailed information is available at [mentalhealthweek.ca](http://mentalhealthweek.ca) and at the Government of Alberta website [www.alberta.ca/mental-health-in-schools.aspx](http://www.alberta.ca/mental-health-in-schools.aspx).

On another front, we are excited about all the work that is going into planning high school graduations. These are unprecedented times and we need to have unprecedented graduations. As previously announced, we are moving forward in recognizing and celebrating our graduates in a non-traditional way before the end of June. Every Calgary Catholic high school is planning to recognize this momentous occasion in special ways. Bishop McGrattan is also recording a Calgary Catholic graduation mass. The various creative ideas that schools are coming up with are capturing why we have graduations in the first place - to celebrate this important achievement and to create memories to last a lifetime. Parents also play a key role in the success of these events. We encourage you to get involved beyond what we are doing at school. For example, organize a special dinner in the safety of your home, decorate your house and schedule an online call with family. Years from now, we want our students to look back and say, "Yeah, it wasn't the traditional graduation, but we made it special. I will never forget my graduation during the pandemic." We are confident it will be an amazing experience for all involved, especially if we have positive mindsets.

As we look forward to the fall and the possible re-opening of schools, we are starting to plan what this will look like and we invite your feedback by participating in an open-ended survey on thoughtexchange. Please follow this link: <https://my.thoughtexchange.com/879603101> to share ideas for Calgary Catholic to consider when classes resume. The survey closes on May 10 at noon. We look forward to hearing from you as we are *Creating Calgary Catholic together*.

Thank you for your continued support in learning from home.

Blessings to you and your families.

Dr. Bryan Szumlas  
Chief Superintendent  
Calgary Catholic School District