

October 28, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

### **COVID-19 in Our Schools**

As of today, we have 36 schools with active cases of COVID-19. There are 86 positive cases of COVID-19 across our district and just under 3,000 students and staff isolating, which is significantly more than my update letter last week. This increase may be a result of gatherings over the Thanksgiving weekend or other community events. We need to stay vigilant to the health measures. Our schools will remain open and we will continue to work with AHS and public health inspectors to ensure all spaces in our schools are thoroughly cleaned and safe for everyone.

Please continue to follow our five health measures of morning health checks, handwashing, sanitizing, wearing masks and physical distancing where possible. Most importantly, stay home if you are feeling ill with any of the provincially-recognized symptoms.

### **Senior High - Winter Sports Postponed**

On October 22, the Executive of the CSHSAA met to discuss the upcoming winter sports season. Due to the ongoing pandemic and rising COVID-19 infection rates within the Calgary area and within Alberta, the decision has been made to postpone all winter sport competitions. In January 2021, this decision will be reviewed. Currently, each high school has the flexibility to form teams and run practices, but games between schools are not permitted.

### **Faith Days**

On October 29 and 30 there is no school for students as Calgary Catholic staff will be taking part in the annual Faith Days. This year staff will focus on our new theme, "faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love." - 1 Corinthians 13:13. Faith Days allow staff to deepen their Catholic faith, to learn something new, to connect with one another and to be inspired. Thank you to Bishop McGrattan for leading the liturgies on these days and to the Faith Days Committee for their hard work organizing. The keynote speaker is Steve Angrisano. To get a peek of what Steve will share with staff visit his website at: [steveangrisano.com](http://steveangrisano.com).

### **Halloween**

Do Catholic's recognize Halloween? Check out what the Catholic News Agency says at: [Catholic Thoughts on Halloween](#). To summarize, yes we can recognize Halloween, but we should be encouraging our children to wear costumes that do not glorify evil. There are many positive costume choices that can be really fun. Please stay safe on Halloween and avoid large gatherings.

Peace and blessings,

Dr. Bryan Szumlas  
Chief Superintendent  
Calgary Catholic School District

October 22, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

### **Cases of COVID-19 in Our Schools**

As of today, we have 19 schools with active cases of COVID-19. This is one less than last week. There are 33 positive cases of COVID-19 in CCSD, which is two fewer than the last newsletter. The number of students in isolation is also down by 20 at 915 students. This downward trend is encouraging. Please stay faithful to our five health measures of morning health checks, handwashing, sanitizing, wearing masks and physical distancing where possible. Most importantly, stay home if you are feeling ill with any of the provincially recognized symptoms.

### **Cold Weather and Masks**

Now that the cold weather is here students are encouraged to have two masks. One to wear outside and the other for indoor use. As an alternative, students may wear scarves outside instead of a mask if it covers their nose and mouth. We are trying to be reasonable in our efforts to reduce the risk. Thank you for your cooperation.

### **Distribution of Additional Supplies & Masks**

The Government of Alberta and the Provincial Operation Centre will be providing schools with additional supplies including re-usable masks and cleaning products. Supplies will be distributed to schools based on student enrolment in the coming weeks.

### **School Council Executive and Trustee General Meeting Online Success**

This week we held our first School Council Executive and Trustee General Meeting online through Zoom where our Board of Trustees shared various district updates to approximately 100 participants. We also had the opportunity to hear from Dr. Christine Kennedy, Medical Officer of Health regarding COVID-19 and the measures we are taking in schools to keep everyone as safe and healthy as possible. Stay tuned for information on an upcoming Parent & Trustee Forum on November 24!

### **Cancellation of All Public Rentals**

This week it was determined that all public rentals in all of CCSD will continue to be cancelled for the remainder of the school year. There are a few exceptions such as the Polish School and church groups.

We recognize the value that public rentals provide for students and surrounding communities. However, this decision was made to support the health and safety of students and staff in consideration of the ongoing pandemic. Once Fall 2021 timelines are determined they will be updated [here](#). For any questions please contact [facilitybooking@calgary.ca](mailto:facilitybooking@calgary.ca)

Blessings,

Dr. Bryan Szumlas  
Chief Superintendent  
Calgary Catholic School District

October 15, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope everyone had a restful and blessed Thanksgiving long weekend. Here are a few important updates:

### **Optional Diploma Exams**

On Tuesday, Alberta Education announced the decision to make diploma exams optional for students in high schools on the quarter system (November exam period only). This decision was made after reviewing parent and educational partners' concerns and suggestions. Although this is a great step, our Board of Trustees will continue to advocate for similar decisions related to the January, April and June diploma examination periods. We will know more in the future months.

### **Diploma Preparation Refunds**

If a student has registered for a diploma preparation course and has decided to no longer write the diploma exam in November, they can initiate a refund by emailing the following information to [academicservices@cssd.ab.ca](mailto:academicservices@cssd.ab.ca): (i) their first and last names and (ii) the course(s) to unregister from. Please note, diploma preparation courses may be cancelled or combined with another location if minimum registration numbers are not met. Refunds will be issued if a course is cancelled.

### **Investigating Cases of Racism**

Each reported case of racism within the Calgary Catholic School District is taken very seriously. If you have a situation to report, please contact your school principal. Moving forward with racial justice is not going to be easy and it will take time for changes to occur. Please know that there are two sides to every story you hear in the media. However, due to privacy matters the other side cannot always be shared. Let me assure you that each matter is investigated and dealt with appropriately. With God at our side, we will improve.

### **Cases of COVID-19 in Our Schools**

Currently, we have 20 schools with active cases of COVID-19. Currently, there are 35 positive cases of COVID-19 in CCSD, resulting in 935 students and 88 staff members in self-isolation for 14 days. This is a significant increase from last week. Please stay faithful to our five health measures of morning health checks, handwashing, sanitizing, wearing masks and physical distancing where possible. Most importantly, stay home if you have any symptoms of illness. We will continue to work closely with Alberta Health Services and Alberta Education as new cases emerge.

### **Process For Parent Inquiries**

We welcome all parent inquiries and appreciate all the messages we have been receiving since the start of this school year. We would like to remind parents to please direct all inquiries to your school principal regarding district information. Your principal will be able to answer/forward your inquiries in a timely manner as they are updated regularly on district and provincial matters.

Thank you for choosing Catholic education and for having faith in us as we *Create Calgary Catholic together.*

Blessings,

Dr. Bryan Szumlas  
Chief Superintendent  
Calgary Catholic School District

October 9, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

### **Thanksgiving 2020**

On behalf of the Calgary Catholic School District, I'd like to wish everyone a blessed Thanksgiving weekend. In this time of COVID-19, I would like to thank the entire Calgary Catholic community for the successful resumption of school. Your faith, dedication and hard work during these uncharted times has been essential in our success. As we break for the long weekend, I encourage everyone to reflect upon the many blessings that God has given us.

### **A Prayer of Thanksgiving**

We give you thanks, O generous God, for the many blessings which you bestow upon us:  
your Son, Jesus, as our Lord and Saviour,  
the fullness of your love, mercy and grace,  
the gift of your Spirit, the promise of the joys of heaven,  
the gift of life, the earth and all its resources, intelligence  
and talents along with the ability to learn, a vocation through  
which to do good works and lovingly serve others. May we  
humbly receive and acknowledge all that you provide and  
dedicate our gifts to the glory of your kingdom.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Racial sensitivity**

You may have recently heard about reports of Calgary Catholic staff using racist words. On behalf of the district, I would like to share my deepest apologies to our entire community. Please know that our district takes all situations like these seriously. The use of racist words is never appropriate. In the spring, we created a racial justice committee that is looking at ways to help all our staff learn more about anti-racism. Professional development activities are being developed in this area which will be mandatory for all employees. We will also be sharing ways families can support our anti-racism efforts at home. We are a Catholic family and the world is watching us. I implore everyone who is part of our school district to model faith, hope and love as we move forward together in making the world a better place.

### **Cases of COVID-19 in Our Schools**

We currently have 10 schools with active cases of COVID-19. All other schools who previously had confirmed cases and who were directed to isolate have completed the required days at home and have returned to school. We will continue to work closely with AHS and Alberta Education as new cases emerge to ensure that we are maintaining learning and the health and safety of our school communities.

Peace and blessings,

Dr. Bryan Szumlas  
Chief Superintendent  
Calgary Catholic School District