



ST. BERNADETTE SCHOOL

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www.cssd.ab.ca/stbernadette/

Handbook and Agenda

2019-2020

Student Name: _____ Home Room: _____

Welcome Message

Welcome to the 2019 – 2020 school year! The staff of St. Bernadette School look forward to working together with you. In our community, we strive to provide success for all students in their academic, social, physical and spiritual growth, while creating a climate of compassion, integrity and uniqueness.

We endeavor to continuously reinforce the values of our greatest role model, Christ, by treating each other with dignity and respect.

It is our belief that the responsibility of educating our students can only be accomplished by continuous cooperation between home and school within a framework of mutual respect and participation.

Through weekly handshaking we continue to work together to ensure all students have a “champion” to support student success at St. Bernadette School.

Parents/guardians are to review the information contained in this agenda with their children and refer to it during the school year.

Warm regards,
Tara McGovern
Principal

Lisa MacSween
Assistant Principal

Patron Saint

St. Bernadette School is named after Bernadette Soubirous, a simple peasant girl of Lourdes, France, who in 1858 was favoured with several visits from Our Lady. Mary’s message to Bernadette was universal. It was a plea to all of us for prayer and penance. The miraculous spring at Lourdes was also revealed to Bernadette. This symbolizes hope and continues to cure afflictions of body and spirit to this day.

On July 29, 1866, Bernadette took her vows at the Sisters of Charity and was given the name Sister Mary Bernard. Her life was one of service and devotion to others, with our Blessed Mother as her inspiration. We too look to our Heavenly Mother for inspiration and recognize the need for prayer and penance. St. Bernadette, our patron saint, guides us. Our school celebrates St. Bernadette Feast day in April.

St. Bernadette School fosters an active relationship with the parish. Every Friday, all staff and students attend 9:00am mass. This a public mass and parents and community members are welcome to join us.

Further information about Catholic Sacraments will be provided as it comes available. Parents wishing to have their children enroll in Sacramental preparation are encouraged to contact the parish at 403-236-2979. Parents are invited to check the parish website for mass times, ongoing updates and information: <http://st-bernadette.net/>

Parent Responsibility

As partners in the education of our students, we appreciate the support we receive from our parent community to ensure success for our students. We are closely supported in this endeavor by our provincial government as outlined in the School Act from section 16.2

It states the following:

A parent of a student has the responsibility

1. To take an active role in the student’s educational success, including assisting the student in complying with section 12,
2. To ensure the parent’s conduct contributes to a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment,
3. To co-operate and collaborate with school staff to support the delivery of specialized supports and services to the student,
4. To encourage, foster and advance collaborative, positive and respectful relationships with teachers, principals, other school staff and professionals providing supports and services in the school, and
5. To engage in the student’s school community.

School Act – Section 16.2

Champion Statement:

A cornerstone of our schools is that every student has a champion. That every child has a one-on-one relationship with an adult in the school, and that the child knows who their champion is and the adult knows the children for which they are responsible.

*“Every child deserves a champion:
an adult who will never give up on them,
who understands the power of connection
and insists they become the best they can possibly be”*

-Pierson, TED Talks Education, 2013

School Calendar/Bell Times

Supervision is provided 15 minutes prior to the school start bell and 15 minutes following the end of day.

	Grades K-6
9:00	Entrance Bell
9:05	Morning Classes Begin
12: 00 – 12:23	Lunch Break – Outside Play
12:23 – 12:42	Lunch Break – eat in lunchroom
12:42	Afternoon Classes Begin
2:00-2:15	Recess Break – outside play
3:20	Dismissal

Please be sure to review the following guidelines with your child:

1. Designate a regular meeting place and time.
2. Be consistent with your pickup time.
3. Communicate any change in plans to your child and the office.

4. If your child feels uncomfortable waiting past the dismissal bell, he/she should report to the office.
5. Your child should not change the plans without parent's permission.

Homework Guidelines

The district recognizes meaningful, carefully-planned homework can support student success and be a complementary part of a student's overall learning program. The district also recognizes:

- The potential impact of homework on family life;
- The role homework may play in supporting students' self-confidence as a successful learner;
- The benefit of a district-wide, balanced, reasonable approach to homework.

The homework policy is further supported by specifics topics as outlined in Administrative Procedure 364:

1. Types of Homework
2. Guiding Principles
3. Holidays and weekends
4. Recommended times
5. Roles and responsibilities

[Administrative Procedure 364 - Homework](#)

[www.cssd.ab.ca](#) > About Us > District Governance > Administrative Procedures

The amount of homework assigned to students should be differentiated according to age, developmental stage, and grade level along a continuum from lower to upper elementary and elementary to secondary. At all levels, the time a student spends on homework may vary and individual student needs and capacity should always be considered. To recognize the importance of family time and out of school enrichment, teachers use the following guidelines related to the quantity of homework.

- Kindergarten-Grade 3 (Division I) No formal homework, but 5-10 minutes of activity per school night with a focus on literacy, language and learning tasks that occur in meaningful contexts; for example, reading or discussion of experiences.
- Grades 4-6 (Division II) Formal assignments in various subject areas will not exceed an average of 10-30 minutes per school night, with a continued focus on reading and meaningful review.

Teachers, parents and students all have responsibility with homework:

- Students have a responsibility to do their best in completing assignments
- Parents are educational partners with teachers. Homework is one way parents have to support their child's learning.
- Teachers implement appropriate and reasonable homework practices and ensure homework is used for review, practice, enrichment or completion of work.

Daily reading is not calculated in the homework minutes. The most valuable home study activity for students is at least 20 minutes of daily, uninterrupted reading. This is a standing home study assignment for all students at St. Bernadette. Home study can only be a benefit with the assistance and cooperation of the parents. Your efforts in this area of your son's/daughter's education is greatly needed and appreciated.

<https://www.cssd.ab.ca/AboutUs/DistrictGovernance/Administrative%20Procedures/Pages/default.aspx>

Electronic Devices

Governing the presence of and use in schools of electronic or mobile devices such as cell phones is subject to the expectations of learners under Section 12 of the School Act and is covered under the CCSD Student Code of Conduct (AP 351 - Sections 16 and 17). Specific to electronic mobile devices, the following unacceptable behaviors include but are not limited to:

- Acts of cyberbullying, harassment or intimidation;
- Breaches of digital online safety;
- Inappropriate use of mobile devices.

Each school is thereby authorized to establish, share publicly and implement site specific expectations and practices around the use of mobile devices as a component of its **Student Code of Conduct** and Progressive Discipline Plan.

All personally owned electronic devices are the sole responsibility of the student. The school is not responsible for loss or damaged items.

Mobile Devices

The use of student devices can have both very positive and very negative impacts on both learning and school climate and culture of St. Bernadette School.

Schools will specifically define the **conditions** when cell phones are permitted to be visible and in use. At St. Bernadette, there is NO CELLPHONE use during school hours; this includes recess and before and after school when students are on school property during assigned school supervision.

Failure to comply will result in the device being confiscated for either:

The remainder of the condition or instructional period as per the discretion of the teacher, OR

If turned into the office for safe keeping the cell phone will be kept for the remainder of the school day or until the parents can collect it as per the discretion of the administration.

District Internet Use

All staff, students and volunteers are required to sign the Acceptable Use Policy form annually.

[*Administrative Procedure 351 - Student Code of Conduct*](#)

[www.cssd.ab.ca > About Us > District Governance > Administrative Procedures](#)

Student Accident Insurance

The Calgary Catholic School District carries a base coverage for all students, however, as it is not comprehensive, it is recommended that students involved in extra-curricular activities carry additional coverage. Information on insurance alternatives are sent home early in September. Parents may opt to purchase student coverage with their own carrier, but proof of coverage must be supplied before a student is allowed to participate in any interscholastic sports teams.

Every student who participates in JH/SH competitive sports must have a signed Parental Authorization to Participate in Competitive Sports form filed with the school. (This regulation includes Elementary Danceworks)

[Administrative Procedure 531 - Student Insurance Programs](#)

[www.cssd.ab.ca](#) > [About Us](#) > [District Governance](#) > [Administrative Procedures](#)

Attendance Policy

Section 12 of the School Act states that students must “attend school regularly and punctually”. Regular attendance is expected of all students except when illness or a family emergency prevents attendance.

Whenever possible, parents are requested to schedule dental, doctor or other appointments outside of school hours. Teacher professional days are an ideal opportunity to book those appointments without disruptions to the instructional process. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

When students are absent without the school being notified, parents will be contacted through the school automated absence system, SchoolConnects and parents will be asked to contact the school regarding their child’s absence the office personnel attempt to contact parents by telephone. This procedure is undertaken to ensure the safety of our students. When parents authorize their children to leave the campus during the school day, the District accepts no liability for those students during those times.

Each principal must have procedures for monitoring and addressing irregular attendance. The plan must involve the School Resource Team (SRT) or counsellor in proactive problem solving which could include meetings with students/parents/legal guardians and implementation of an attendance improvement plan. Communication between home and school is essential.

Access information regarding Excused and Unexcused Absences in AP 330.

[Administrative Procedure 330 - Student Attendance](#)

[www.cssd.ab.ca](#) > [About Us](#) > [District Governance](#) > [Administrative Procedures](#)

STUDENT ABSENCES

Regular attendance is critical in your child’s academic success. The responsibility for regular and punctual attendance rests with the students and parents. When a student is absent from school, parents are to notify the school as soon as possible by calling 403-500-2020, or by emailing stbernadette@cssd.ab.ca. Anytime a student has been away for a day or part of a day, an explanation must be provided by the parent to the school either through a phone call or a note. Please note that a legal record is kept of all absences during the year. If attendance becomes an issue, parents/guardians will be contacted regarding an Attendance Improvement Plan.

STUDENT LATES

Students arriving late, either in the morning or afternoon, are required to use the main entrance. Parents are to sign in their child at the office. When a student arrives late it is disruptive not only to their learning but that of their classmates. Please note that a record is kept of all lates during the year. If punctuality becomes an issue, parents/guardians will be contacted regarding an Attendance Improvement Plan.

PERMISSION TO LEAVE SCHOOL

Any student wishing to leave the building during school hours due to illness, doctor's appointment, etc. must obtain permission from the office. Written notification regarding appointments must be sent to the school and parents will be contacted before the students are released. The school will not allow any student to leave without the parent's or guardian's permission.

ILLNESS AT SCHOOL

Students will sometimes become ill while at school. We ask that parents monitor their children's health prior to their arrival at school. If a child attends school in ill health, chances are that he or she will not focus on learning and may even pose a health risk to others. If a child needs to be sent home due to illness, a parent or other emergency contact will be notified and asked to come to the school to pick up the child.

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

If students become ill or are seriously hurt at school, staff will make every effort to contact the parents at home or at work. Should these efforts fail, the "emergency contact numbers" will be used. If your contact information changes throughout the year, please notify the office of the changes as soon as possible.

Inclement Weather

When conditions reach -20 Celsius or colder including the wind-chill factor, it is recommended that students be kept inside for recess or lunch breaks.

Final responsibility to prepare a child for inclement weather belongs to the parents/legal guardians.

[*Administrative Procedure 133 - Inclement Weather*](#)

[www.cssd.ab.ca > About Us > District Governance > Administrative Procedures](#)

All students go outside for recess daily. Ensure you prepare your child for outdoor play and check the weather day. Students go outside in all weather including rain, cold and heat.

Emergency Procedures

Schools are required to complete announced and unannounced fire drill and lockdown safety drill practices throughout the school year. These safety drills are intended to give students an opportunity to practice procedures to be followed in the event of a real emergency and to help them develop confidence and self-control if faced with an emergency situation. Research shows that individuals will respond in an emergency the way they have been trained to do so. Please be assured the district has emergency plans in place and all school personnel have been trained in emergency preparedness.

[*Administrative Procedure 165 - Safety Drills*](#)

[*Administrative Procedure 132 – Emergency Closings and Cancellations of School*](#)

[www.cssd.ab.ca > About Us > District Governance > Administrative Procedures](#)

Security

During the instructional times of the day access to schools is restricted to the front door.

There is a security system at the front door. Please ring the bell located to the right of the doors and wait for the office to greet you. After stating your name and purpose of visit, we will buzz you in. All visitors which includes parents/guardians must enter through the front door. Thank you for your cooperation.

Administering Medication

In creating a safe and supportive environment for students and staff with medical conditions, the district develops appropriate processes, procedures and plans to address medical needs.

No student will be given any medication unless an “Authorization for Administering Medication Form” has been filled out annually and submitted to the school.

Students with Allergies

CCSD schools are not “Nut-Free” as we are unable to guarantee that nuts will not be a part of student snacks and lunches. Although sending nut-free food items is encouraged, parents make decisions regarding food items for their child.

To support a safe environment for all students with allergies:

- We talk to staff and students about knowing who has an allergy and about what our collective responsibility is as a community
- We strongly encourage those with allergies to continue to be vigilant about avoiding allergens
- We encourage families to avoid packing food products at school that contain nuts
- We encourage a safe environment for everybody in our learning community, by working together with increased awareness and shared vigilance

[Administrative Procedure 316 - Identifying And Managing Students' Medical Needs](#)

[Administrative Procedure 350 - Medical Cannabis Regulation](#)

[www.cssd.ab.ca](#) > [About Us](#) > [District Governance](#) > [Administrative Procedures](#)

Communication

All CCSD schools communicate with parents / guardians through School Messenger, an automated system, that sends out emails, texts or phone messages.

Parents, students and teachers are to establish and maintain clear lines of communication throughout the school year. If concerns arise, please follow these procedures:

- a) For a class matter, contact the teacher first. If further discussion is required, please contact an administrator;
- b) For a school-wide matter, contact school administration;

School Website - Each school maintains an informative website where pertinent school and district information and calendar events can be found. Parents and students are encouraged to regularly visit the school website for updated information.

Kindergarten - Grade 6

The School Agenda is an effective tool providing ongoing communication between parents and teachers. Some schools and teachers may use various social media platforms to share information.

Grades 7 - 12

BRIGHTSPACE is an online communication platform that allows students and parents to monitor homework, grades and utilize other educational tools. Student agendas are no longer commonly used in junior high schools, and not in senior high schools, students are expected to use Brightspace to plan their homework activities and monitor assignment due dates and academic progress. Electronic organizers are also available on BRIGHTSPACE. Students can communicate directly with teachers through Brightspace.

Parents are encouraged to review their child's homework and grades regularly through this platform.

Consistent with Alberta Education's mandate, the reporting process requires teachers to ensure that they effectively communicate to parents/legal guardians about what the child's progress in relation to the provincial programs of study. Scheduling of parent teacher conferences throughout the school year also facilitates in-person communication and deeper conversations about student learning between home and school. Most schools use Conference Manager to facilitate this process.

[Administrative Procedure 361.1 - Parent Teacher Conferences](#)

[www.cssd.ab.ca](#) > About Us > District Governance > Administrative Procedures

We send home a weekly email every Friday outlining the week ahead. Extra information and monthly calendars are provided in the emails. These weekly updates are also on our school website under <https://www.cssd.ab.ca/schools/stbernadette/News/WeeklyNews/Pages/default.aspx>. Occasionally, we will send home a reminder via email regarding a special day or request.

All students have a personal agenda, which is sent home daily. Please review each day for the latest information (and remember to check the front pouch for additional notes home!) It is appreciated that you read and sign your child's agenda daily.

The school website is updated regularly. For up-to-date news, please read the weekly update, check the school website or your child's agenda to see what is happening.

Our intent is to return all calls and emails on the same day we receive them. Even during non-teaching times, staff members are involved in various duties and activities. Please consider this when determining what is reasonable time for phone call return.

School Council

All parents/legal guardians with children attending school are members of their local school council and are encouraged to participate in council activities.

Councils usually meet on a monthly basis. School Councils are established in all schools and serve as a vehicle for parents/legal guardians, principals and teachers to meet and work together towards common goals. School council chairs also meet with one another, district administrators and members of the Board of Trustees at district-wide meetings. Please speak to your child's school principal to get involved.

[School Council Handbook](#)

[www.cssd.ab.ca](#) > Parents > School Council > Documents

Student Organizations, Clubs and Extra-curricular Offerings

To ensure a well-rounded educational experience for all students, our school community may provide several extra-curricular offerings during the school year. These may include the following, all of which will be facilitated by school staff and aligned with Catholic teachings:

The clubs may include:

- Fine Arts clubs;
- Music/Choir clubs;
- Social justice clubs and activities;
- Intramural/Sports Clubs
- Maker Space;
- Faith groups and activities;
- Voluntary student organizations or activities that are aligned with Catholic teachings and promote equality and non-discrimination with respect to race, religious belief, colour, gender, gender identity, gender expression, physical disability, mental disability, family status or sexual orientation.

If you wish further information about any of these offerings, please contact the principal.

[Administrative Procedure 350 – Welcoming, Caring, Respectful, and Safe Learning Environments](#)

[www.cssd.ab.ca](#) > About Us > District Governance > Administrative Procedures

Student Code of Conduct/Dress Code

The student code of conduct ensures that each student enrolled in a school operated by the District is provided with a welcoming, caring, respectful, and safe learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging to support Catholic Communities of Caring; and to support the District's Mission, Value, and Vision Statements.

The student code of conduct guides our students and staff regarding appropriate and inappropriate conduct, dress code and activities as outlined in section 12 of the School Act.

[Administrative Procedure 351 - Student Code of Conduct](#)

[www.cssd.ab.ca](#) > About Us > District Governance > Administrative Procedures

Air Rifles/Guns

The district prohibits students from possessing weapons or engaging in violent or threatening acts on school property, and at school sponsored functions and activities. "Weapon" means any object, device, or instrument designed or through its use is capable of threatening or producing bodily harm to oneself or others. By this definition, air rifles/guns are therefore considered weapons. As it is challenging to visually identify these weapons as air rifles/guns, school staff, Calgary Police Services and the RCMP will likely respond in the same manner as they would an actual rifle/gun. For the safety of all students, staff and visitors in the school, these items are not allowed on school property or at school-related activities under any circumstance.

As outlined in the School Act, students can be held accountable for conduct that occurs outside of the school building or school day and electronically (e.g. social media), if the conduct negatively affects a member of the school or interferes with the school environment.

Progressive Discipline Plan:

Students who engage in unacceptable behavior will be held accountable through the school's progressive discipline plan. Consistent and logical consequences, rather than punitive measures, are important to support students in making appropriate choices and help shape their future actions.

In any disciplinary situation, each student will be dealt with on an individual basis, and will take into account the student's age, maturity and individual circumstances. As well, parental or district administration involvement may be requested to support school discipline procedures.

The school's use of the progressive discipline plan will determine the expectations, consequences and the progression of actions to be taken depending on the severity and/or frequency of the occurrences. At all times, teachers and administrators will use their professional judgment in applying consequences.

Consequences must have a positive effect on the student's journey through reconciliation, either formally or informally, with the school community and those affected by the student's behaviour. The following consequences are progressive in their degree of intervention and will be enacted depending on the frequency and severity of occurrences.

Progressive discipline is a whole-school approach that utilizes a continuum of interventions, supports, and consequences, including:

- prevention measures and initiatives;
- early and ongoing intervention strategies;
- strategies to address unacceptable behaviour.

Interventions and consequences increase when:

- the concerning behavior is persistent;
- the concerning behavior escalates;
- there is a very serious infraction of the code of conduct.

Interventions and consequences may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- informal conferences;
- restriction of privileges;
- parent conferences;
- in-school suspensions;
- risk assessment;
- suspension / expulsion (AP 356, AP 356.1);
- student relocation (AP 357);
- Behaviour Support Plan (as part of the Learner Support Plan);
- involvement of Instructional Services and supports;
- involvement of external services and supports.

The principal may involve police in disciplinary matters when criminal activity has become evident. When police are involved, the principal will conduct a separate, parallel investigation at the school level and provide disciplinary action separate from any criminal charges that may be issued.

Suspension

Serious infractions of school expectations can result in a suspension. **A student under suspension from school may not enter school property during the term of suspension.**

A suspended student may not participate in or attend any school activity or athletic event during the time of the suspension.

Student support:

Support will be provided to students impacted by inappropriate behaviour and to those students who engage in inappropriate behaviour. This is significant because while the student code of conduct must address the consequences for inappropriate behaviour, such as bullying, it also ensures that support (not just consequences) is provided to those students who engage in unacceptable behaviour. Examples of how support could be provided to students who have engaged in unacceptable behaviour include mentoring, restorative processes, regular check-ins with teachers or schools' counsellors, counselling, etc.

Consideration of student diversity:

The School Act requires that the student code of conduct address consequences for unacceptable behaviour and that these reasonable consequences take into account the student's age, maturity and individual circumstances. The specific circumstances of the situation and of the student need to be taken into account when determining appropriate consequences. For example, any diverse needs that the student has – whether they are physical, behavioural, communicational, mental health, trauma, etc. – must be considered. The age and maturity of students involved should be considered when determining the consequences and support required.

Field Trips

The district arranges for students/children in the district to participate in field trips, tours, off-campus activities, athletic events and/or other excursions ("field trip") which, in the opinion of the district, have definite educational, athletic or cultural value.

The district, through the relevant school, will provide parents/legal guardians a Field Trip Consent form which shall include the following particulars of any field trip two weeks, if possible, and at least three school days, at minimum, prior to the intended date of the field trip:

- (a) destination;
- (b) arranged supervision;
- (c) date(s) and time(s);
- (d) transportation plans;
- (e) associated risks that should be highlighted regarding the field trip;
- (f) costs, if any;
- (g) a telephone number through which additional information on the field trip may be obtained; and,
- (h) parent/legal guardian consent and waiver form.

It is the parents/legal guardians responsibility to advise the school of any medical condition(s) that may affect the student/child's participation in the field trip. Parents/legal guardians need to understand that any medical information requested would be collected for the purpose of student safety during field trips, including student athletic events (which are generally considered to have an inherent element of risk of injury despite all safety precautions), and, that in the event of a medical emergency, the supervising teacher or any one of the volunteer chaperones may seek medical advice and/or treatment deemed necessary for the health and safety of the student/child and the parent/legal guardian shall be financially liable for the provision of such medical emergency services.

Parents/legal guardians shall agree to release and hold harmless the Calgary Catholic School District, the school, and their respective agents, servants and employees, from and against any and all claims for damages or bodily injuries arising out of the student/child's participation in an authorized field trip. The district will,

however, be responsible for any injuries and damages suffered by the student while participating in any such field trip that arises as a result of the negligence of the district.

Parents/legal guardians have the right to advise the district, through the relevant school, in writing, at least two school days before the commencement of any particular field trip, that they do not consent to the student/child participating in the field trip, in which event their consent and authorization will be considered as withdrawn for the particular field trip and the student shall not be allowed to participate in such field trip.

Student Support Services

Diverse Learning Teacher: This position supports classroom teachers and students in Grades K-12 identified by Alberta Education coding and with unidentified learning needs. Support is provided in conjunction with the homeroom teacher and within the framework of the Alberta Education Programs of Study.

A key component of this support is the development and implementation of the Learner Support Plan (LSP), which guides teachers, parents and the diverse learning teacher during the year as they deliver the instructional program. The LSP is developed annually with parental involvement and student input, and is intended to be a working document that is consulted, reviewed and adapted with all stakeholders on an ongoing basis throughout the school year.

[*Administrative Procedure 214 – Diverse Learning*](#)

[www.cssd.ab.ca](#) > [About Us](#) > [District Governance](#) > [Administrative Procedures](#)

School Resource Team: The School Resource Team (SRT) is a school-based team consisting of teachers, diverse learning teachers, and administration who engage in a collaborative process for supporting diverse student needs. Through the process, the SRT team may identify learning needs, brainstorm possible school-based strategies and supports, and/or request additional support from the district's Instructional Services team.

At St. Bernadette School, the Student Services team includes our diverse learning teacher, family support worker, administration and the multiple members of the Instructional Services teams focusing on Teaching and Learning and Diverse Learning.

District Support Services: The Instructional Services team within the Calgary Catholic School District provides academic, social-emotional, behavioural, cultural and faith-based supports to teachers and students with a goal to support student excellence.

The Instructional Support team includes district consultants, district counsellors, psychologists, in-home family support workers, intercultural and multicultural support workers and more.

Please speak with your child's classroom teacher or school administration if you feel you or your child would benefit from any of these supports.

Student Assessment

Grade 6 and 9 students write Provincial Achievement Tests in May and June. Parents will be informed of their child's performance in June and in the fall.

Preliminary reporting of Provincial Achievement Test scores will be provided with the final Progress Report.

Reporting of Achievement

Our focus is teaching and learning. Part of this process involves evaluation. The two parts of evaluation are assessing where the student is at in the learning process and assessing the student's achievement. Teachers communicate in a variety of ways with parents about their child's progress, including:

- Formal Progress Report Cards
- Parent Teacher Conferences
- Student or teacher written notes in an agenda
- Telephone calls
- Conferences in person at times outside of our regularly scheduled conferences
- Parental feedback

Parents help us to build a comprehensive learning profile for our students by keeping us informed and by working with us to maintain effective communication between home and school.

Progress Reports

An important Meet the Teacher Conference will be held in early September to facilitate the sharing of information between parents and teachers. Progress Reports will be sent home three times yearly. Parent/Teacher conferences will be held in conjunction with the release of progress reports to facilitate better communication and build strong links between home and school. Please do not hesitate to phone or email a teacher to set up an appointment outside of these times if you need to meet with your child's teacher.

School Fees

In accordance with [Bill 1](#) all parents of students in the Calgary Catholic School District (CCSD) are expected to pay school fees. Fees are collected for several reasons and allow your child to participate fully in educational enhancements and activities.

School fees can include:

1. Activity and field trip fees (core subjects): Used for special class activities, presentations, and field trips
2. Programs of choice and CTF fees (junior high and high school only)
3. Extracurricular fees (junior high and high school only)
4. Noon hour fees (elementary and junior high school only)
5. Optional fees: Used for school/program specific requirements (such as recorders, yearbooks and gym strip)

The school fees charged per student vary from school to school and parents will receive notice from their school in September of each school year outlining fee amounts and payment options.

There must be provisions at each school to waive fees for students who cannot pay due to financial hardship. These provisions must be communicated clearly and explicitly to parents and students.

The CCSD fee management and online payment system is an easy and secure way to pay school fees from the comfort of your home. Payments can be made by credit or debit card. For more information or to pay fees online, please visit www.cssd.ab.ca and click the "Online Fee Payment" icon. Email feeinquiry@cssd.ab.ca for more information.

Fees can also be paid directly to the school by cheque or cash.

In cases of financial hardship, a fee payment plan may be discussed with the school principal or designate. Please contact your school directly.

Parents who require fees to be reduced or waived due to financial hardship must make this request directly to the principal. Payment plans are easily arranged and encouraged. Fees reduced or waived will be processed by the ACORN fee account record being signed by the principal, kept on file and then the ACORN record will be adjusted. School fees will not be waived at the beginning of the school year. We ask that you consider a payment plan to pay fees.

Lost or Damaged Books

Students are responsible for returning their textbooks and library books. All books must be returned in good condition. Fees may be applied if they are lost or damaged.

[Administrative Procedure 505 - School Fees](#)

[Administrative Procedure 511 - School Generated Funds Including Fees](#)

[www.cssd.ab.ca](#) > [About Us](#) > [District Governance](#) > [Administrative Procedures](#)

If library books are lost or damaged, families will be required to pay the replacement cost for the book.

School Visitors

Any person in a school other than students and school staff is considered a “visitor.” This includes volunteers, parents, caregivers, district personnel and the public. To ensure a safe learning environment for our students, Occupational Health and Safety regulations require all visitors to report and sign in at the front office upon entering the school.

All volunteers and district personnel are required to wear a name tag while in the school, including those who are at the school on a regular basis.

We have a security system at our front door. Please ring the bell located to the right of the doors and wait for the office to greet you. After stating your name and purpose of visit to the school, we will buzz you in to enter. All visitors which includes parents must enter through the front door. If you are staying in the school, please sign in. Thank you for your cooperation.

Volunteers

Volunteers are an important part of our school community. The support of volunteers is beneficial to students and teachers and enables schools to provide opportunities for students that would not be possible otherwise. We value the time and energy you put into supporting our school.

The principal of the school has the responsibility, in consultation with staff, parents, and the community, to determine who will volunteer in the school and what form each school’s volunteer program will take. The principal is guided in all decisions, including those related to volunteers, by the provincial School Act as well as district policies, regulations and practices. **It is expected that all schools will have a volunteer handbook and will ensure all volunteers attend an annual orientation prior to service.**

In developing their school specific Volunteer Handbook, principals will use this guideline and attached documents.

Volunteers taking part in overnight field trips and/or volunteer coaching must have a current police security clearance. This must be updated every three years.

We welcome parents and other family members to be involved in the education of children. Please note that District Procedures requires that adults who volunteer for the school MUST each year have participated in a Volunteer Orientation provided by the school, beginning in September. Our first Volunteer Orientation is before the September School Council meeting. We will provide one additional volunteer orientation on Parent/Teacher Conference Night in September. We appreciate you attending one of these group orientations to limit ongoing one-on-one sessions prior to volunteering in the classroom or on a fieldtrip. We are thankful for the assistance provided by volunteers during the school year.

[Administrative Procedure 490 - Volunteers in Schools](#)

[www.cssd.ab.ca](#) > About Us > District Governance > Administrative Procedures

[Volunteer Handbook](#)

[www.cssd.ab.ca](#) > Parents > Documents

School Phone Use

Should an emergency occur or an urgent need arise and you wish to contact your child, then we will call your child to the office to speak to you. This way, we are assured that critical messages do not go astray. Should the student have an urgent reason to contact the parent, the teacher and office staff will be happy to facilitate the use of the school telephone. Please note that the school phone is to be used for urgent matters only and is not to be used to arrange playdates or other extracurricular activities. These should be arranged at home between the parents and the students before or after school times.

Lost and Found

Each school has a Lost and Found area where students and parents may find missing items, please contact the office for its location. Students should refrain from bringing valuables, collectibles and large sums of money to school. The school cannot be responsible for lost or stolen items.

All personal items such as clothing and school supplies should be labelled. The lost and found box is located in the main boot room. In the event that these personal items are misplaced; students and parents are encouraged to look through the box. Unclaimed items are donated at Christmas break, Easter break and at the end of June. St. Bernadette School is an educational institution, where learning and safety come first. Students are not to bring personal items to school that are not directly related to their schoolwork such as toys and trading cards and electronics.

Transportation

Kindergarten to Grade 6: Students must reside within the school boundaries and live at least 1.2 kilometers from the school to be eligible for charter busing. District policy states that students must have completed a transportation application form and have made arrangements with the school for payment before they will be permitted to ride the bus. Students who reside further than 2.4 kilometers from their designated school must complete a transportation application form but are not required to pay transportation fees.

The school does not have the ability to change routes or create stops. Please contact the school to complete a Transportation Change Request form.

During unpredictable weather conditions please consult the My School Bus APP.

Junior High/Senior High Students: Students in the City of Calgary residing 2.4 kilometers or more from their designated school are eligible to receive subsidized bus passes.

Student Conduct on Buses/Taxis (includes charter services and City Transit)

Students riding the bus/taxi must remember they are accountable to the driver and through him/her to the principal of the school. Continued violation of any of the rules listed in AP 351 may lead to the loss of riding privileges, loss of bus pass or, suspension from school.

[AP 351](#)

Please see [AP 560](#) for further details on students residing in the Rocky View School division, programs of choice or alternative schools, special education students, special circumstances, and payment in lieu of transportation.

[*Administrative Procedure 560 - Student Transportation*](#)

[www.cssd.ab.ca](#) > About Us > District Governance > Administrative Procedures

St. Bernadette School bussing is supplied by Southland Transportation. The route information is located on the CCSD website. Go to parents, transportation and select the school name or click on this link:

<https://www.cssd.ab.ca/Parents/Transportation/SchedulesRoutes/Pages/default.aspx> If you are questioning whether there are delays due to weather, traffic etc. you can look on My School Bus Monitor and there may be updates <http://www.myschoolbusmonitor.ca/>

Parking Drop-off and Pick-up Location

To ensure student and staff safety, it is imperative that parents follow the directions of the school regarding pick up/drop off and use of staff parking lot.

At St. Bernadette we strive to choose "Safety before Convenience". To keep our students safe, the school parking lot is Out of Bounds to all non-school board vehicular traffic. For reasons of safety and courtesy, please do not drop off or pick up students in the staff parking lot. Please do not park in the staff parking lot in the evenings during school functions.

Parents picking up and dropping off students should do so along the fence at 20A St. where there is plenty of parking. Please do not drop off/pick up in front of the school unless your child is late or leaving early. It is unlawful to stop or park in the bus zone. The front of the school is reserved for school buses.

<p style="text-align: center;">My parents and I have read and discussed the 2019-2020 St. Bernadette School Handbook</p> <p>Student Signature: _____</p> <p>Parent Signature: _____</p>
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