



ST. GERARD SCHOOL

1204 - 96 Avenue SW, Calgary, AB T2V 0Y1 Tel: 403-500-2028 Fax: 403-500-2228 www.cssd.ab.ca/stgerard

September 4, 2018

Dear Parents and Students:

On behalf of St. Gerard's staff, **bienvenue and welcome to the 2018-2019 school year!**

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all returning staff, as well as to returning and new families of St. Gerard.

Over the last few months, we have experienced some staffing changes. I'm pleased to announce that we have hired three new professionals to complete our cohesive team of educators ready and eager to support the success of all students. While we say "goodbye" to the **Rachel Boutette, Luminitza Dumbrava and Adrianna Samson**, we welcome **Romaine Impele, Renee Digout and Maria Kiss**, who'll be teaching grades 2, 3, and 4, respectively.

Although it's never easy having wonderful educators come in and out of our school having expressly impacted us all, we are thankful to be part of a system that routinely introduces us to great professionals who touch our lives. Certainly, our characters are emboldened by all who walk with us in life, and while I personally wish all the best to those who have graced these classrooms, we look forward to working with Romaine, Renee, Maria as well as others in the future in making St. Gerard school a community of love and learning in French Immersion.

Our **bell times** will remain at **8:50 am and 3:19 pm**. Our **lunch hour** has been adjusted to **12:20 pm** (outside for 20 minutes) **to 1 pm**. Students will have access to a lunch room in which tables will lie in wait for students at 12:40 pm. Therefore, we will continue with the reversed lunch (play before eating). We have introduced a **15-minute recess at 10:30 and another at 2:00 pm**. Please ensure that your child has a variety of nutritious snacks that they can eat at opportune times throughout the day. When making snack choices for your child, please keep in mind that various students in this building have serious allergies that may be life threatening when exposed to items containing nuts. Thank you in advance for your support of school health and safety in support of student needs.

Parents who **drop off and pick up** their children must do so on **Haddock Road** on the **North side of the school**. 96 Avenue along the south side of the building is reserved for our school bus. The playground is accessible from Haddock Road and along 12 Avenue. Students will access the school building along Haddock Road. The South boot room doors are reserved for Kindergarten students and parents. Students not picked up at dismissal will be waiting for pick-up at the office. A phone call advising us of late pick-up is appreciated.

Special Lunch through Healthy Hunger and Sammy's Pizza will be available on Mondays and Fridays in the coming weeks. More information to follow.

For **safety and security reasons**, we must monitor **all** visitors who enter our school. For this reason it is imperative that **all** individuals visiting our school, either as volunteers or visitors, sign in at the office. We ask that you adhere strictly to this policy so that we may provide a safe and secure learning environment for your children at St. Gerard. Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this.

We kindly request that all **Kindergarten and Grade 1** students as well as all new students to St. Gerard who will be using the school charter bus service have a tag on their person with the following information:

**Child's name, address, phone number, emergency contact number,
the bus number and the P.M. bus stop.**

Kindergarten and grade 1 and 2 students as well as students new to our school will be provided with a bus buddy from grade 5 or 6 who will help ensure that your child gets on and off the correct bus every day. Please note that our bus routes this year are routes 290 and 292.

St. Gerard's **Opening Mass** will take place at St. Gerard's parish at 10:00 am on Wednesday, September 18. Parents are welcome to attend this and any other religious events we celebrate during the school year. If you are available to walk with your child's classroom over to the church assisting with student safety, please inform your child's teacher.

On Tuesday, September 25 at 6:00 p.m., a yearly **volunteer orientation session** will be held Learning Commons Library for all prospective family volunteers. All individuals wishing to volunteer must attend in review of guidelines, expectations, and for the signing of particular forms key to the role. An alternative session will be held at 2pm on Friday, September 21.

The **first school council meeting** will take place on Tuesday, September 25 at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend.

I am looking forward to a successful school year at St. Gerard. With your collaboration and with our staff's commitment to the learning needs of your children, guided by the principles of our faith, 2018-2019 school year promises to be filled with great learning opportunities for all members of our school community.

Sincerely,

Christian Harries,
Principal