



St. Gerard News

SEPTEMBER 2020

**FAITH,
HOPE, AND
LOVE
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THESE
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1 CORINTHIANS
13:13



Administration Message

Welcome back to the St. Gerard School community for the 2020-2021 school year. We would like to extend a warm welcome to our new students and families as well as those families returning to us for another year. We hope that despite the present challenges you all enjoyed some new experiences and fun adventures over your summer holidays. We are so excited to have student laughter and the joy of learning ringing throughout our halls once again.

Without a doubt, this year will be full of challenges, but with challenges comes opportunities for growth. We are committed to providing support to our students as they return to us after so many months of online learning from home.

The Calgary Catholic School District's new 3-year Faith theme is "**Faith**, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love"(1 Corinthians 13:13). This year we will be focusing on **FAITH**.

Throughout the school year, the staff will continue to examine ways to best respond to student needs and to increase student resiliency and independence. We also want to continue focusing on the best that is happening both individually and as a school community. Be sure to check our [website](#) throughout the year for updates.

On behalf of our entire school staff, we look forward to working together and serving the school community. I would like to invite you to contact us should you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's education.

Blessings to all for a successful and joyful 2020-21 school year.

Mme Christine Hooey
Principal

Mme Byjonka Braithwaite
Assistant Principal



2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR BELL TIMES

Morning Recess

10:15-10:30 Grades 6/5 & 2/1

10:35-10:50 Grade 4/3

Lunch (respects actual bells)

11:45-12:05 Outside: gr. 6/5 & gr. 2/1 (separate areas)

Eating: gr. 4/3

12:05-12:25 Eating: gr. 6/5 & gr. 2/1

Outside: gr. 4/3

Afternoon Recess

1:40-1:55 gr. 6/5 & gr. 2/1

2:00-2:15 gr. 4/3

Please ensure that your child has a variety of nutritious snacks that they can open themselves and eat during snack 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.

BUS Zones

Please note that 96 Avenue along the south side of the building is a bus zone, reserved for our school bus. Please do not park in this area as you run the risk of being towed.



Drop-off & Pick-up Zone

ALL students will access the school building along 96th Avenue. Students not picked up at dismissal will be waiting for pick-up at the office. If possible, please plan ahead for any changes. A phone call advising us of late pick-up is appreciated.



Signing in at Office

For safety and security reasons, we must monitor **ALL visitors** who enter our school. **ALL individuals visiting our school must follow Covid-19 protocol** when signing in at the office. Unless you are a CSSD employee or contractor with your own identification, the office will provide badges for you.

We are not accepting parent-volunteers at this time, as we want to keep the integrity of our cohorts. We may require support from time to time for neighborhood walks/activities only. If so we will send a message home.

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

2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR COVID-19 PROTOCOL

[District School Resumption plan](#)

[Transportation Covid-19 plan](#)

If a student has Covid-19 symptoms: [AHS](#)

SCHOOL & PLAYGROUND STRUCTURE-Before & After School

PLEASE NOTE: students are NOT allowed to play or congregate on the school playground apparatus 15 minutes before school and 15 minutes after school. This is very important to conserve the integrity of cohorts. We appreciate your support in this. Limiting exposure to other cohorts can help us limit the spread of Covid-19.

Students and staff are working hard to instill masking and sanitizing routines. If students leave the school, remove their masks and mix with others not in their cohort, what we are doing during the day is less effective.

School Nurse

Our School Nurse this year is **Jessica Borgford**. At this time AHS has asked that school nurses not enter schools.

If you have any questions for her, Jessica is also available at Acadia Community Health Cen-



Liturgies & Celebrations

St. Gerard's Opening Mass and other celebrations will take place in our classrooms until further notice. Members of the clergy have also been asked to not visit schools until further notice. We may be using a <school-wide> Google Classroom to share photos of our celebrations with our parent community. More information to come.

Reporting School Absences

To report your child absent or late, call the school directly at 403-500-2028. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

If the office is closed, please leave a message stating your child's name and reason for absence. If your child is ill, please include all symptoms. Any student exhibiting symptoms of Covid-19 are to remain at home, even if the Covid test has a negative result.

If a student is away for any length of time, please email your child's teacher and st.gerard@cssd.ab.ca stating when, the reason and the length of the absence.

Student Handbook

The 2020-2021 School handbook will be posted on our school website. Please take some time to read it with your child(ren). We will be sending home a hard copy for your reference.

Student Appointments

To minimize disruptions to the whole class, please **Inform the office of any changes in bus transportation or parent pick-up ahead of time.** Calling at the end of day can disrupt teaching and learning time. If there is no contact with teacher or office to the contrary, bus students will be put on the bus.

PERSONALLY OWNED DEVICES



We continue to investigate ways to positively integrate the use of personally owned devices (cell phones, iPods etc.) into teaching and learning. At this time, it may be best if cell phones stay in their backpacks during school hours. This way they will not be damaged by the repeated disinfecting.

If used during school hours, cell phones are NOT to be used unless otherwise instructed by a teacher for instructional purposes. The expectation is that students will leave their cell phones in their school bag on off or mute. Any communication during the school day can be done through the office. If these devices are being used improperly, they will be taken from the student and returned at the end of the school day. For each subsequent offence, student's parents/guardian must come to the school to pick up the device.

More detailed information on the use of personally owned devices is provided in the student start-up package that will be sent home. A contract sent home in the start up envelope needs to be read and signed by student/parent/guardian and teacher.

CHILDREN WITH MEDICAL CONDITIONS

School employees are not allowed to administer any medication to students without a written request by the child's doctor, parents, and approval from the Area Superintendent.

Authorization for Administering Medication forms are available at the office. Should you require a form for your child, please fill it in and return the form to the office as soon as possible (this includes epi-pens & inhalers). Most medication is stored safely in the office.

Students with severe anaphylactic reactions may wear their epi-pens on their person. A second epi-pen should be stored in the office.

ONLINE FEE PAYMENT (see SCHOOL FEES)**

Once again, you will have the option to pay a number of mandatory and elective school fees online. The Calgary Catholic School District (CCSD) fee management and online payment system is an easy and secure way to pay school fees for the school year from the comfort of your home or office. Payments can be made by credit card and debit card.

The CCSD online payment system allows you to pay school fees applicable to each child including, but not limited to:

- Activity fee-core subjects, Transportation Fees etc.

The fees available and the timing of fee collection will depend on each school's individual setup.

Advantages to using the CCSD online payment system:

- Make fee payments for all students in the family at one time
- View payment history
- View all upcoming fee payments in one place
- Accepts credit card and debit card
- Provides a convenient and secure transaction
- Available 24 hours a day
- Electronically transfers payment information to the school
- Convenience of paying multiple fees in one place
- Accessible from anywhere there is an Internet connection
- Streamlines fee management and collection processes for parents and the district
- Saves school office staff the time of manually keying payments into accounting and student fee information systems
- Provides better fee reporting at the school and district level

The Calgary Catholic School District does not store or keep any credit information. All fee transactions paid online are processed by a third party (Moneris).

For more information or to pay fees online, please visit www.ccssd.ab.ca and click the icon on the homepage. For general inquiries, please email feeinquiry@cssd.ab.ca.

SCHOOL FEES

A school fee invoice/schedule will be sent home later in September. You have the option to pay the fees online at www.ccssd.ab.ca and click on the icon the homepage.

We encourage you to pay your fees monthly, quarterly, or in another divided manner. We would prefer to collect monthly if possible. Paying online provides a receipt of payment and access to your payment history. Should you prefer to pay by cheque, please make it payable to St. Gerard School. Receipts will be issued and sent home with your child as cheques are processed.

Volunteer Orientation

Volunteering is an excellent way to participate in your child's education. At this time, we are not accepting volunteers into the school; however, there are still many opportunities available for you to support in different ways.

WHEN IT IS SAFE TO INVITE VOLUNTEERS into our classrooms, parents who wish to volunteer in our school will be required to complete the **2020-2021 session online** that will be uploaded to our [website](#).

Please print and complete all the forms and questions and return them to the main office (scan and send). If you wish to volunteer, the **Volunteer Orientation must be viewed yearly**, and the current year's forms must be completed .

We thank you in advance for your help — It is greatly appreciated.

Merci

Electronic Newsletter: Sept/January

We will have 2 newsletters which will be sent home via email distribution lists as well as posted on our school website. To compliment our newsletter, there will be the Parent Weekly available on our website to keep you informed of the weekly happenings at St. Gerard.

www.ccssd.ab.ca/schools/stgerard/News/ParentWeekly/Pages/default.aspx

To help us best keep you informed, please ensure that we always have your most current email address.

Office Staff

Mme Kelly Phelan is available to assist parents and students from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday through Friday. If you have any questions or require assistance, please email stgerard@cssd.ab.ca or call 403-500-2028.



Staff List and Assignments 2020-2021

All staff members emails are firstname.lastname@cassd.ab.ca

St. Gerard School Staff	
Administration	
Christine Hooey	Principal (Days 1-3-5 at St. Gerard)
Byjonka Braithwaite	Assistant Principal (PE)
Office Staff	
Kelly Phelen	Administrative Assistant
Adrienne Melendy	Office Assistant
Teachers	
Polly Moody	Kindergarten
Céline Danis	Grade 2/1
VACANT	Grade 4/3
Romaine Impele	Grade 6/5
Annie Fanfard	Diverse Learning Coordinating Teacher- days 2/4/6
Support Staff	
Adeline Slater	Learning Commons Technician
Adrienne Melendy	Education Assistant
Arisa Basabica	Kindergarten Education Assistant
Arisa Basabica	Noon Hour Assistant
Custodial Staff	
Tuyen Hong	Daytime Caretaker
Ronnie Esmeralda	Evening Caretaker

School Council News

Dear Parents,

Greetings from School Council! I want to begin by welcoming the new parents to our school. We are so excited and thankful that in these uncertain times, you have chosen to enroll your kid(s) in our small school. We hope you will feel part of our community, as you are now members of our school council. Gotcha 😊

Thank you to all returning parents too. Its heartwarming to see your kids smiling faces again. I have missed them and I know my kids have too.

Council this year is going to be different. The biggest change is that our in-person meetings are now Zoom meetings, until further notice. Also, due to online learning, we have two council positions open; **Vice-Chair and Fundraising Coordinator**. If you are interested, please feel free to email me. The parents that were in these roles last year have generously offered to continue to fill in, until we find new volunteers. With an uncertain future for field trips and other group activities, that past fundraising money has been used for, we may need to look at how we can support our students and staff in other areas. The council is open to discussion on future fundraising ideas and delegation of fundraising funds. We will also discuss whether or not it is necessary this year. Please come to our first council meeting on Sept 21, at 7pm, with open minds and thoughtful ideas!

These are the upcoming meeting dates for 2020.

- 1) Monday Sept 21, at 7pm
- 2) Monday Oct 26, at 7pm
- 3) Monday Nov 30, at 7pm

As always, if you have any comments, questions and/or concerns, please feel free to email me at stgerard@schoolcouncil.cssd.ab.ca

Thank you for your time,

Maria Correa

Chairperson

St Gerard School Council



*A Zoom link will be sent with the email of the Weekly on September 18th.