



August 26, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

During our Regular Meeting on August 26, 2020, the Board of Trustees voted to rescind its recent motion to make the wearing of non-medical face masks mandatory for students in Kindergarten through Grade 3.

This decision ensures the Division's school re-entry plan aligns with the current guidance from the Chief Medical Officer of Health and the Government of Alberta, which states that mask wearing is not mandatory for students in Kindergarten through Grade 3 due to difficulties with fit and the ability of younger students to follow proper mask wearing protocol.

Parents of younger students are reminded, however, that they may absolutely choose to send their child to school wearing a mask if they are more comfortable doing so. Please make the decision that is best for you and your children.

The Board acknowledges that this may change the decisions some families made about whether or not to send their children back to in-person classes and sincerely apologizes for any confusion or inconveniences the initial decision and its subsequent reversal may have caused.

Due to these anticipated changes in decision, Administration has been directed to close the current online learning registration form. A new form will be sent to families tomorrow morning. Families who wish to change their mind based on the Board's decision are asked to complete the form by noon on August 30.

Due to the extended timeline for families to choose their learning method for the fall, and the extra time needed to ensure both in-person and online learning methods are adequately staffed, the Board has also delayed the start date of school until Tuesday, September 8.

The Board of Trustees takes responsibility for its decisions and I once again offer my apologies for any hardships they may cause. I want to ensure our families that every decision by the Board is made with the success, safety, and overall well-being of our students at top of mind.

We will use this as a valuable learning experience and are committed to seeking out new and improved ways to incorporate parent engagement in our future decision-making processes going forward.

Yours in Catholic Education,

Michelle Lamer
Board Chair