

August 24, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians:

As we approach a new school year in light of COVID-19, we wanted to provide some additional assistance to our parents and guardians as it relates to the preparation to the beginning of the school year. As a school administration team and faculty, we firmly believe in the importance of our partnership between our school and the home. Therefore we wanted to ensure that parents and guardians have the opportunity to effectively support their child/ren's readiness for returning to the school through clear communication and consistent messaging. As we are one week away from our staggered entry, we are continuing to provide important information for our parents.

**Bussing:**

For our families who will be having their child/ren riding the bus for the new school year, the 2020-2021 routing is now available in the parent portal. You may now log in to view your child's bus route. Remember to recheck the Parent Portal the weekend before classes beginning, as this will ensure that you have the correct information for your child's busing on the first day of school. Here is a link to vital [information for parents](#) of children who will be utilizing the bus service for the 2020-2021 school year.

**Please remember if you have registered for the bus and have now decided to access your child's education online, you will need to submit a [bus cancellation form](#).**

A fee will apply for all children registered to the bus even if they do not ride.

**School Supply Lists:**

Parents and guardians can access next year's school supply lists for their child's class below:

[Kindergarten Supply list 2020-21](#)

[Grade 1 Supply List 2020-21](#)

[Grade 2 Supply List 2020-21](#)

[Grade 3 Supply List 2020-21](#)

[Grade 4 Supply List 2020-21](#)

[Grade 5 Supply List 2020-21](#)

[Grade 6 Supply List 2020-21](#)

In addition to the items outlined in the school supply lists:

- A **water bottle**
- **Facemask** (grade 4-6 students will require, Kindergarten to Grade 3 are strongly encouraged to have a face mask supplied from home on the first day of school. Government supplied face masks will be distributed by teachers on the first day of class).
- Small bottle of **hand sanitizer** for your child's personal use.



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### **Preparing School Supplies for School:**

We are requesting that parents and guardians write their child's name on every school supply item that they are bringing from home. In the past, each of our teachers maintained an in-class lost and found for classroom items such as scissors, markers, pencils, etc. Due to COVID, we are not able to do so this year. If a child's name is on each item, should something be found on the floor or left around the classroom, your child's teacher can reunite him/her with their belongings.

### **What Not to Bring:**

To minimize the opportunity for personal belongings to go missing and/or personal belongings being handled by other children, we are asking that all toys and technology not used for learning purposes (e.g. portable electronic games), trading/collector cards, and other non essential items to be kept at home.

### **Optional - Staples Chromebook Purchase Partnership:**

In preparation for the upcoming school year, some families may be considering the purchase of a robust device (Chromebook, notebook computer, etc.) for their child. We have worked with Staples in St. Albert to provide some options with pricing, protection plans, and optional financing for families. It is essential to note that this is not a fundraiser for the school. For more information, you can access the Staples brochure here:

<http://www.al.gsacrd.ab.ca/download/280913>

### **Updating Contact information:**

As part of the registration process, parents and guardians include important personal and emergency contact information and critical information about any medical conditions that their child has. If there are any changes that have occurred since the submission of your child's registration or that may occur over the school year, please contact the school to update the information that we have on file.

### **Lunch Hour Supervisors - Searching for Interested Parents/Guardians:**

In preparation for the upcoming school year, we will be looking for additional lunch hour supervisors to assist our faculty with supervision duties during eating time and outdoor activities. We are looking for parents/guardians to serve on a daily or casual basis. These are paid positions within the school and require a time commitment of approximately one hour per day. If you are interested, please contact Mr. Menduk via email at [amenduk@gsacrd.ab.ca](mailto:amenduk@gsacrd.ab.ca).

Prior to starting, a current Criminal Records Check (vulnerability sector) and child intervention check (from Alberta Services) that are no older than 6 months. .

#### **Criminal Records Check:**

96 Bellerose Dr., St. Albert  
780-458-4300

#### **Child Intervention Check:**

30 Sir Winston Churchill Avenue, St. Albert  
Telephone: 780-460-4970



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## Student Health and Wellness Considerations

### **Reinforcing effective hygiene and safety practices:**

In preparation for the start of the school year, there are meaningful conversations to have with your children. Please take the time to speak with your child/ren about the importance of effective hygiene practices and safely getting to and from school. All the materials shared will be identical to the ones that will be visible within our school or will be used as teaching tools by our teachers. The intent is to support a consistent message between the school and the home..

- Review and practice proper handwashing techniques at home, especially before and after eating, sneezing, coughing, and adjusting a mask or cloth face covering. Make handwashing fun and explain to your child why it's important - [AHS Poster](http://www.al.gsacrd.ab.ca/download/295976) (<http://www.al.gsacrd.ab.ca/download/295976>).
- Practice maintaining physical distance from others while outside of the home - AHS Poster (<http://www.al.gsacrd.ab.ca/download/295979>).
- To safely use hand sanitizer while at home or out in the community - [AHS Poster](http://www.al.gsacrd.ab.ca/download/295973) (<http://www.al.gsacrd.ab.ca/download/295973>).
- Practice proper process in the event they have to cough and sneeze (into their elbow) - [AHS Poster](http://www.al.gsacrd.ab.ca/download/295970) (<http://www.al.gsacrd.ab.ca/download/295970>).
- Practice the review of the daily checklist to determine if their child is well enough to attend school.
- Practice with your child putting on and taking off cloth face coverings without touching the cloth.
- Familiarize yourself with the [Daily Health Check](http://www.al.gsacrd.ab.ca/download/281096) - <http://www.al.gsacrd.ab.ca/download/281096>
- Avoid sharing objects with other students, including water bottles, food, technology devices, toys, writing instruments (pens and pencils), and books.
- Develop daily routines before and after school—for example, things to pack for school in the morning (like hand sanitizer and an additional (back up) mask) and things to do when you return home (like washing hands immediately and washing masks).
- Review the importance of letting an adult know if they are not feeling well.

### **Safety to and from school:**

It has been nearly five months since students have attended our school building for their learning. Over the break, children may have forgotten some of the critical safety practices for their journeys to school. Furthermore, drivers have not had to be as mindful of children while driving in the mornings and afternoons for some time. For students who will be attending school as part of the in-class program, parents and guardians are encouraged to review the following safety information with their children.

- Bike Safety - [City of St. Albert](https://stalbert.ca/city/eps/rcmp/traffic-safety/bike-safety/) (<https://stalbert.ca/city/eps/rcmp/traffic-safety/bike-safety/>)
- How to safely cross the street while walking to and from school - [Point/Push, Pause, and Proceed](https://stalbert.ca/city/eps/rcmp/traffic-safety/point-pause-proceed/) - (<https://stalbert.ca/city/eps/rcmp/traffic-safety/point-pause-proceed/>).
- After-School Pick Up Arrangements, with a suggestion with families with older students to meet their parents a block or so away from the school to minimize congestion.
- Riding the Bus - [District Link](http://www.al.gsacrd.ab.ca/download/295700) (<http://www.al.gsacrd.ab.ca/download/295700>)



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## Communication Reminders

### **Division Guidebook:**

On Thursday, August 13, our Superintendent of Schools released our Division guidebook specifically for parents/legal guardians. As health measures are continually evolving, we will be responsive and flexible as the year progresses. The Division Guidebook will be updated as new information becomes available from the Prime Minister of Canada, the Premier of Alberta, the Minister of Education, and Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health by every Friday morning. You can access this resource here: [Parent Guidebook for School Re-entry: 2020-2021](#)

### **School Communication:**

Over the next week, parents and guardians can expect ongoing school communication from school administration. To facilitate communication, we have also dedicated a tab on our school website called "School Re-Entry," where parents and guardians can access all district and school information and prior communications as it relates to our reentry into the school year. You can access this directly here: <https://www.al.gsacrd.ab.ca/school-re-entry>.

Once the school year is underway, we will continue to keep you informed about new developments as they occur via our website, our BEAR Bones Week-at-a-Glance, and parent/guardian notifications that are sent directly to email.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school at 780-459-4478.

Yours in education,



Mr. Allan Menduk, M.Ed.  
Principal  
Albert Lacombe Catholic Elementary School



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