

August 27th, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians of Kindergarten Students:

Welcome to a brand new school year! We look forward to a year of exciting adventures and experiences. Although starting kindergarten is an exciting time, it can bring a mix of emotions for both parents and students. This year is no exception, and although we will have new challenges, it is our goal to ensure that your child has an excellent introduction to school. Our first few days and weeks will be full of new routines and expectations as we practice moving between learning and play.

This communication intends to provide our families with students in the kindergarten program more information about the program.

Morning Kindergarten Class Only:

This year, we intended to offer both a morning and afternoon kindergarten class as our numbers warranted in doing so at the end of June. Over the summer, we had some families move outside of our attendance area and several families that have opted to have their child participate in online programming.

As a result, we had to combine the morning and afternoon classes into one. We will be offering the morning class for the 2020-21 school year.

The teacher for the kindergarten class will be **Mrs. Field** and will have educational assistant support in the classroom.

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](http://email.boxclever.ca/t/r-l-jktyx-l-y/) (<http://email.boxclever.ca/t/r-l-jktyx-l-y/>)

A second set of clothing for accidents is necessary for kindergarten - bagged in a large ziplock, clearly labeled. This set will be stored in the classroom.

All school supplies, clothing, and shoes should be labeled - nothing will be in a "lost and found" within the classroom this year. Indoor shoes will remain in the school on your child's seat.

What to Bring/Not to Bring daily:

Students in kindergarten need not bring anything but their snack, face mask (requirements for students riding the bus), and a water bottle to school. Please refrain from sending backpacks.

During the staggered start, students can bring in school supplies.



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Supporting Transitions for In-class Instruction:

We will be offering a staggered entry for our students to reduce traffic congestion in the area as parents and guardians assist their child/ren with the transportation of school supplies at the beginning of the school year.

To facilitate this opportunity, we have revised our plans for the beginning of the school year.

- August 31st - Students with the surnames that begin with A to K will attend this day in the AM session.
- September 1st - Students with the surnames that begin with L to Z will attend this day in the AM session.
- September 2nd - All students that have opted for in-class schooling will begin regular attendance. Regular AM Kindergarten classes will begin.

For students riding the bus, the bus route will stay the same for all families and only need to get on the bus the day that they attend school on either August 31st or September 1st.

Class Times:

Our Kindergarten classes run on a different schedule to the Albert Lacombe Bell times. The class times are as follows:

Morning Kindergarten Class: 8:25 - 11:20 am

When Arriving at School:

Our Kindergarten students are assigned to use the main entrance to the school. They will enter and exit using this door at the beginning and end of the day. Parents will remain outside the school building but will have an opportunity to say 'goodbye' and confidently see that their child safely enters the building through the main door.

- Parents/guardians asked to ensure physical distancing is maintained outside by staying at least two meters apart while they wait outside. **There are painted lines along the front and side of the school to allow parents to social distance while waiting for their child.**
- Follow physical distancing guidelines to line up when it is time to enter the school.
- Wait for a faculty member to bring them into the school.
- Students in the kindergarten program will line up in front of the school by the main entrance. There are lines painted in grey for parents and students to facilitate social distancing. Given the age of kindergarten students, parents may wait with their children but may not enter the school.
- Upon dismissal, children will be released one by one to waiting parents. **There are painted lines along the front and side of the school to allow parents to social distance while waiting for their child.**
- For any parent or guardian who needs to enter the school, they must first book an appointment with the school office.



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Faculty members will be outside to remind students of these requirements and to help students line up and keep an appropriate distance from each other.

Students will be permitted to enter the school during severe cold or rain as they arrive at the school.

Students in Day Care or other After School Care:

After school care workers and day home providers are required to follow the same guidelines when dropping off and picking up multiple students. Please inform your childcare providers of the procedures we have in place for dropping off and picking up students.

SIGIS

The SIGIS Child Care Society will continue before and after school childcare service for Kindergarten to Grade 6 students at Albert Lacombe Catholic Elementary School. The program runs from 7:00 am – 6:00 pm, including school holidays. Government subsidies are available to assist with child care costs. For further information, call their Executive Director (780) 720-8440 E-mail: sigischildcare@shaw.ca

Health and Wellness Considerations Specific to Kindergarten:

- Children participating in kindergarten may not be aware of maintaining physical distancing at all times and may not be able to wear a mask. School faculty working in our Kindergarten classrooms may not be able to sustain physical distancing when assisting children with specific tasks. All school faculty in the kindergarten room will be wearing a mask and, on occasion, a face shield.
- We will establish bathroom routines, and faculty will support the supervision of social distancing. Students will use hand sanitizer when they reenter the classroom. Directional arrows on the floor will facilitate student travel in the halls.
- To increase physical distancing and classroom sanitation, all soft furnishings, pillows, soft toys, rugs, and excess furniture were removed. Students will have an assigned table, and each child will have their container of supplies at their workstation for personal use.
- Children will have the opportunity to eat a snack they have brought from home during their time at school.
 - Kindergarten students will wash their hands with soap and water (not just sanitize) before and after eating their snack. A sink is available in our kindergarten classrooms to ease in this practice.
 - They will eat at their assigned spot in the classroom.
 - Please send snacks in kid-friendly packages/containers so that students can open their food.
 - Please send only water in a labeled refillable spill-proof bottle - no juice boxes, please.
 - At this time, whole-class snacks and treats from students' homes or a staff member cannot be brought into the classroom.
- For birthdays and other celebrations, we ask that parents do not send birthday or other celebration treats to share. Our kindergarten teacher will plan activities that celebrate a child's birthday or other occasions in a way that follows the current Alberta Health Services Guidelines and the Division's School Re-Entry Plan.

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- Regular communication with families will take place initially through e-mail and phone calls at this time. The set up of the Seesaw app will occur within the first month of school. For parents wishing to meet in person please arrange an appointment in advance.
- Centers and programming will be adapted to allow individualized and small cohorts of students within the class to gain the benefits of exploratory play and inquiry learning. Materials and objects used for learning will be limited to individual and small group use. Should students be required to share resources, hand sanitizing will occur before and after use. The scheduling of learning centers will be daily, alternating centers as much as possible during the week. Students will not rotate between the different centers within the school day.
- Students will remain with their classroom teacher and will have assigned seats within the classroom. When students are seated for learning, classroom furniture and activities will be created to minimize face to face interaction.
- Sharing of school-supplied materials will only occur when sanitized between uses.

Kindergarten Busing:

Before coming to school each day, all staff and students must complete the Alberta government's [COVID-19 Information Screening Questionnaire](#), which is [available in multiple languages](#), to determine whether they can attend or stay home. Students with COVID-19 symptoms or experiencing illness will not be permitted on the bus.

Because physical distancing is not possible on a bus, to help keep students and staff as safe as possible, the following protocols will be followed:

- K–3 students are required to wear a mask on the bus.
- Students will be assigned seats using a seating plan that limits close contact with others when possible.
- Students will sit with members of the same household when possible.
- Students will be taught and reminded of how to respect physical distancing.
- There will be a protective zone between the driver and student passengers, and no person will sit in the seat directly behind the bus driver.
- The bus will be cleaned according to COVID-19 cleaning standards.
- High contact areas will be cleaned throughout the day.
- A deep clean of the bus will be completed daily.

Please note that busing is only available for the Morning Kindergarten Class.

If you have any questions regarding bussing, please contact our Division's transportation department at 780-459-7711.



Communication Reminders

Division Guidebook:

On Thursday, August 13th, 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 e-mail.

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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