September 2, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome back to school, we look forward to seeing your children next week! We hope you and your family had a safe and wonderful summer!

Please join us in welcoming our new school Vice Principal, Mrs. Durand and our new, full-time Child and Youth Counsellor, Mr. Thomas.

Our former CYC, Mrs. Montague, has moved to a new school, we thank her for her support and wish her continued success!

With Covid safety protocols, this school year will be similar to last year in many respects, and we will all continue to work together to ensure the health and well-being of our students, families and staff.

* Our school board is working very closely with Halton Region Public Health to ensure health and safety protocols are in place and followed so that our students and staff can enjoy a safe and healthy learning environment this year.
* Stopping the spread of COVID-19 is a community effort. Let’s continue to work together to ensure everyone can be safe and healthy in the classroom, at home, and in our community.
* The mental well-being of our students is as important as their physical health, and we will continue to build and strengthen resilient and mentally healthy classrooms.
* Please refer to the HCDSB Return to School Plan 2021-2022 <https://elem.hcdsb.org/sacredheart/2021/08/returning-to-school-for-the-2021-2022-year/>

To keep you informed, we will continue to share information with parents through our school email system and website on a regular, weekly basis. You can also follow us on Twitter @SHOJ\_HCDSB

**IMPORTANT UPDATES:**

1. Please be advised that effective Friday, September 3, after 3:00pm, you will be able to access information about your child’s class placement. Details of this were sent to you this week by the HCDSB and may be found on our school website <https://elem.hcdsb.org/sacredheart/2021/08/class-lists-available-friday-september-3rd/>

**PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT THE SCHOOL OR PRINCIPAL TO REQUEST CHANGES TO CLASS PLACEMENTS DUE TO FRIENDSHIPS. WE ARE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND THE COMPLEXITIES OF MAKING CLASS LISTS EVEN DURING THE BEST OF TIMES.**

Gradual Return to School for All Students Learning In-Person
All HCDSB schools will be easing into the new school year by welcoming students back to school in smaller groups, on September 7 and 8.

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| **Tuesday, September 7th** | All in-person learners with surnames beginning with the letters **A-K**will come to school.  |
| **Wednesday, September 8th** | All in-person learners with surnames beginning with the letters **L-Z**will come to school.  |
| **Thursday, September 9th** | ALL in-person learners (Grades 1 – 8) will come to school.  |

**FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL PROCEDURES:**

* **Grade 4-8 students:** On their designated first day, students will already know their teacher’s name and room number, beginning at 8:55am they may enter the school directly on their own and teachers will be ready to meet them at their classroom door. AS PER HCDSB COVID PROTOCOLS PARENTS ARE NOT ALLOWED IN THE SCHOOL BUILDING.
* **Grade 1-3 students:** On their designated first day, they may meet their designated teacher on the school playground by 8:55 a.m. The teacher’s name and grade will be posted on the wall of the school to indicate the line-up location. Students will line up 2m apart from each other. All students and parents **must wear a mask and maintain social distancing on the playground**. Once the parent assists their child with finding their designated teacher, the parent is to leave the playground.
* **All JK/SK students**: There are scheduled JK parent/student and teacher/ECE interviews on September 7th and 8th. These will take place at your designated times outside in the kindergarten playground. Please ensure you and your child wear a mask and maintain social distancing from our staff.
* **VIRTUAL SCHOOL**: for parents who selected this option, you will receive more information from the HCDSB this week. This begins on September 7th
* **BUSSING:** Begins on September 7th.

Daily Confirmation of COVID-19 Self-ScreeningAs you know, the Ministry of Education has directed all schools to implement daily confirmation of COVID-19 self-screening for all students attending school in person. This will be in place for the first two weeks of the school year, unless otherwise directed by the Ministry of Education.

The following are the instructions that parents are to follow:

1. Parents and guardians are asked to complete the[COVID-19 School Screening Tool](https://can01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcovid-19.ontario.ca%2Fschool-screening%2F&data=04%7C01%7CSusiJ%40hcdsb.org%7C8c3eec4b42e0426d1dd608d96ccc3eaa%7C2537ab7d25bd498aa6427c135779e6d2%7C1%7C0%7C637660447155577396%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=r081ouMcLfWmvQskfOwSHEs0vQe6JAy2QTFhVLCP78o%3D&reserved=0)for each child every day before leaving home for school: [https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/](https://can01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcovid-19.ontario.ca%2Fschool-screening%2F&data=04%7C01%7CSusiJ%40hcdsb.org%7C8c3eec4b42e0426d1dd608d96ccc3eaa%7C2537ab7d25bd498aa6427c135779e6d2%7C1%7C0%7C637660447155577396%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=r081ouMcLfWmvQskfOwSHEs0vQe6JAy2QTFhVLCP78o%3D&reserved=0)
2. Confirmation of the daily screening must be provided to the classroom teacher in one of the following formats:
* Email results to classroom teacher;
* Show “pass” confirmation on a personal device;
* Show printed copy of the screening tool indicating the current date and a “pass”; OR
* Complete *Confirmation of Daily COVID-19 Student Screening Log*, which students will bring back and forth to school each day.
1. **School Bell Times:** **9:10-3:40pm**
	1. Once again, we will have split recess times with students playing in their own cohort. Students will be taught the details around playing in their own “zone” on the school yard, line ups, moving through the school and social distancing.
	2. **Recess** #1 – gr. 1-3 and 4FI, Recess #2 Gr. 3/4-8
	3. **Lunch Hour** – remains from 12:05-1:05 (Group #1 eats for 30 minutes and goes out to play for 30 minutes, Group #2 vice versa)
2. AS PER HCDSB COVID PROTOCOLS - **PARENTS, VISITORS ARE NOT ALLOWED IN THE SCHOOL BUILDING** UNLESS SPECIFICALLY INVITED FOR AN URGENT MATTER. If a parent comes to the school, they must use the pager at the front door to communicate with the secretary.
3. **Volunteers:** Fortunately, we will be allowed volunteers in the school this year. Details for volunteers will be forthcoming. In the meantime, if you do not already have one on file at school, you may want to get your police check and have it handy to send to the school for when the time comes.
4. **Picking up my child early from school:** Please page the secretary at the front door and wait there outside to meet your child.
5. **Daily Drop off procedures for gr. 1-8 beginning on September 9th**: As we did last year, beginning at 8:55 am, you may use the “Kiss and Ride” on the west parking lot. Each day drop your child off at the curb and the students will have “free entry” where they may go directly into the building through the back doors and directly to their classroom. Teachers will be supervising.
6. **Daily Pick up procedures beginning on September 7th**: There will be normal dismissal out the back two doors. Parents must wait for their child outside the playground gates. Everyone is to maintain social distancing. Parents are encouraged to wear a mask while waiting for their child. Please arrange for a “meeting spot” so your child knows where to find you. As per HCDSB policy, dogs are not allowed on our school property.
7. Please keep in mind that our school is a scent sensitive environment where we have students and staff members with very severe allergies to any fragrances such as perfume, cologne, and scented hand/body lotions/sprays. Please do not wear this when visiting the school and please do not have your child wearing these products. We appreciate your support and cooperation in this regard!

Once again, our staff at SHOJ look forward to collaborating with parents and having a great year together where students may flourish and learn in a healthy, safe and supportive, Catholic learning environment!

Best wishes and God bless!

J. Susi, Principal

P. Durand, Vice Principal