

Weekly Update- September 28- October 2, 2020

“Gratitude is not only the greatest of virtues, but the parent of all the others.” ~ Marcus Tullius Cicero

New COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool

The Ontario government released a new online screening tool for schools – <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>. It is extremely important that parents do this self-screening test with their children BEFORE they come to school each day. Staff also do this assessment daily before coming to work. Let's all do our part to ensure the safety of all!

Mask Wearing

Thank you for reinforcing the importance of wearing masks with your children. They are doing an excellent job following this protocol and we appreciate your support. We would also kindly request that parents wear masks when they are dropping off or picking up their students when waiting at the gate or getting out of their cars. During these times, there are more people gathering outside of their cohorts. **We need your continued support to avoid any lingering or social gatherings during both entry and dismissal times**

Orange Shirt Day: Every Child Matters – Sept. 30th

September 30th is recognized as Orange Shirt Day. This day acknowledges the residential school system and recognizes the harm they did to Indigenous children's sense of self-esteem and wellbeing. We are encouraging our staff and students to wear orange shirts (uniform bottoms must be worn) to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come.

Request to Change Learning Environment – Oct. 1

If you wish to change your child's learning environment by switching from remote learning to in-class instruction, or vice versa, you are asked to complete an online request form.

Important notes before you complete the online form:

- You are asked to **submit a separate form for each child.**
- **You will need your child's Ontario Education Number (OEN)** to submit this request. The OEN can be found on a recent report card.

- **This online request form applies to elementary students ONLY.** Requests for changes in the learning environment at the secondary school level should be sent to directly to your child's secondary school Principal.
- **This form does not apply to homeschooling.** If your child is currently being homeschooled and you would like to request a change to either in-class instruction or remote learning, please contact your Family of Schools Superintendent.

NOTE: **Please do not complete this form unless you want to change your child's current learning environment** – i.e. your child is currently attending in-class instruction and you want to switch to remote (online) learning in a virtual classroom.

[CLICK HERE](#) to access the online form **to request a change** to your child's learning environment.

The online form will remain open until 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, October 1, 2020.

Next Steps

Once the online form has closed, our staff will begin to work through the rescheduling process.

- Parents and guardians will **receive confirmation of the changes** to their children's learning environment during the **week of October 13th**.
- The **changes will come into effect** during the **week of October 19, 2020**.

Additional Information

- [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more about **in-class instruction** in our HCDSB elementary schools.
- [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more about **remote learning** in our HCDSB Virtual Elementary School.

Please anticipate that we may have more changes and restructuring of several classes based on the number of students who continue or choose to move to learning online or choose in school learning.

Sacramental Registrations

Parents of Gr. 2, 3 & 7 students preparing to celebrate the sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Communion or Confirmation at St. Matthew Church must register their child at www.saintmatthew.ca/sacramentalprep. You will find clear and easy-to-follow step by step instructions for registering your child to participate this year. The following information packages were sent home with students at school this past week. Please note that all paper

registrations forms must be returned directly to **St. Matthew Parish Office**. Please see the detailed information packages below for more information.

[St. Matthew Parish-First Communion-2020-Information Package](#)

[St. Matthew Parish-First Reconciliation- First Communion-2021-Information-Package](#)

[St. Matthew Parish-Confirmation-2021-Information-Package](#)

School Council Meeting – Oct. 5th

We will have our first Council Meeting on Monday, October 5th virtually through Microsoft TEAMS at 6:30 PM. Parents who submitted and/or received a nomination have been notified of their position on council. A link to the online meeting will be emailed to members before the meeting. Should parents who are not on council want to attend the meeting, you can request the link by contacting the office.

St. Mary Tips

One way to decrease anxiety and stress for our children is to Create a Circle of Control.

Control is a tricky concept to explain to a child.

A visual depiction of what they **DO** have power over makes it much less daunting and will help create a sense of calm.



K. Dobbie & D. Comito
Principal/Vice Principal

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