



ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE SCHOOL

Under the direction of the Basilian Fathers

July 20, 2020

RETURN TO SCHOOL BLUEPRINT: 2020-21

Against the backdrop of the global coronavirus pandemic, our focus, future-planning, and the re-opening roadmap for the next academic year, ***Return to School Blueprint: 2020-21***, is rooted in:

- the safety, health, and well-being of all our students, staff, and community
- directives from the City of Toronto, Ministry of Health, and Ministry of Education
- providing an exceptional learning experience, in-person/online/both, for all students

There continue to be new learnings for our entire St. Michael's College School community of educators, students, and families. As such, we are all working to be more nimble, open, and adaptable to the many changes demanded of each of us during this extraordinary time in history.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- A preferred target of returning to a full-time school routine as soon as responsibly possible.
- Commitment to the health and well-being of students, staff, and community.
 - o Mitigate the risk of community spread of COVID-19
 - Hand washing
 - Distancing
 - Masks/barriers to contact
 - Sanitizing surfaces
 - Reducing contacts while maintaining routines of learning
- Continued commitment to engaged learning in Mind, Body, and Spirit in the Basilian tradition of educating the whole person.
- School programme that can seamlessly adjust from full-time at school, to part-time at school, to not at school, with little to no disruption in rich learning.
- Increase the ability to connect and collaborate in work and fellowship in a remote learning environment.

PLANNING PRIORITIES

In planning and developing our ***Return to School Blueprint: 2020-21*** for the upcoming school year, we are now armed with more than five months of knowledge and experience managing COVID-19 both in our personal and professional lives. Our goal is to use this process of discovery, which has provided the important opportunity to build on and enhance the lessons learned through understanding, feedback, research, and reflection.

Individual committees with specific mandates have been meeting regularly for months, diligently focused on their area of the return to school plan.

Striking a balance between keeping students learning through familiar routines, structured schedules, and meaningful connectedness --- while ensuring their safety, that of those around them and family members at home --- requires an abundance of careful thought, meticulous planning, and extensive execution. All this, while understanding that even the best-laid plans could be forced to change in an instant, as we contend with a worldwide health crisis around us that is unfolding in real-time. There are seven weeks remaining before the start of the 2020-21 school year.

STRONG START

Starting a new school year inside the reality of a global pandemic will mean new and different changes from those encountered in March 2020, when the coronavirus appeared with little warning, with three months left in the school year.

When we unveiled a new learning environment on March 24, 2020, the goals then were to:

- enable the learning to continue
- pivot to an online learning setting as quickly as possible
- successfully complete the academic year with minimal disruptions

A strong start in September 2020 will go a long way to underpinning the entire experience for all of our students.

Currently, we are looking to begin the year with:

- a combination of in-person and remote learning experiences (hybrid model)
- an alternate day schedule allowing the permitted 15 students per classroom

The look, feel, frequency, or platform used in the educational journey of our students this coming year should serve only to enrich their acquiring of new knowledge, positive experiences, and healthy, lasting relationships. It will be different.

We are committed to doing everything we can as a school administration, faculty, staff, and community of educators to make it happen.

As your sons' first teachers, we look forward to continuing to partner with you in their ongoing education and always mindful of the exceptional times we are living in.

FOCUS AREAS

Our ***Return to School Blueprint: 2020-21*** is comprised of three main areas:

- Safety at School
- Learning at School
- Connected at School

As previously communicated on June 26, each focus area will involve a further detailed breakdown. This process continues to evolve as our communities ease into Phase 3 of the provincial re-opening plan.

We remain optimistic as well as realistic that the next two to three weeks will give us a much clearer picture of the potential for how schools may open and operate to meet the



needs of students in the fall of 2020. We plan to release our final plans before August 10, a minimum of four weeks prior to the first day of school on September 8, 2020.

KEY RESOURCES

For your reference, below are links to key information provided by all levels of government, public health, and education bodies. Many of these resources are frequently updated to ensure the latest information is available.

- **City of Toronto**
[COVID-19](#)
- **Government of Ontario**
[School Safety Plan for the 2020-21 School Year](#)
[Approach to reopening schools for the 2020-2021 school year](#)
[Think you might have COVID-19 \(coronavirus\)](#)
- **Government of Canada**
[Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\): Outbreak update](#)
- **World Health Organization**
[Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\) pandemic](#)
- **Conference of Independent Schools of Ontario Athletic Association (CISAA)**
[CISAA Return to Sport Plan 2020-21](#)

Thank you for your continued support and understanding as we work together to plan for an uncertain future. One certainty remains: our doors will be open for learning in September, and we will be ready for any eventuality that may present itself, to support and move forward on the learning journey that is teaching in Goodness, Discipline, and Knowledge.

