



ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE SCHOOL

Under the direction of the Basilian Fathers

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Coronavirus Update: June 26, 2020

As the school year comes to an end, we are all missing the regular and special social structures that allow us to say farewell and transition to summer. We hope that you and your families remain healthy and find time to enjoy the blessings of the summer season. Thank you for your support and commitment to St. Michael's College School. I can say that it was energizing to myself, the VPs, and Fr. Leung to have seen and be able to speak with most of the graduates these last four days as they had their ceremonial Arch Walk!

We know many are wondering how school will look in the fall. Much still depends on the trends and impact on public health with the presence of COVID-19. We are learning more with each passing day. Some things are becoming clearer. In its latest update, the Ministry of Education set out a range of possibilities for operations of public schools, however, the greatest determinate in the planning will be the direction of the Ministry of Health. We are planning to have students here at school in September. We have heard from parents and students about what has worked and what has not. We understand that everyone, ourselves included, want and need to get back to regular routines of learning, praying, and playing.

As of today, we are progressing on our planning in three areas: Safe at School, Learning at School, and Connected at School. As with all plans during the pandemic period, they are subject to trends and direction in public health.

Safe at School: Preparing to keep students, staff, and community safe and healthy.

- Planning for
 - Handwashing, hand sanitizing stations, and protocols.
 - Acquiring protective personal equipment and community protective equipment and protocols for students, staff, and visitors.
 - Protective barriers in high traffic areas (main offices, teacher desks, library, etc.)
 - Upgraded HVAC system and air filtration.
 - Reviewing traffic flow with lane and hallway markers.
 - Classroom spacing and alternative room utilization.
 - Review of food services
 - Infrared heat (temperature) imaging cameras, portable thermometers if necessary
 - Steam sanitizers for floors, equipment, and high touch areas, all precautionary.
 - Review of stay-at-home if ill directives.
 - Altered uniform expectations for students (SMCS golf shirt and any neat washable trouser to start the year)
 - Limited student locker access, to reduce crowds in closed areas.
 - Preparation continues. We expect there will be other considerations that may be reviewed and/or purchased to adhere to the health and safety protocols from the Ontario Ministry of Health and the City of Toronto Public Health.

Learning at School: Preparing for September opening and uninterrupted rich learning in the Basilian tradition.

- Planning for
 - A commitment to return to learning and connecting in September.
 - Current restrictions suggest the possibility of 15 students per class; it is unclear if physical distancing will be expected (classrooms with two-metre spacing between students only hold eight students max). More clarity is required.
 - If not a full return, we could see 1/3 to 1/2 of a class attend in person each day. The other students would be expected to be connected online during the class time.
 - The school schedule will be revised to a full five period day.
 - Four classes of 55 minutes, one lunch period, and one asynchronous connection period (actual start and end times TBD but close to regular school hours).
 - Two-day cycle, students have the same four classes every other day.
 - Edsby will continue to be our learning management system and home-school portal.
 - Zoom for Education will be the standard for any required remote learning experiences.
 - Microsoft Office Suite to be leveraged regularly by staff and students and a collaborative site, but not exclusive.
 - Staff professional development prior to September with a focus on:
 - Utilizing online collaborative tools to connect and engage students through technology.
 - Rich inquiry-based learning, project and problem-based learning experiences for all students.
 - Experiences that transition well from remote to in-person classes if necessary.
 - If we are teaching in a partially online capacity, students will be expected to have access to a webcam and will have this turned on during online classes.

Connected at School: We are committed to building relationships, mentorship, friendship, and activities to enrich school life regardless of the degree of restrictions for physical distancing.

- Planning for
 - Begin the school year and all classes with experiences to address community building and meeting new classmates to start the year.
 - Camp and orientation will be altered:
 - Use of the first days of school as orientation week and permissible activities to start the year.
 - Include a connection to senior students who have been in training to meet, greet, and support those new to SMCS
 - The introduction of a new House System for September 2020
 - Allow students to be structured into our smaller multi-grade, collaborative groups within the larger school setting.
 - Support relationship building, support initiatives, and competitive fun.
 - Support staying active, connected, and contributing in service to the greater community.



- Clubs, Athletics, and Arts are all preparing for a progressive and safe return to play.
 - Conference of Independent Schools of Ontario Athletics Association (CISAA) and other sport governing bodies are rolling out progressive return to play protocols. Individual, outdoor, lower contact, and fitness activities will be first and as conditions prove favourable, expand into further intra- and inter-school activities. Our facilities to provide us with the opportunity to maximize participation and re-entry into the co-curricular world of clubs, arts, and sport.
 - Building a healthy mind, body, and spirit connection underscores the need and desire for students to resume physical and social activity.

This is not an exhaustive list. It is an attempt to illustrate what St. Michael's College School could look like in September. The news, conditions, and our ability to respond changes daily. We have heard from parents, students, and staff, and reviewed experiences as well as research from around the world focussed on managing a return to school in a pandemic world.

We appreciate your feedback, patience, and commitment. We will continue to keep you informed over the summer as more information becomes available.

You can expect a regular August mailing and that St. Michael's College School will be leading, learning, and serving in September.

Have a wonderful summer and we look forward to seeing you soon.

Mr. James McKinnon
Principal

