



ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE SCHOOL

Under the direction of the Basilian Fathers

As of August 16, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

This update is likely one of several as we enter into another return to school period during the COVID-19 pandemic. We share with you our assurance that St. Michael's College School is prepared to deliver a safe and engaging learning experience of excellence.

Welcome back to a new school year. We have all certainly been on a rollercoaster journey over the past year as we head into September. We are three weeks away from a much-anticipated return to school for the 2021-22 school year. The Ontario health, safety, and operational guidance for schools 2021-22 has been released and approved by the Chief Medical Officer of Health.

We are committed to doing our part to keep our students, staff, and broader community safe while balancing that against the need to get back together and experience life and learning that support our health and well-being. This could be the greatest challenge of our generation.

Although the situation is once again rather fluid and dependent on the responses to changing trends in our region, you do need to know that SMCS is ready to return to full-day in-person learning.

What to expect for September 2021:

- SMCS Return to School Plan
 - Return to full-day in-person learning.
 - A complete SMCS Return to School Blueprint plan will be released as soon as possible.
 - Some details regarding cohort sizes, COVID case management, vaccination requirements are still to be developed as details and information are evolving prior to opening schools.
- In-person Learning
 - SMCS will return to full-day in-person learning on September 7 with four classes per day beginning at 8:30 a.m. and finishing at 2:39 p.m.
 - SMCS will not be offering a full online learning option on a regular basis. If needs arise, we have the capacity to shift our in-person learning experience to hybrid or online learning.
 - Opening week schedules by grade will be communicated in our August registration mailing.
 - We do have contingency plans if hybrid or online protocols are required.
- Vaccine policy
 - As communicated in June, SMCS strongly encourages that all staff and students be double vaccinated as recommended by the Chief Medical Officer of Health.
 - Although SMCS will not require proof of vaccination at this time, many activities and access to community partnerships may require it.
 - This requirement may be altered as new information evolves.
 - Prior to school opening, you can expect a request to voluntarily share your son's vaccination status.

- Uniform
 - **WARM WEATHER**
 - Grey dress pants
 - Above-the-ankle black socks
 - Black dress belt (plain buckle only)
 - Black dress shoes
 - Navy SMCS golf shirt (short or long-sleeved)
 - SMCS zippered sweater-jacket (optional)
 - Should students choose to wear an undershirt, it must be plain and the same colour as the golf shirt
 - **STANDARD**
Beginning January 2022, we plan for a full formal dress code to be in effect, including:
 - Grey dress pants
 - Above-the-ankle black socks
 - Black dress belt (plain buckle only)
 - Black dress shoes
 - White dress shirt
 - School tie
 - Blue blazer with crest
 - An undershirt may be worn so long as it is plain white and devoid of any logo or designs
- Sports and Activities
 - CISAA will be meeting on August 24 to confirm athletic programme plans for the opening of the school year.
 - SMCS is committed to returning to clubs, activities, arts, and athletics in a controlled and safe format which will include cohorts, tracing, and hygiene protocols. As activities begin to move beyond intraschool to interschool, the vaccination policies of other institutions may impact a student's eligibility to participate.
- Camps
 - We have scheduled orientation and camp activities to begin the year. Each grade level will be receiving direct communication required for these activities. All school activities are subject to COVID-19 protocols and monitoring and are dependent on maintaining a safe and healthy environment.
- Mitigating practices
 - We will continue to utilize our investment in safety and hygiene over the past 18 months, which includes:
 - Upgraded ventilation system, HEPA UV filters in every classroom
 - Hand washing and sanitizing stations
 - Plexiglass barriers where applicable
 - Masks to be worn indoors
 - Physical distancing wherever possible
 - Deep cleaning routines, including fogging of activity equipment daily
 - Cohorting of students by grade wherever possible.

Although these are the general preparations and expectations to begin the school year, more details will continue to evolve. As always, we will commit, respond, and deliver on providing the best learning experience possible as we push through the challenges of these pandemic days.



"God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference,"
– Reinhold Niebuhr

Please expect further communications in the coming weeks regarding our complete Return to School Blueprint as well as a more routine August mailing regarding registration, opening days, and a return to in-person learning.

As always, thank you for your patience and faith in entrusting your sons to us. We are looking forward to another successful school year.

Sincerely,

Mr. James McKinnon
Principal

