



ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE SCHOOL

Under the direction of the Basilian Fathers

St. Michael's College School - Return to School Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. Will SMCS accommodate students and families who decide to participate completely online?

We are prepared to accommodate those who wish to study entirely online through their regularly scheduled classes. This arrangement would need to be requested and committed to for the duration of each block to support consistency in planning, expectations, and accommodations. Please contact your assigned guidance counsellor to confirm your plan.

2. Can my son move cohorts?

The cohorts have been broken down by alpha to have siblings attend school on similar days. It has also been crafted to minimize class sizes and keep them in line with Toronto Public Health (TPH) recommendations. Altering of students' assignments by cohort does impact the balance of classes. Critical cohort requests will only be considered for travel purposes and can be forwarded to the school administration for consideration. We will not be able to accommodate all requests at this time.

3. What will daily screening protocols look like at SMCS?

We will be instituting a mandatory, daily protocol using a web-based application for anyone entering the school building to confirm they are symptom-free, to the best of their knowledge.

For students, the app will require a parent or guardian to respond to COVID-19 screening questions to receive clearance to enter the building.

Entry to the building will require daily completion of the health acknowledgement.

Students who are not feeling well and complaining of symptoms should stay home.

Sign-up and registration for the app will be coming soon.

Each entrance has a thermal reader to aid with the screening process.

4. Will students be provided masks to wear at school and in class? Can my son bring his own mask from home?

Every student will be provided with two reusable and washable SMCS-branded non-medical face masks. Distribution of the masks will occur during the first week of school. Masks are a mandatory part of the school uniform.

Beginning in September, additional SMCS-branded non-medical face masks will be sold through the *Mporium* for \$8.50 each. There is a limit of five masks per order.

Students are also welcome to wear their own masks provided they are respectable in

nature, at the discretion of school administration.

Students and staff are required to bring three clean masks with them daily and change them as needed throughout the school day.

Students and staff will receive instruction on the donning and doffing of masks, and overall mask care.

We recommend students begin some 'training' by wearing masks for extended periods in the days leading up to school opening. It will be different, but necessary for the safety of all.

5. Have student uniform expectations been altered due to COVID-19 sanitary considerations?

Students will be required to wear daily washable attire in response to COVID-19. This includes a school golf shirt and any non-jean khaki style pants. Additionally, students will not be required to wear dress shoes or dress socks. However, students must wear socks with either close-toed casual shoes or runners.

Students learning remotely are required to wear their SMCS golf shirt and washable trousers or shorts.

Non-uniform shirts, hats, and jeans are prohibited.

The uniform dress code will be enforced.

6. Will students have access to their lockers during the day?

In order to regulate traffic flow in the building and to limit student contacts during the day, students will not have access to their lockers for the foreseeable future. Students are required to transport daily requirements in their backpack, including lunch and school supplies for their designated four-course block.

7. Have procedures changed regarding student attendance, reporting absences, and signing students in and out of the building?

A more detailed communication from the Attendance Office will be sent to parents and guardians via Edsby prior to the commencement of the academic year. New protocols are designed to ensure students are engaged whether in the building or online and that while attending in-person, their entries and exits minimize contact to their direct cohorts.

8. Are parents/guardians permitted to enter the building? Can guests enter the building?

In order to best protect our students and staff, we will not be permitting parents, alumni and guests inside the building. Required meetings can be booked via the main office and may take the form of an online conference or phone call where necessary.

9. With the return to school, will students have direct access to support within the building?

Students will be able to access the full array of support services whether online or in the building, including guidance counsellors, the Wellness Office, library, and the Learning Enrichment Centre (LEC) adhering to all distancing and hygiene protocols. Specifics on how to schedule support is forthcoming.

10. Are Guidance Counsellors available during Orientation Week?

Counsellors meet students on a first-come, first-served basis during the first week mainly to discuss timetable changes. This year, appointments may be in person or by phone depending on whether the student is in the building or at home. Zoom sessions will also be scheduled upon request. Each student who asks to see a counsellor will fill out a form outlining the request and, ideally, leave a cell phone number to facilitate meetings and eliminate concerns around students congregating in the Student Affairs hallway.

11. What happens if I need to make a timetable change?

Students will discuss possible course additions or deletions with Guidance Counsellors either virtually or in person. Parent permission is always required. Timetable changes may take several days longer to process than usual as Guidance will need to make changes in a way that maintains safe numbers in class cohorts. It is not possible to show students what all the changes will look like in advance nor to customize a timetable to individual preferences for course sections. Teacher preference will not be considered. Class size maxima will not be adjusted.

12. What will happen if I have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP)?

Teachers in the LEC will review IEPs for returning students and develop new IEPs for incoming students for whom these services are indicated. Each student who has an IEP will have an opportunity to discuss his accommodations with a LEC teacher and to have input into the process. Parents will also have an opportunity to consult. Some of this conferencing will be virtual this fall to reduce the need for parents to attend in person. Questions about IEPs can be directed to Ms. Hogan or Ms. Callaghan.

13. Will food services be available?

The cafeteria will offer modified lunch options. Parents will receive an email with an online order form to select meals for the entire block. Students are welcome to bring their lunch to school.

Breakfast service is not available.

Microwaves have been removed from the cafeteria.

There will be no items in the vending machines anywhere on campus.

A survey has been posted to support planning for lunch purchase options. Thank you in advance for your feedback.

14. In other years, Grade 11 and 12 students have been permitted to leave campus during lunch or spares. Can they do that this year?

No. This year, Grade 11 and 12 students will be required to stay on campus for the duration of their time at school.

15. How will students be able to safely distance themselves during lunch periods?

Students will have a scheduled lunch period and must remain in their assigned lunch areas for the entire period.

Lunch will split by grade cohorts in designated areas:

- Grades 7/8 will eat in the theatre lobby
- Grades 9/10 will eat in Lecture Hall A and B*
- Grades 11/12 will eat in the cafeteria and on the terrace

*Two Grade 10 classes will eat lunch in the arena's bleachers and two other Grade 10 classes will be assigned to the library for lunch in 3a.

Plexiglass barriers in the cafeteria, lecture hall, theatre lobby, library, and the arena will provide additional safety.

Five minutes of travel time will also be added to the schedule in between lunch periods.

