



ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE SCHOOL

Under the direction of the Basilian Fathers

August 17, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We hope you have all had a chance to review the St. Michael's College School Return to School Blueprint 2020-21 that was released last week.

<https://www.stmichaelscollegeschool.com/about-us/back-to-school-2020/september-2020-plan>

Thank you for your ongoing support and feedback in the process that will be new to everyone. As one parent shared, "Thank you for the thoughtful plan, there will no doubt be bumps in the road as it is implemented in real-time."

Real-time is near.

As you read the news and continue to hear the ever-changing opinions of what may be the right way to open up schools in September, we are committed to creating opportunities that are safe and future-focused. Please know that the return to school and daily routines will look very different. Our best laid plans are subject to effective implementation in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Each precaution to mitigate the spread of infection is designed to keep us moving forward and connected. We completely understand that any spike or outbreak would relegate us back to restricted access and gatherings. For this reason, our plan is designed to be as safe as possible while providing us with the flexibility to continue in learning and engagement if our situation, due to health-related concerns, is altered in any way. We are committed to always moving forward.

Over the next three weeks, we will share additional information and details on new daily routines, schedules, and timelines for the opening week and the orientation process.

We are currently completing all upgrades to safety equipment and finalizing all safety protocols. Please refer to the Blueprint and review some of the many upgrades and steps we are taking to adhere to all Public Health and Ministry of Education recommendations.

We will also be providing an ongoing Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) communication to update and inform families and students on the ever-evolving expectations and recommendations to keep us safe, engaged, and learning at school.

Here are three common questions that have arisen since last week:

- *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 accommodation.

- *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.

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

- *When will parents/guardians find out about the first week Orientation and Opening Schedule?*

As we review the volume, traffic flow, and contact numbers for the first week of school with ever-changing guidelines, our opening classes, schedule and timelines for orientation days will be confirmed next week. A framework for the week is part of the Blueprint and details will follow prior to September 8.

Our goal is to do everything we can to remove as many ‘bumps in the road’ as possible before the start of school. The sooner we get into healthy and safe routines, the more we can add to our programming. We are ready, prepared, and looking forward to taking this journey with you.

As always, thank you for your support, encouragement, and feedback. It matters and only makes us stronger, together.

Mr. James McKinnon
Principal

