



ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE SCHOOL

Under the direction of the Basilian Fathers

January 3, 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As you may have heard, the Ontario Government announced a return to a modified step two of its Roadmap to Reopen.

Details can be found here (<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/public-health-measures>).

1. In this announcement, all **Private and Public schools will move to online learning until at least January 17**, subject to public health trends and operational considerations. SMCS will be planning for a return to in-person classes on Monday, January 17.
2. We will continue with our current Schedule B as posted in Edsby and a four-day rotation of eight classes. Students can expect most classes to include 40 minutes of required attendance and instruction and up to 20 minutes of study, homework, or classroom teacher conferencing time. Each class period is 60 minutes with some breaks. This is a short-term interruption from our goal of returning to in-person learning. Students are asked to have their cameras on, be in school uniform (SMCS golf shirt is permitted), and be seated upright at a desk. Attendance on day one was 96%, welcome back!
3. We have a few more details to confirm regarding the return to in-person learning. **These details will be communicated early next week.** but for your information, we are working on:
 - a. Updating daily screener to match the current public health mandates. In short, if you are not feeling well, you are to stay home.
 - b. Updating accessibility for students who have been approved by administration for online classroom access to accommodate illness and COVID-19 isolation. Requests for more permanent online access will be managed monthly, but all assessments will be completed in school with administrative support.
 - c. Updating masking policy and expectations beyond the regular cloth masks to include properly fitted surgical masks.
 - d. Updating case management protocols including contact tracing and cohorting. This still needs to be clarified by Toronto Public Health (TPH) and is a critical component to assist us in moving forward.
 - e. Updating our take-home PCR access for students as well as reviewing our antigen testing programmes and expectations.

As you can see, there is some work to do to provide the best response to the changing provincial COVID-19 plans and provide a smooth transition back to an uninterrupted run to June!

We ask that each family saves one of the five rapid antigen tests you were provided, to allow each student to complete on Sunday, January 16, before the return to in-person learning.

We have had a great year so far, better than last year for certain. Let's hope the transition period of learning to manage this variant is short-lived and we can apply all that we have learned to get back to school sooner than later.

As always, thank you for your support.
Keeping you informed.

Sincerely,

Mr. James McKinnon
Principal

