



SPX BULLETIN #1

September 2, 2021

WELCOME BACK!

We hope everyone had a restful and enjoyable summer. A special welcome to all the new families to our school community. We are so looking forward to seeing our students on Tuesday, September 7th from 8:50 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. We are also looking forward to a “near normal” school year. As we are still receiving information and guidance from the Ministry of Education and Health, changes and adaptations may still need to be made, we will keep you informed and up to date with these.

The Archdiocesan school-wide theme for the 2021/2022 school year is “*One Family, One Hope in Christ*”. This theme will be reflected in the classrooms and throughout the school. At a time when our society seems to be divisive, the Catholic Schools have come together to focus on becoming ONE. Our school is a family of families, and with hope in Christ we will have a successful and enriching journey through this school year.

DROP OFF AND PICK UP PROCEDURES:

Our drop off and pick up procedures are back to “near normal”, as we are hoping most of our school activities and events will be.

Drop Off:

Primary students (K-3) are to be walked to the turf field no earlier than 8:35 a.m. to line up at their grade numbers (there will be no supervision before this time). Parents can park in the main lot. Please note upon entering the school grounds (off Mt. Seymour Road) to park in the lot you do not have to follow the drop off loop in the intermediate side parking lot. We ask that you proceed with caution and keep to the right of the cars exiting the intermediate lot.

Intermediate students (4-7) and their primary siblings can be dropped off at the intermediate gravel field and line up at their grade numbers. (Primary siblings can walk to the turf field around the back of the school).

Pick Up:

Students will be dismissed at 3:00 p.m. to their designated grade numbers.

Primary students will line up on the turf field and parents/caregivers will park in the main lot and then proceed to collect their child from the turf field. We ask that families leave the school grounds promptly.

Intermediate Students will line up on the gravel field and their parents/caregivers are to park in the intermediate side parking lot to collect their children. We ask that families leave the school grounds promptly.

Playgrounds will be closed both in the morning and after school. Staff will be on hand to direct traffic for the first week of school.

SCHOOL SCHEDULE/HOURS OF INSTRUCTION:

Regular attendance and prompt arrival at school is important if your child is to gain full benefit from the school program. If your child is going to be late or away for any reason, please call the school office at (604) 929-0345 or email at office@saintpius.ca before 8:45 a.m. to confirm his/her absence or tardiness. If we do not hear from you, we will call home to ensure your child's safety. A written note explaining your child's absence is required when your child returns to school. Please make sure that arriving to school on time is a priority from the very first day!

SPX BELL SCHEDULE:

8:50 a.m. School begins

10:30 -10:45 a.m. Recess

12:00 -12:30 p.m. Lunch Recess (Students play first)

12:30 -12:45 p.m. Lunch (Students eat lunch)

12:45 p.m. Afternoon classes begin

3:00 p.m. Dismissal

*3:15 p.m. Supervision Ends (students who have not yet made contact with their parent/guardian are to report the office)

VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL:

At this time, due to current restrictions, visitors to the school will be limited. Parents will need to make appointments to enter the school and must wear a mask when doing so. Upon entry, parents will need to sign in and provide contact information. This will help us to maintain a safe and productive environment for all our students and staff. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

At this time in school parent volunteers will be suspended until further notice. Our hope is to have parents back into the classrooms in due time.

If dropping off an item for your child or for a staff member, please place the item on the table outside.

ST. PIUS X SCHOOL UNIFORM:

All students at St. Pius X School are required to always wear their uniform. All uniform items are to be purchased through our uniform supplier, Cambridge & Company. School items, especially uniforms, **MUST** be clearly marked with your child's FULL NAME as many students share the same first name, or initials. Please refer to the school uniform policy on our website.

Spring Uniform: Students have the option to continue to wear their spring uniform until Monday, October 4th.

*Reminder, green school sweaters must be brought to school every day.

Should any St. Pius X family require financial assistance to purchase the uniform, we now offer a **Uniform Bursary** to families in need through our Parish office. This bursary may be applied to *any* St. Pius X uniform item sold through Cambridge Uniforms.

To apply for the bursary, please call (604-929-1404) or email parish.spx@rcav.org the Parish to arrange an appointment with Father Jeff.

COMMUNICATION: WEEKLY BULLETIN

In order to assist with the communication between home and school, a weekly bulletin will be published every Thursday. It is important that you read the bulletin in order to be informed about school policies and procedures as well as notable accomplishments and upcoming events. In an effort to be environmentally friendly and reduce the amount of paper distributed, the bulletin will be available on our school website: www.saintpius.ca and it will be emailed to you. Please subscribe on our school website to receive your copy.

PINK NOTICES:

A notice sent home on PINK PAPER requires your IMMEDIATE ATTENTION. Please read and sign these notices, as they must be returned by a DUE DATE, which is usually the following day. Some pink notices will come home with the eldest child in the family and may require a family payment. In this case, please fill out the individual form and send it back to the eldest child's teacher with the family payment by the due date.

MEDICAL ALERTS:

Ensuring a safe and healthy school environment is a responsibility shared by students, parents and staff. It is important that all members of the school community are aware of their role in promoting children's safety. Please notify the school if your child has any of the following: A **MEDICALLY DIAGNOSED** health condition which may require emergency care at school, such as: anaphylaxis, diabetes, severe asthma, seizure disorder, blood clotting disorders or serious heart conditions. (Please contact the school office to complete a Medical Alert Information

Sheet). Please Note: Parents who already have a Medical Alert Information Sheet filed with the school office should contact Mrs. Revel to review and update it for the 2021/2022 school year.

Click here for the Medical Form.

STUDENT AGENDA BOOKS:

All students in Grades One to Seven will be utilizing agendas to promote time management, organizational and communication skills. The agendas will be used by students to record items such as: daily homework, assignments, reminders, and upcoming events. The agenda is also used to facilitate regular communication between parent and teacher regarding important information, such as: work habits, accomplishments, behaviour, and reasons for incomplete work, upcoming absences, or the need to meet for an interview. Please look over your child's agenda nightly as a means of tracking homework and keeping tabs on upcoming class activities.

WELCOME NEW FAMILIES!

All new families and all Kindergarten families at St. Pius X are invited to a pizza dinner on Wednesday, September 8th at 5:30 p.m. in the school gym. **Please contact Mrs. Ana Revel, to confirm numbers attending by emailing her at office@saintpius.ca by Sunday, September 5th at noon.** This is a great opportunity to meet other families. A short presentation will occur following the dinner.

SCHOOL MASSES:

The liturgy is a wonderful way to come together as a faith and learning community and give thanks to God for our many blessings. School Masses will occur every first Friday of the month in the morning at 9:15 a.m. (unless otherwise noted). School Masses will follow school guidelines regarding mask wearing.

Our first school Mass is on Friday, September 10th at 9:15 a.m. The grade 7's will be preparing this Mass.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:

We are pleased to announce that First Holy Communion for the current Grade Three class (2021-2022) has been **scheduled for September 26th, 2021**. We will follow any necessary COVID-19 protocols that are still in place. Details as we learn them will be made available to families in the next few weeks.

COVID 19 SAFETY PROTOCOLS:

We remain deeply committed to continuing to prioritize health and safety and will strictly implement the protocols and guidelines provided and led by public health and the Ministry of Education.

- Parents must evaluate their child's health each day prior to coming to school. Children who display any symptoms of COVID-19, such as a fever, cough, etc. should remain at home. If a child displays any health symptoms (coughing, sneezing, fever, sore throat, etc.) parents will be notified to pick up their child from school immediately. Parents/caregivers and students can utilize the provincial [K-12 Health Check app](#) [K-12 Health Check \(gov.bc.ca\)](#) for daily assessment of symptoms. Staff and other adults must also complete a daily health check prior to entering the school. Students are to be dropped off/picked up at the designated drop-off/pick up areas.
- All staff and students in Grades 4-7 are required to wear masks to school. Students in Grades Kindergarten to Grade 3 are encouraged to wear masks. Please review how to put on/remove a mask safely with your children.
- Students will be required to wash their hands regularly and use hand sanitizer when necessary.
- While learning groups or cohorts are not required any longer, students will practice social distancing throughout the day.
- Recess and lunch periods will not be staggered this year. Students will play from 10:30-10:45 a.m. and from 12:00 – 12:30 p.m. Areas will be designated to ensure appropriate space. Students will exit and enter the building from their assigned doors.
- Students should bring a full water bottle (labeled with their full name) to school each day. Bottle filling stations are available as well. Students are required to bring their snacks and lunch each day in the morning. No food is to be dropped off throughout the day and no food sharing will be permitted. We encourage children to be responsible for their own items and ask parents to support them to develop greater independence in managing their supplies or materials.
- Outdoor balls/equipment for recess play will be provided by the school. Students are not to bring any items for recess play from home.
- Students should practice respiratory etiquette (wash hands regularly, sneeze or cough into your elbow, etc.) at all times. These will be reviewed by the teachers at school.

- Students should bring appropriate outerwear for the weather (jackets should be brought daily, rain boots for the rain, etc.) as we will be going outdoors as much as possible, as encouraged by our Health Authority.
- All curriculum, programs and activities will operate in alignment with the provincial health and safety guidelines.
- The school will be cleaned and disinfected daily.
- We are awaiting more information from Vancouver Coastal Health in regard to COVID 19 exposure notifications. Once received, we will share it with you.

Together, with your support we will get through this challenging time. We thank you in advance for your trust in us as we continue to work to ensure the health and safety of our entire school community.