



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Happy New Year! We hope that this letter finds you all rested and having enjoyed some much needed downtime over the holiday break. **In preparation for our students returning to in-person learning on Monday, January 11, 2021 we wanted to pass along to you a quick reminder of the protocols we have already established here at St Andre Bessette.** While we know we cannot control everything, we can manage most aspects of school routines and, above all else, we will always prioritize our students and staff health. You can probably expect some revisions to these plans as more information becomes available.

Please read the following document in full and then should you have questions please contact our office at sab@eics.ab.ca or 587-744-0750.

We will continue to focus on these four areas to manage student safety: **enhanced cleaning, cohorting, PPE, and screening measures.** These procedures were created based on recommendation of our Alberta Chief Medical Officer of Health. This letter will outline how we are doing this and what it means for our school.

ENHANCED CLEANING

As a reminder, EICS redirected funding to strategically target our COVID-19 needs. To ensure our building is safe, enhanced cleaning protocols have been implemented and will be maintained. See our communication earlier in the school for details on this.

Hand sanitizing stations will continue to be situated in every classroom and at all entrances/exits. Students are encouraged to use the hand sanitizers as they enter the building, to sanitize their own table/desk, and follow teacher instructions re: further cleaning of equipment as their class requires.

COHORTING/STUDENT SCHEDULES

- We will maintain our quarter system for the remainder of the school year in an effort to maximize student and staff safety.
- As quarter two will end in a few weeks and then we will have three days of an [exam schedule](#) to follow.
- Quarter three will begin Monday, February 1 to Wednesday, April 14*. Quarter four will begin Wednesday, April 21 and finish on Tuesday, June 22*. *exam schedule to follow the last day of classes.
- Students will need to be sure to stay up to date with their studies if they are not able to attend in person due to illness. Teachers will also ensure that learning materials and resources are available online. All classes continue to use Google Classroom to support communication between home and school and parents are strongly encouraged to email their child's teacher to be added to these sites so

they are fully informed about upcoming assignments and assessments.

- All classes will have seating plans to ensure student movement is managed.
- Several classes have alternate locations for lunch break so that they will remain in their cohorts.

PPE

- Alberta Education, on the advice of the Provincial Health Officer, have made it mandatory for all students and staff to wear masks when social distancing cannot be maintained. **Masking is mandatory in hallways and any common areas of the school.** Mask use in classrooms is strongly recommended and will be directed by the teacher depending on the activity.

SCREENING

- We are all partners in helping to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The first, and most important, step we must take is to adopt the daily [screening checklist](#). Continue to refer to this updated document so you can help screen your child before they come to school each day. **Please keep your child(ren) home if they are exhibiting any of the symptoms listed.** It is advised to contact your health provider or 811 to receive guidance regarding next steps.

REQUEST FOR ONLINE LEARNING

- The opportunity to move to online learning passed in September 2020. At this time our EICS online school St Isidore (SILC) is at maximum capacity and cannot accept new students. We are only able to offer in-person learning at this time.

LUNCH BREAK

- Lunch break will remain 45 minutes as it has been in the past. We believe students need a good break. Because masks are **required** in common spaces like hallways, eating can not be permitted there at this time. For this reason, all students will remain in their morning classroom for at least the first 15 minutes of lunch break to eat. Students are strongly encouraged to bring lunch.
- We are fortunate that our cafeteria operator will be open on January 11 and will resume the pre-order option that they had established back in the fall. Students can use the QR code found in our newsletter to pre-order meals.
- After the 15 minute time and clean up has occurred, students will be dismissed from their room, must then wear masks, and will have the remainder of the lunch break to access washrooms, refill water bottles, step outside for fresh air, socialize, and simply move more freely to meet with peers.
- Microwaves are not available as they are a high touch area.
- As social distancing cannot necessarily be maintained in hallways, masks will must be worn without exception.

ENTRY AND EXIT TO THE SCHOOL

In order to reduce congestion at entrances/exits, students will be asked to respect the following:

- Students arriving by bus, bike racks, or from the North or East side of the building are asked to enter through the bus loop/science wing doors.
- Students entering from the student parking lot or from the South should enter through the main doors.
- Students being dropped off from the visitor parking lot or arriving from the West, should enter the school through the staff entrance/doors next to the food's room.
- Masks must be worn by all students and staff entering the building and in hallways.
- Please use hand sanitizer upon entering the building. Stations will be located at each entrance.
- Please exit the school at the end of the day through your nearest exit.
- **If a parent needs to reach their child or drop something off, they must enter through the front doors and go straight to the office only.**

OTHER RE-ENTRY INFO:

EICS has created and shared with all guardians the following document which will continue to be updated as information becomes available. More info regarding bus and cleaning protocol will be included in these documents. [EICS Parent Re-Entry Document](#)

We appreciate the support of each of our families as we navigate during this difficult time. We want to thank you in advance for making the [daily screening](#) part of your morning routines. Should you or a family member present with any of these symptoms it is best to not attend in person classes and instead keep up your studies online with your classroom teacher until it is appropriate for you to return to school. We all will be doing our part to keep our school safe.

Sincerely,

SAB Leadership Team