



# St. James School

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Dear SJS Community,

Thank you to all families for your patience and support as our school begins the careful implementation of Stage Two of BC's Education Plan, as mandated by British Columbia's Ministry of Education. This plan includes:

- a full time return to in-class instruction for all Kindergarten to Grade 7 students
- the use of Cohorts of up to 60 students and staff to help minimize the risk of transmission and to facilitate contact tracing should a Case of COVID-19 be confirmed.

Our school, under the guidance of the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, BC Centre for Disease Control, WorkSafeBC, and the Catholic Independent Schools Kamloops Diocese, has developed protocols for the return of students beginning September 9th. A number of enhanced measures and protocols will be in place to help ensure the safety of students, staff, and the community. Attached with this letter is the SJS Safety Plan document, a letter from our Superintendent, the Family Waiver for Student Health Checks form, and a link to a very brief survey regarding your family's intentions for September. Some of the information found in those documents is summarized below, but is not limited to:

## **Health and Hygiene:**

- Hand washing and other hygiene routines will be conducted frequently and regularly under the supervision of staff;
- Student/staff health checks done daily at home prior to arrival at school.
- Physical distancing observed between students and staff members;
- Access to the school building is limited to staff and students in attendance;
- Any students who present symptoms of illness while at school shall be moved to an isolation room for respite care under the supervision of a designated staff member until the parent/caregiver/emergency contact picks up the student. Parents/Caregivers must keep their child at home until they have been assessed by a health care provider and their symptoms have resolved and have been cleared to return by a medical physician.

## **School Structure:**

- All students enter through their assigned school doors; doors will remain locked when not monitored. A detailed list of the First Day of School Procedures (including who is assigned to what doors) will be sent out prior to the start of school.
- Students will have limited access to shared spaces, such as the lockers, gym, and music room.
- Students will remain at school for the full day or until a parent/guardian picks them up (ie. they will not be able to leave and return)

- Students will have access to the playground equipment and to the fields. Games that may involve physical contact or games that involve the use of hands are discouraged; families may send their own equipment that the 'owner' can use/access and share with others within their cohort. Equipment goes home at end of day for sanitizing.
- Students are to bring their own labelled water bottle to school for the day and will have access to the bottle fill stations.
- The Hot Lunch Program will be back in operation for September.
- Gathering of groups (assemblies, Sports Day, School Mass, etc.) are not permitted.
- Specific procedures for students will be communicated with families by Friday, September 4th at 4pm.

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## K-7 students cohorts:

Initial Classroom Cohorts have been set as follows:

- Cohort 1: K and Gr 1: up to 50 students + 3 teachers, 2 EAs, 1 additional adult as needed
  - Cohort 2: Gr 2 and Gr 3: up to 50 students + 2 teachers, 2 EAs, 1 additional adult as needed
  - Cohort 3: Gr 4 and Gr 5: up to 50 students + 2 teachers, 2 EAs, 1 additional adult as needed
  - Cohort 4: Gr 6 and Gr 7: up to 50 students + 2 teachers, 2 EAs, 1 additional adult as needed
- These cohorts are subject to change in order to better serve the academic and social needs of the students.

## Academics:

- Students will be provided with all materials needed (pencils, paper, erasers, markers, calculators, etc.) to complete the assigned daily tasks; individual teachers may communicate specific expectations directly to ensure hygiene standards are upheld. The \$50 Student Supply Fee will be collected in September.
- Students may bring optional activities from home (books, colouring, crafts, individual games) for use after academic assignments are complete.

## Other Notes:

- Teaching Assignments:
  - Kindergarten: Mrs. Routley (0.6 Wed.-Fri) and Ms. Wournell (0.5 Mon.-Wed.)
  - Grade 1: Mrs. Moore
  - Grade 2: Mrs. Inzunza
  - Grade 3: Mr. McLaughlin
  - Grade 4: Mrs. Durfeld (0.8 Mon.-Thurs.) and Mr. Royal (0.2 Fri.)
  - Grade 5: Ms. Haack
  - Grade 6: Ms. Kilarski
  - Grade 7: Ms. Dressler
  - Library/Primary Literacy: Mrs. Monaghan
  - Art/Intermediate Literacy/ELL: Ms. Bouchard
  - Integration Support Teacher (SPED): Mrs. Jamin
  - Music: Mrs. Hamm
  - French: Mr. Royal
- Flexibility to serve our families better!
  - Today, Minister Fleming announced the ability for schools to offer a flexible model for families who are not yet ready to return to school, but want to stay connected with

their school community. If this is something you are interested in knowing more about, please indicate so on the Family Survey and reach out to us at the school so we can create a plan that will work for you. We appreciate the opportunity to be able to adapt in a way that better serves our families.

**Please ensure you have read the above information carefully.** If you have questions or would like further information regarding safety protocols at St. James School, please email Mr. Rossetti at [mrrossetti@stjamesvernon.com](mailto:mrrossetti@stjamesvernon.com).

And lastly, as mentioned above this package of documents includes the Family Waiver for Student Health Checks form. This signed form must accompany your child on their first day back to in-class learning. Students without a signed copy of this document, which acknowledges the compliance of the family in assessing their child as being in good health prior to leaving home, will not be admitted into the building until the document is signed and returned to the school. Thank you for your understanding.

Once you have read the Stage 2 Plan for SJS (attached), please take a moment to fill out this survey to indicate your family's intentions for September. Please complete the survey by Wednesday September 2nd to allow us time to follow up with you.

<https://forms.gle/jkgwiE9GBv57qUjo6>

Thank you for continuing to practice physical distancing, hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette and staying home when ill – we have a shared responsibility in keeping our community members safe! Thank you for your support!

In Christ,

Mr. Paul Rossetti

Principal,

St. James School