



RE-ENTRY PLAN OVERVIEW

June 11, 2020

Holy Spirit Catholic School Division's Mission Statement

We are a Catholic Faith Community, dedicated to providing each student entrusted to our care with an education rooted in the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Guided by the Holy Spirit, in partnership with home, parish and society, our schools foster the growth of responsible citizens who will live, celebrate and proclaim their faith.

Our Catholic Faith is the foundation of all that we do.

INTRODUCTION

On March 15th, when classes were cancelled in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, our sense of normal changed dramatically. As a school division, we prepare and plan for different possible disruptions to school function. As schools, we have contingencies for various emergencies and develop protocols to deal with issues that impact our communities. To say that the breadth and depth of the COVID-19 pandemic was a disruption, is certainly an understatement. While we couldn't have fathomed a global shutdown and all of the consequences to individuals, families and communities, we had the distinct advantage of having students, parents, support staff, teachers and administrators who are compassionate, diligent, creative and guided by Faith, Hope and Love.

While there are still many unknowns regarding what school will look like in the Fall, we have been working hard to create plans for each of the scenarios presented by Alberta Education. We are creating a learning structure that is versatile and has the ability to respond to the various potential structures of schooling. We have established guiding principles that will allow us to take the direction of Alberta Health Services, Alberta Education and our school communities in order to action them into our learning plan.

The current reality is that much of our work is speculative and built on a variety of assumptions. As such, we are working on a variety of contingencies. We realize that, as parents, you are impacted directly by the uncertainty of what happens next. This has been a stressful time for students, parents and school staff. We trust that sharing this Re-entry Plan Overview will give you some of the important information about the school scenarios for our students come September. As we are provided with more direction from the government, we will communicate any changes to our re-entry plan. We will also be seeking your input by way of surveys fairly quickly in June and again in August to better understand your needs and desires moving forward.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR RE-ENTRY PLANNING

- The health, safety and well-being of students and staff is a priority.
- Holy Spirit Catholic School Division will attend to the protocols established by Alberta Health Services and Alberta Education in all aspects of schooling, with the main focus on student learning.
- We respect that parents are the first educators and primary decision-makers for their children.
- Students and staff who are vulnerable require attention to accommodations.
- Students will have quality learning opportunities that are guided by Alberta Education mandates and the provincial Programs of Study.
- Staff will have access to the professional learning, collaboration and support they need to grow instructional practice in all potential methods of delivery.
- Consistency of program delivery over time is important for sound allocation of staffing and resources.

PLANNING FOR 2020/2021 RE-ENTRY

With a couple of weeks left in the current school year, planning is underway for what the 2020/21 school year will look like for our students, staff and families.

Please note that Holy Spirit Catholic School Division will be publishing a document that will provide guidelines for maintaining safe and healthy schools. This document will be shared with you when it is completed.

Background and Direction from Alberta Education and Alberta Health Services

In May, Education Minister Adriana LaGrange announced that the provincial government is considering three different scenarios when classes start again in the Fall:

1. A return to near normal operations and routines in schools. Holy Spirit Catholic School Division is calling this **NEAR NORMAL OPERATIONS**.
2. Schools are partially re-opened, with some level of restrictions. These restrictions will be determined by Alberta Health Services and Alberta Education. This means that a combination of in-school and at-home learning opportunities may exist. Holy Spirit Catholic School Division is calling this **HYBRID OPERATIONS**.
3. Schools remain closed and students continue learning from home. Holy Spirit Catholic School Division is calling this **AT-HOME LEARNING**.

Description of Scenarios

First, it must be recognized that the descriptions of the scenarios below are based on current understandings of possibilities. The purpose of describing the scenarios based on what we know now is to help parents understand potential impact on their family structures, consider potential options and have an informed perspective for the Parent Survey that is to come shortly. The Parent Survey will be administered in June and again in early August when we will likely know additional information that might somewhat change our plan and direction. Another purpose is to keep all staff apprised of potential structures, inform consideration of their roles, and provide a context for planning.

Scenario 1: NEAR NORMAL OPERATIONS

- At the CURRENT TIME, based on the June 10, 2020 communication from the Ministries of Health and Education, the government is hopeful for a return to near normal operations in September. This may change if the spread of COVID-19 changes.
- Near normal operations means that all students will have access to school every instructional day on the calendar.
- Any and all public health measures will be followed. Some protocols, such as handwashing, hand sanitizing, restrictions on large group gatherings, and restrictions on some close contact activities may be in place.
- Near normal operation assumes that distancing protocols are in place, where possible, in school buildings or on school buses.
- At this time, near normal operation assumes implementation of provincial assessments (Diploma Examinations and Provincial Achievement Tests)

Scenario 2: HYBRID OPERATIONS

- At the CURRENT TIME, based on the June 10, 2020 communication from the Ministries of Health and Education, it appears that the hybrid operations will not be in place. However, we need to be prepared to shift into a hybrid mode at any time, as directed by provincial authorities.
- Hybrid operation means that schools must be structured in a manner that adheres to the health protocols put in place by Alberta Health Services.
 - These protocols may include hygiene practices such as hand washing and hand sanitizers, personal protective equipment depending on roles of staff, protective guards for desks of some staff such as office staff, and physical distancing. Physical distancing is the most challenging protocol because schools will not be able to house the regular number of students.

- Schools will have to construct schedules that maintain class sizes, routines and restricted movement in the school that adhere to physical distancing mandates.
- The most likely structure for maintaining class sizes that adhere to physical distancing is by way of a modified calendar (for example, alternating days).
- During the time that students are not in school, learning at home strategies will be put in place.
- Learning will be designed so as to minimize the need for parental support at home.
- Understanding that instruction during our emergency remote learning presented limitations, we will be implementing best practices to maximize student learning, should we be in a hybrid type instructional environment.

Scenario 3: AT-HOME LEARNING

- Schools remain closed to classes and learning is delivered using at home strategies, such as on-line learning.
- As we grow in our capacity to deliver learning at home, the delivery system will more closely examine how the needs of students who do not have technology are met in an ongoing manner.
- The delivery system will also examine a more comprehensive delivery of outcomes and outline ongoing learning feedback and assessment strategies at the beginning of the delivery.

Transportation

Holy Spirit Catholic Schools is committed to ensuring that all of our students are safe. One of the most significant challenges being faced with school divisions across Canada is how to provide transportation in a way that maintains the safety of our students. If physical distancing requirements continue to be in effect, the ability to transport our full slate of students will not be possible. As a result, we will be relying on any families that are able to transport their students to and from school to do so. Historically, students who live between 1.2 and 2.39 km, who are not funded for bussing, are provided with that option for a fee. Our ability to continue this service will likely be impacted. It is also a possibility that students who live farther than the 2.4 km transportation limit may not be provided service, depending on the restrictions as determined by Alberta Health Services.