Dear Holy Family School Families: 9/5/2021

We are so excited to welcome our Hornets back to school this Tuesday! Thank you for your continued patience and understanding as we adapt to the ever-changing landscape to get our school safe and ready for the upcoming year.

**Please Note:**

**This year our District will be continuously updating protocols and COVID related information on a central site that can be accessed here:**[**http://www.bhncdsb.ca/**](https://urldefense.com/v3/__http:/track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/c9FjPyO_Ws839-uquY8NVA**A/AAAAAQA*/RgRjEkZqP0QjaHR0cDovL3d3dy5iaG5jZHNiLmNhL3BhZ2UvY292aWQtMTlXB3NjaG9vbG1CCmEw6hIxYewIUJ9SEWpydWR5a0BiaG5jZHNiLmNhWAQAAAAC__;fn5-!!Kq1SNukRZg!rV0zmSuH6scWo-PwEWBzfMHt16PWzOpASyqGpKYClT-MTKCNdQnaDKyG7z8bqYiBpw$) **.**

**Important Re-Opening Information:**

* School begins on **Tuesday,** **September 7th.** All staff will be outside to welcome and receive their students on this morning so there will be many adults to help direct your child to their teacher.  This year, we will have designated “lines” for students to safely gather with their class outside each morning. A reminder that school starts at 8:55 AM and there in no supervision before 8:40 AM. Our school day ends at 3:15pm.
* **Please note that there is a staggered start for ONLY our JK students this year on Tuesday and Wednesday of the first week back. Kinder teachers have already sent out information pertaining to student attendance schedules for our littlest learners.**  All JK students will attend from Thursday, September 9th on.
* Students, staff, and visitors are required to continue to complete a [Daily COVID-19 Self-Assessment](https://urldefense.com/v3/__http:/track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/5VxwoXxfrGPQAnzJrvGtuA**A/AAAAAQA*/RgRjEkZqP0QtaHR0cHM6Ly9jb3ZpZC0xOS5vbnRhcmlvLmNhL3NjaG9vbC1zY3JlZW5pbmcvVwdzY2hvb2xtQgphMOoSMWHsCFCfUhFqcnVkeWtAYmhuY2RzYi5jYVgEAAAAAg**A__;fn5-fn4!!Kq1SNukRZg!rV0zmSuH6scWo-PwEWBzfMHt16PWzOpASyqGpKYClT-MTKCNdQnaDKyG7z92GL8RdQ$) (or see Board website) **PRIOR** to coming to school each day.  If your child(ren) is exhibiting any symptoms or illness, please keep them at home and follow the recommended next steps.
* **All students in Kindergarten thru to Grade 8 are required to wear masks** except while they eating or are outside with their teacher during designated times for “fresh-air” breaks where they can safely distance from each other.  We will also endeavour to bring learning outside, weather permitting as much as possible.  As a result, students are asked to dress appropriately for the weather conditions.  Students are also required to wear a mask at recess if they choose not to maintain a safe distance of 6 feet (2 meters) from others.
* **Email will continue to be the primary form of communication for both the school and the District as well as any updates from our local Public Health Unit.  As such, we ask that you please ensure the office has your most recent and up-to-date contact info.**
* To this end, the Board is requesting that ***all families check their email each evening (ideally at 6:00 PM***) to see if their child has been connected to a COVID-19 case and needs to stay home the next day. Families should not expect notification after 6:00 PM daily.
* As a community, we are once again requiring that all staff, students, visitors, and parents / caregivers wear their **masks as soon as they are on our school property**. As well, parents, and caregivers of students in JK-8 are once again **to refrain from coming onto the school playground** to avoid congestion and congregating. Parents and visitors will be permitted into the school by appointment only and only under special circumstances.
* **All bus students** will be required to wear face masks while on their bus and will be dismissed from the front door of the school to their bus at 3:05 PM.  For all bussing information please access the transportation website at: [https://stsbhn.ca/](https://urldefense.com/v3/__http:/track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/RRT011A73VSNcnBJH10fng**A/AAAAAQA*/RgRjEkZqP0QSaHR0cHM6Ly9zdHNiaG4uY2EvVwdzY2hvb2xtQgphMOoSMWHsCFCfUhFqcnVkeWtAYmhuY2RzYi5jYVgEAAAAAg**A__;fn5-fn4!!Kq1SNukRZg!rV0zmSuH6scWo-PwEWBzfMHt16PWzOpASyqGpKYClT-MTKCNdQnaDKyG7z85YdfBlQ$) . To confirm a child’s pick up and drop off times, you will require your child’s OEN number found on their June report card.
* **Our JK/SK students** will continue to be escorted out of the school when busing students depart at 3:00pm. Teachers will only dismiss a child to hand of a parent or designated caregiver.
* If you are new to the community and/or your child has been diagnosed with anaphylaxis, asthma, diabetes, or seizures, please contact the school so we can establish a safety plan.  For those students with existing plans, **please return the information and forms** sent home with your child’s report card in June as soon as possible.
* To that end, a friendly reminder that Holy Family School **is a Peanut/Tee Nut Safe School.**  At Holy Family, we have several students and staff with severe risk allergies to peanuts and tree nuts. As a Catholic School community, and in accordance with Sabrina’s Law (2005), we ask your co-operation in helping us ensure that all students are in a safe and healthy environment by reading all labels and packing lunches and snacks that are free of these items. Please note that the use of peanut butter substitutes (e.g., WOW Butter, etc.) **is not permitted** as per Board Policy.
* You will also notice that our parking lot has been renovated to offer more parking for staff and visitors!  A reminder that the designated **bus lane circle can be used as a quick “kiss and drop”** when dropping off your child(ren) in the morning but unfortunately, parking is not allowed in this zone at any time. Whenever possible, we do encourage students to walk or ride a bike to and from school. (New bike racks are coming soon! 😊)

Finally, we know that the start of a school year brings with it excitement and promise as well as some anxiousness.  We will continue to work at supporting student’s mental health and well-being throughout the school year along with providing a safe and supportive learning environment.  Thank you again for your patience and understanding as we prepare for a safe re-opening. We look forward to an incredible year with our Hornets!

Wishing everyone a blessed day. Looking forward to seeing everyone’s smiling eyes in two more sleeps!

With warmest regards,

Mrs. Charmaine Hanley

Principal of staff and students at Holy Family Catholic School