

August 31, 2020

Dear Families,

Thank you for your support and prayers during this time as we work towards creating a return to school plan that keeps students, staff and all our families safe and healthy.

Last week I met with the Superintendent's Office and fellow CISVA principals to review elements of our plan and make decisions on how we will begin the year. Last week, we also had our first Parish Education Committee Meeting where we discussed the plan and our school's unique needs. The Safety Plan has been uploaded to our school website where it can be viewed by all our families. It is important to note that this plan is currently under review from the Ministry and may experience some evolution as new information is received. Rest assured, any potential changes to the plan will be made with the goal to further improve our school community's safety. This morning, I once again meet with the Superintendents Office to further discuss Minister Flemings announcement and how it impacts CISVA schools (see below for CISVA's Temporary Transition Option). Thursday I will be meeting with the staff to review the safety plan and begin testing it prior to its full implementation.

I would like to thank all the families who have been reaching out with great questions, thoughts and ideas. Due to these unprecedeted times, I have received a large volume of communications, of which many of the questions, thoughts and ideas have been very similar in nature. To efficiently respond to all of them, I have created a 'Frequently Asked Question' section that will address many of your questions and concerns. If the FAQ section does not fully provide you with the information you seek, please reach out and I will do my best to respond in a timely manner. Additionally, if you do have questions, I encourage you to submit them with the link below using a Google Form. This form will aid me in responding to you in a timely manner.

Attached to this letter is an important note from our school uniform supplier, Neat Uniforms, regarding online ordering and their protocols surrounding in-person shopping/pickup which has been impacted due to COVID-19.

As many of you know, the Parish Education Committee is comprised of seven members; five of which are elected by members of the parish and two which are appointed by the Pastor. Currently, there are three vacancies which must be filled in the next few weeks. If you are a parishioner and have an interest in serving on the PEC, I encourage you to start a conversation with fellow parishioners to get nominated to be a committee member. More now than ever, we need strong people with diverse skillsets to continue our school's tradition of excellence. Please contact PEC Chairperson Mrs. Carlos ec.spatv@cisva.bc.ca for more information and nominations.

CISVA's Temporary Transition Option

It is the intention of the Ministry of Education that students return to full-time, in-person attendance at school on September 10, 2020. However, some families may not be ready to have their children return to full-time in-person instruction on this date. This option allows your child to receive an at-home learning package with limited grade-level support from a teacher. It is important to note that this support will not be the same as that which was offered following Spring Break 2020. Your child will maintain their classroom placement at their current school and will be able to transition to full-time in-person instruction at selected dates in the fall (dates to be determined). This is not intended to be a full-year option. Normal tuition applies for this option. Parents are asked to complete the survey (see below for link) no later than 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 3 2020.

Option 1: Return to school for full-time, in-person instruction

Option 2: Home Schooling

Option 3: Distributed Learning (not offered by CISVA)

Option 4: Temporary Transition

Updates to the Safety Plan for Students and Staff In-Class Learning STAGE 2

1. *What is the difference between Distributed Learning, Homeschooling, and Temporary Transition?*

Comparisons at a Glance			
	Distributed Learning Program	Homeschooling	CISVA Temporary Transition
Follows the BC Curriculum	yes	no	yes
Learning is supervised by a BC-certified teacher	yes	no	yes / limited grade-level support from a teacher; at-home learning package to be completed at home
Student must use district or school approved resources	yes	no	yes
Student must be evaluated by a teacher and teachers must prepare a report card	yes	no	yes
Must participate in provincial testing (provincial and Foundation Skills Assessments)	yes	no	yes
Religious texts/resources may be used	yes	yes	yes
Status with school	enrolled (in a DL school)	registered	registered; regular tuition to school is to be paid

2. *Drop-off and Pick up*

To avoid creating a “bottle-neck” or a large gathering of students, we have expanded the entry time that the doors to the school will be open, 8:30 am – 8:50 am. Once students arrive, they are to go directly to their classroom. Students will sanitize prior to entry at the south door and proceed to their classroom. They will enter through the cloak room, wash their hands, unpack their bag and sit quietly in their designated area.

Students who arrive after 8:50 a.m. must enter the school through the front door where they will sanitize and then be escorted to their classroom.

It is strongly advised and expected that your child will NOT arrive before 8:30 a.m. as there will be NO supervision and there will be NO access to the church as entry is not permitted at this time.

At the end of the school day, there will be staggered dismissal times to again avoid a “bottle-neck” or large gatherings of students/people. Students will be dismissed for pickup based on the first letter of their last name. Last name beginning with;

- A-F will be dismissed at 2:50 pm till 3:05pm.
- G-Z dismissing at 3:05 pm till 3:20 pm.

As siblings are dismissed, they will wait in a designated holding location until their parents/guardians arrive. Parents are asked to stay in their vehicles until their designated time slots for pickup and are advised to leave the premises immediately once their children have been collected. I feel the need to key on the importance of the pickup times. Adhering to your family's pickup time will aid in making this process seamless and safer for everyone.

3. School Uniform

Students will wear their uniform as usual except on days when they have gym class. On days when your child has gym class, we now require your child to arrive at school wearing their gym uniform. Loose play clothes or sweatpants over their gym uniform is allowed and recommended depending on your judgement of the days weather. We have amended this uniform practice so your child will be able to change for gym quickly/safely without having to use the changerooms. This will also allow for additional wash days for the school uniform, which is encouraged. Loose play clothes and sweatpants are to be black, grey or any St. Patrick's School spirit wear. Currently we have some sweaters and socks that can be purchased from the front office; we are looking into sourcing more options for spirit wear. Teachers will inform their class on September 10th as to which days will be gym days.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can masks be mandatory?

At this time masks will not be made mandatory as we follow the directives from the Ministry and the Provincial Health Officer. Non-medical masks are only required in situations where a person cannot maintain physical distancing and is in close proximity to a person outside of their Learning Group. We have assigned each staff member and students to a designated Learning Group. Staff and students in grades 6 and 7 are only required to wear a non-medical mask in high traffic areas such as hallways. Other than common areas like morning entry into the school and going to the washroom, all students must stay in their Learning Groups at all times.

Desk Shields

Classrooms are being set up to create maximum distance between students as well as facing students in a single direction where possible. Desk shields will not be used in the classrooms and parents may not purchase them for their children. Staff have received a visor and may use them at their discretion. They are not required as the staff will be assigned and stay in their Learning Group.

School Masses and Assemblies

School masses and assemblies will continue but only in Learning Groups. These will be rotated throughout the year to ensure that each student gets an opportunity to attend mass.

School Hot Dog Fundraiser Lunches

At this time our Hot Dog fundraisers will be cancelled as we are unable to prepare food at school.

School Library

At this time the library program will be amended so that students will not be able to freely view or borrow books. Instead, books will be selected by staff and brought to the classroom to make a “classroom library”. These books will remain at the school (in the classroom) for students to read during their quiet reading time. These books will only be used by one Learning Group at a time then collected, tagged and then will go through a “time out” process before they can be reintegrated into a new Learning Group.

School Technology

We are working on a plan to outfit each Learning Group with its own technology as sharing between Learning Groups is not permitted. Each classroom has now been fitted with a projector so teachers can safely show resources reducing the sharing of text books.

School Textbooks

Students will not be permitted to take textbooks home but rather only use them at school. We will continue to use the Google Classroom platform to post homework and various pages from textbooks.

Meet the Teacher, PEC and Annual General Meeting

We are currently working on new methods to virtually deliver the general AGM. Staff are also investigating different methods to best inform families of procedures, classroom policies, etc.

First Day of School

Beginning on the first day of school, your child will experience constant and ongoing training, retraining and regular reminders surrounding hygiene, physical distancing protocols, mask usage as well as many more safety related items. We will also address social components with your child; respecting those around us including those wearing masks, not wearing masks and how to deal with students who are not following the health and safety guidelines.

Parent Participation

The Parish Education Committee is currently assessing parent participation duties and which ones the school and Parish will need for the school year as many options are no longer available. All parents who will be assigned to volunteer in the school will be required to attend a health and safety training, complete a daily health screening, wear a mask and follow all physical distance guidelines at all times.

Parent Links

Google Form: Submit your questions to administration using this link.

<https://forms.gle/U6n2FY5FKpYare8r5>

Google Form: Return to in-class survey – **must be completed for each student by Thursday, September 3rd 2020 3:00 p.m.**

<https://forms.gle/2qbNzkDiXk5qJFer5>

Thank you and Stay Safe,

Diane Sorochuk, Principal