



Welcome Back!!

On behalf of the amazing staff at St. Francis School, I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome you back to our school. Whether you are enrolled online or at school, we can't wait to see our "Lions" back!

As you are aware, this past summer has brought many uncertainties. However, one thing is certain - the team at St. Francis school have worked diligently to prepare an environment that is safe for your child and conducive to their learning.

To ensure such an environment, we ask that you review the following changes outlined in this newsletter. These are in addition to the board protocol that has been provided in our board website and is included in the link below.

<https://www.tbcschools.ca/about/covid-19/return-school>

Please go through this newsletter so that you and your family are familiar with the following guidelines, procedures and protocol specifically for St. Francis School. It is a good idea to keep this newsletter and each monthly letter handy for reference throughout the year. Please note that our school will proceed with communicating primarily through electronic means. Please refer to our Facebook and (soon to come!!) Instagram pages.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school should you have any questions or concerns. I would like to thank you all personally for your patience and perseverance during these times. I look forward to working together in making this upcoming year spectacular for our Lions!

Sincerely,
Les Arnone
Principal
[St. Francis School](#)

Access to our website is available here.

Coming Soon! Social Media





To ensure the safety of our staff and students, please note the following:

- 1) Please thoroughly familiarize yourself with the protocols as outlined by the Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board regarding COVID 19 on our board website.
- 2) Parents will not be permitted entry into the school **UNLESS** there has been a meeting scheduled beforehand. Please note that this also pertains to our ELKP students who have traditionally been escorted into the building by their parents. Under current protocols, this practice can no longer occur. *We thank you in advance for your cooperation.*
- 3) Our main entrance is now closed for visitors. For those students who are being dropped off late to school, we ask that you contact the school via phone (577-8565) and direct your student to the main entrance where they will be greeted by a staff member.
- 4) For parents who require their students to leave the school due to appointments, etc, we ask that they contact the school beforehand so we can have your child ready. Upon arrival at the school, please call the school office and wait for your child to arrive at the main entrance. Please wait outside the building where you can meet your child.

**** Please note the following****

To reduce the spread of COVID 19, Parents are to use the self-assessment tool provided by the Thunder Bay District Health Unit. This self-assessment tool is to be done daily before your child is sent to school. It is available in the link below:

<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/>

Should your child be observed at school to develop **ONE** of the symptoms, parents will be contacted to pick your child up immediately.

Parents are then directed to contact the Thunder Bay District Health Unit for instructions on how next to proceed. Please make sure that the Mrs. Daniele (our School Secretary) has your most accurate contact information.



Class Placement

This year, our school will follow the board model of a “staggered start” from September 8 to 11. Please refer to our Board website “Return to School” for the specific dates as to when your child begins school.

However, before our first day of school, your child’s teacher will contact you of your child’s placement and which entrance they will go to on the first day of school. On the first day of school, *(and each day after that until further notice)* children will proceed directly into the school.

Masks

For students in Grades 4 - 6, masks are mandatory. Students in ELKP to Grade 3 are encouraged to wear masks. All masks are to go home daily to be cleaned, and it is strongly suggested that students have more than one mask available to them should theirs become dirty during the course of the day. Masks should also be clearly labelled with the child’s name.

Shoes

At this time, we are requesting students bring one pair of shoes that they can wear indoors and out comfortably for all activities. *As the weather changes, we will provide an update to this policy.*

Nutrition Breaks

Student Nutrition Breaks will remain at their regular times (10:40 am - 11:20 am and 1:00 pm - 1:40 pm). However, students are encouraged to bring their lunches to school. Microwaves are not available to students to heat up their food, so students are expected to bring lunches that do not require heating up. As noted, parents are not permitted entry into the school. Therefore, it is requested that parents send their child to school with their lunch and not drop their lunch off during the day.

Milk / Breakfast Club

Milk will be available to students and is only available for purchase through Cash Online (this eliminates handled money being brought into the school). Breakfast club will be starting in a few weeks after our initial start up; the official start will be communicated at a later date.



Hot Lunches

Hot lunches are being reviewed by our school team to ensure all safety protocols will be followed. Hot lunches can only be purchased through Cash Online as money cannot be handled at the school at this time. More details will follow in the coming weeks.

Lates/Absences

During these times, it is very important that students absences are communicated from home to the office. Should your child need to be away, please be sure to contact the office and inform the school. Our Safe Arrival Policy dictates that unreported absences will require a call from the school. Letting us know ahead of time that your child will be away ensures we know that your child is safe while away from school.

Communication from School to Home

This past spring, we have learned that traditional means of communication are not as effective during the pandemic. Digital and online communication is a quick and easy way to find out the “happenings” at our school.

As stated earlier, we will continue to communicate through our Facebook (Instagram coming soon!!) and Synervoice messaging systems. Your child’s teacher will also be setting up a Google classroom for all of their students to effectively maintain learning and communication in the event of another closure as directed by our Health officials. It is also important that families have provided an updated e-mail address as well to ensure all communication has been sent home. If you need to update your address, or any other information, please e-mail:

stfrancis@tbcschools.ca

Remote Learners

Those students who are learning remotely are still very much part of the St. Francis School Community! Remote Learning Lions, we encourage you to keep in touch with your friends and keep up to date with our Facebook and social media. Your Remote Learning Teacher will be in touch with you soon!



Our Amazing Staff!

Les Arnone - Principal
Kelly Daniele - Office-Secretary

Teachers

Tana Albert - JK/SK
Joanna Janiec - JK/SK
Christie Savioli - Grade 1
Kelli Milloy - Grade 2
Katie Lester - Grade 3
Sandi Lynn Capasso - Grade 4
Marcie Dysievick - Grade 5
Rachelle Lilley - Grade 6
Jacqui Workman - Learning Centre
Cheryl Sawchuk - Music
Lisa Caccamo - French as a Second Language (Mornings)
Karlie Shaen - ELKP Physical Education /Second Step
Cindy Fanti - ELKP Physical Education/Grades 1 and 2
Dave Campbell - Grade 3 Physical Education/Second Step

Early Childhood Educators

Nicole Kuschak - JK/SK
Melissa Melideo - JK/SK

Student Support Persons

Carolina Lombardo
Jennifer Hoover

Head Custodian

Gerry Lesschaeve



Welcome Back!!

Mission Statement

We are committed to the development of the individual child and dedicated to responding to the uniqueness of each child with a program ensuring academic excellence and spiritual, social, emotional and physical growth. To this end, the staff, in partnership with parents and the church, will strive to create a cheerful, comfortable yet challenging Christian environment in which all pupils can grow to their full potential.

Access to our website is available here.

Coming Soon! Social Media

