

August 27, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

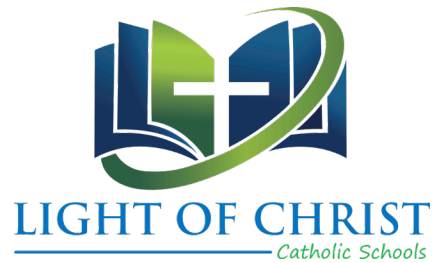
We hope you and your children had a safe and enjoyable summer! With the start of a new school year just around the corner, many of you are wondering what to expect when your children return to school. We are very excited to have our students return to face-to-face, in-classroom learning this fall, and we are optimistic as we plan for a school year with as few interruptions as possible. While learning and advancing our students academically in a strengths based, faith filled environment is our primary focus, we also anticipate the coming school year will include band programs, athletics, the arts and other activities that further enrich the lives of our students.

While much progress has been made in the fight against COVID 19, we are fully aware that the pandemic is not over. We now know so much more about the coronavirus, how it is transmitted, how people get infected, and what can be done to prevent transmission. We have tremendously effective vaccines with good uptake in our province. Collectively we have the means to continue keeping transmission rates low in our classrooms.

You can help us keep our school safe by encouraging those who are eligible for COVID vaccination to get vaccinated. While it is not within our authority to mandate COVID vaccination for our staff and students, we would recommend it for everyone who is eligible. We've also learned that the best ways to remain safe are to wash hands, stay home when feeling ill and to practice good hygiene etiquette, like coughing into your elbow. These are habits we will continue as we learn and work together in the coming year.

We will continue to ask for your support in ensuring the number of disruptions to learning are kept to a minimum. The primary way you can support us in this effort is to keep your children home if they are feeling ill. This proved to be our most effective measure in keeping schools safe last year. We also encourage families who are able to transport their children to and from school to continue to do so.

We also want to assure you that Light of Christ Catholic Schools will continue to support enhanced cleaning practices in our school buses and facilities. Like in the past year, we have enhanced our daily cleaning practices by adding extra caretaking hours and establishing caretaking standards that will ensure the safety of our students and staff.



Due to the recent increase in COVID cases, and more specifically, cases involving the delta variant of concern, we designed our Safe Schools Plan to include increased mitigation measures for those students who are not eligible for vaccination. Although there is a mask use requirement by all staff and students in elementary schools, unlike last school year, we did include ample opportunities for mask breaks during the school day, and there is no requirement for any sort of mask use outdoors.

Any changes to our plan will be driven by the advice and recommendations we receive from public health experts and the Saskatchewan Health Authority. Please be advised that, if necessary, these changes may occur at any time with very short notice.

Our partnership with the Saskatchewan Health Authority has worked very effectively and has helped keep transmission rates very low in our classrooms. With their help, we will closely monitor local infection rates and the transmission of variants. If it is suggested that we impose additional measures we will do so, which may include temporarily moving to remote learning for specific classrooms.

Our final commitment is to be as open and transparent as possible. You can anticipate more detailed information regarding the upcoming year from our schools early next week. Our Safe Schools Plan can be accessed on our website at www.loccsd.ca.

Thank-you for your continued support of Light of Christ Catholic Schools. We are excited to start a new school year, and we are looking forward to providing many opportunities for our students to pray, educate and serve!

God Bless,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cory Rideout'.

Cory Rideout
Director of Education