



112 - 4th Avenue, Brooks, AB, T1R 0Z1 P: 403.362.8001

This information is current as of Friday, August 21, 2020. Any changes or updates will be communicated as they arise.

Dear Parents and Guardians of Holy Family Academy,

The Government of Alberta has mandated that masks be worn in schools for all Grades 4-12 students. Christ the Redeemer School Division, in conjunction with Alberta Health Services and Alberta Education, has developed the following guidelines regarding the wearing of masks at school:

Masks

- All students in Grades K to 12 will be provided with two reusable cloth masks.
- Parents of all students in Grades K to 12 are asked to ensure their child(ren) has a reusable cloth or disposable mask with them as part of their daily supplies.
- Mask use for Grade K to 3 students is optional. Students in K to 3 may wear masks if desired by parents, and teachers will support students as much as possible. Teachers will ensure K to 3 students who choose to wear masks are not stigmatized.
- Masks may be recommended by teachers of students in Grades K to 3 for particular activities and considered in circumstances where there is prolonged close contact (greater than 15 minutes) and distance of 2 meters cannot be maintained.
- All staff and students in Grades 4 to 12 must wear masks in all circulation areas, common areas, when moving around the school, when moving around any instructional space, and when working face-to-face or in close contact with any other person.
- Students in Grades 4 to 12 may remove their masks when seated at their desks, physically distanced from others (including the teacher), working independently, not facing one another, and not moving around the room.
- Exemptions will be made for students and staff who are unable to wear a mask due to medical or other needs. In this case, the student will be seated 2 metres from other classmates to maintain physical distancing.
- Masks will not be required when outdoors for recess and most physical education classes.
- Staff may remove their masks when seated at their desks, physically distanced from others, not facing anyone, not conversing closely with others, and not moving around the room.
- All staff will also be provided with face shields. Face shields allow for visibility of facial expressions, but are not equivalent to masks. A mask must still be worn while wearing a face shield when physical distancing cannot be maintained.
- Students who ride the bus will be in closer proximity to other students on the bus. Grade K to 3 students are encouraged to wear a reusable cloth or disposable mask while riding the bus. Students in Grades 4 to 12 are required to wear masks at all times on the bus.
- Parents are asked to ensure reusable cloth masks are washed after each day of use.

- [Alberta Health Services Guidance for Wearing Non Medical Masks](#)
- [Dr. Deena Hinshaw Demonstrates How to Properly Wear A Mask](#)

Physical Distancing

- Schools will promote physical distancing as much as possible. The most important physical distancing consideration is desks in classrooms. Each teacher will physically distance and declutter their classroom as their first re-entry task during teacher preparation days. Principals are required to inspect classrooms and implement improvements when necessary.
- Where 2 meters is not possible between desks, desks will be spaced as far apart as possible and in rows rather than small groups. Students will not be seated face-to-face.
- Students will avoid close greetings (e.g. hugs, high-fives, fist bumps, 'Sign of Peace', etc.) and will be asked to "keep their hands to themselves".
- Full school liturgies/masses/assemblies/gatherings will be suspended in favour of small group or virtual events.
- Group activities will be adapted to minimize physical contact.
- In cases where physical distancing is not possible, additional attention will be given to mask protocols, hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, and cleaning of high touch surfaces.

Sincerely,

Mrs. L. Spence

Principal

Mr. M. Fleck

Vice Principal