Welcome back END families!

We are extremely excited to welcome back all our students and families for the 2021-2022 school year! It goes without saying that we are all looking forward to a more normalized school year that will see less restrictions for our students and more opportunity to engage in a wider variety of activities and school based experiences. However, we acknowledge that we are continuing to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic and the challenges it has created. In an effort to clarify our Division and school based expectations I encourage all families to take some time and familiarize themselves with GSACRD's ‘Return to School Plan 2021-2022’, linked here: RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN 2021-2022

As we are a faith filled Catholic school, we will be moving forward in the spirit of understanding, compassion and love. We acknowledge that there are many opinions regarding protocols surrounding the pandemic and will continue to move forward with cautious optimism to ensure the health and safety of all our students, families and staff. We will continue to seek to ensure our school community is inclusive, welcoming, safe and joy filled and we will continue to work with all our families and stakeholders to ensure we meet and exceed this expectation.

Moving forward we ask families to note some key understandings and expectations developed from GSACRD's Return to School Plan as it is integrated within Ecole Notre Dame Elementary School's specific context.

**Masking**
- Masks are strongly recommended for students and staff in every grade (Pre-K - Grade 6) when physical distancing is not possible, in common areas (hallways, bathrooms and foyers) and where classroom cohorts are intermingled.
- **Masks are mandatory on the school bus, to and from school and to any school sanctioned event.**

**Illness and Symptoms**
- All GSACRD students and staff will continue to self assess for symptoms daily.
- We ask families and staff to exercise an abundance of caution and stay home if they are exhibiting signs of illness, particularly any symptom related to COVID-19.
Please note that if individuals begin to exhibit symptoms of illness during the course of the day, they will be asked to go home immediately.

Please have a plan to pick up your child in the event they become symptomatic over the course of the day.

Positive COVID-19 Cases within our schools
Effective August 13, 2021 Alberta Health Services will no longer be informing schools if a positive case is detected in their community. As such, schools will no longer be informing families if a positive case has been detected in their child’s classroom or school. Parents of children who test positive have a legal obligation to keep their child in isolation according to the COVID-19 protocols set out by AHS. Isolation periods vary depending on the vaccination status of the individual. Please check [https://www.alberta.ca/isolation.aspx](https://www.alberta.ca/isolation.aspx) and adhere to the required isolation measures

Cohorts
- Pre-K – Grade 5
  - Students in Pre-K to grade 5 are typically organized in homeroom cohorts. In situations where cohorts must mix, it will be strongly recommended that students wear a mask. These would include large assemblies.

Visitors and Volunteers in Schools
- At this time, we require that any visitors and volunteers to our schools make appointments in advance through the school office/administration.

Student Drop Off and Pick Up
If you are choosing to accompany your child to school, we ask that only one parent or guardian join them on school property. All students are asked to go straight to their designated entrance area and wait patiently while maintaining social distancing measures. We are asking parents and guardians not to linger on school property after children have been dropped off. If you are driving to the school, it is strongly recommended that you park around the neighbourhood and walk to the school to help ensure traffic congestion is limited. Please be patient, respectful and kind as we are all role models to the children in our community.

School Start Up
Staggered Entry at END
END will begin with a staggered entry in the fall of 2021.
- All students from kindergarten to grade 5 will attend as follows:
  - Last names beginning with A-K - attend August 31, 2021
  - Last names beginning with L-Z - attend September 1, 2021
  - All students attend September 2, 2021
**Entrance to the school**
This year we will continue to have designated entries for all classes. Please see the map below to identify which door your child will be entering. Again, this year entrance to the school will be limited to staff and students. All visitors and volunteers to our school will have to make appointments in advance through the school office. While we are excited to have family members join us at various functions throughout the school year access will be limited to specific events (ie: ‘get the scoop’, parent teacher interviews, formal pre-planned events), as well as, pre-approved appointments.

**Get the Scoop!**
This year we will be hosting our ‘Get the Scoop’ afternoon on Thursday, August 26 from 4 - 6 PM. This will be an opportunity for families and students to stop by the school, meet the classroom teacher and drop off school supplies. In order to facilitate this gathering in a respectful and responsible manner we ask families to adhere to the following guidelines.
- We ask that only 1 parent or guardian accompany their child to this event.
- We are asking to stagger the time of attendance based on last name
  - Last name beginning with A - K - 4:00 - 5:00
  - Last name beginning with L - Z - 5:00 - 6:00
- Display boards identifying students' homeroom teacher, room number and entry door will be on display outside of the school to direct parents and students, staff will be available for assistance.
- Students and parents enter the school through designated doors based on grade level (see map below).
- Please wear a mask when entering the building.
- Families are asked to limit their time inside the school and only visit the classroom of their child’s homeroom teacher.
- Students can pick up a DQ treat outside.
- Physical distancing is respected both inside and outside the building.
- We all treat each other in a manner that is respectful and kind, showcasing to our children the incredible respect and care we have for each other.
- For families unable to attend, welcome emails identifying homerooms will be sent out by teachers no later than Monday, August 31, 2021.

**First Day of School**
On the first day your child attends school, teachers will be outside ready to meet our students at their designated entrance (see map). Teachers will be leading classes into the school, while following physical distancing recommendations. The school will only be accessible to students and staff. In school, teachers will be welcoming students and beginning a new year of learning! At the end of the day teachers will be leading students out of the school via our designated doors to be dismissed.
**Kindergarten**
Currently we are offering a morning Kindergarten program in both our English and French Immersion streams. Kindergarten families are welcome to join us for our ‘Get the Scoop’ event.

**School Supplies**
Please see the following link for school supply information: [END School Supply List](#)

Wishing all our END families a blessed 2021/2022 school year!

END - Student Entrance and Exit Map