



Holy Spirit Catholic Elementary School

315 Stone Road, Aurora, ON L4G 6Y7
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September 12th, 2021

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

It was very exciting to have our students and staff back in the school this week. As a school community we continue to follow the guidelines of the YCDSB School Re-entry Plan for a safe return to school. This plan involves a three-tiered approach that includes **physical distancing, hand and respiratory hygiene, and non-medical mask-wearing.**

I kindly ask that as we begin the second week of school, **parents refrain from entering the school yard to drop-off students.** If your child is in Kindergarten, please wait behind the Kindergarten Gate. If they are in Primary we ask you to wait behind the yellow gate and if they are in Junior/Intermediate that you remain on the grass near the park. This will help to ensure the safety of all of our students.

Please see the information below for more information regarding the upcoming week at Holy Spirit.

Back to School Trustee Message

Please see the letter attached below, which will also be available on our school website, for a special back to school message from our Catholic School Trustee Ms. Elizabeth Crowe.

CSC Information

As a parent/guardian of a child at Holy Spirit, you are eligible to self-nominate or nominate another parent/guardian of a child at this school to be a voting member of the Catholic School Council. You will receive an email with a link to a Google Form for the nomination process with more details later this week.

Curriculum Night

Further information will follow regarding the date, time and format of our Curriculum Night.

Kiss and Ride Reminder

A friendly reminder to please not park in our Kiss and Ride area. We ask that you stop to safely let students out of the car onto the school sidewalk. This will allow traffic to flow smoothly. Only with your cooperation can our Kiss and Ride run efficiently to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to safely drop-off our students at school in the morning.

Agendas

This week agendas have been distributed to Primary and Junior students in their classrooms. We kindly ask that if you would like to keep the agendas that parents submit a cheque for \$6.00 payable to Holy Spirit CES in a sealed ziplock bag, labelled with your child's name and teacher.

Bus Seating Plan Update

Each school bus will have a seating plan. Our staff currently reviews the seating plan every evening before the bus departs from school. As the seating plan is solidified (as updates continue to be uploaded to our system), we will send parents an email indicating their child's seat.

If there is a change in plans regarding your child taking the bus after school, please ensure a note is sent to the classroom teacher and the office.

Visitors

As outlined in our re-entry plan below, there are no visitors allowed in the school as per the policies set out by York Region Public Health. For the safety of our students, we ask that there be no visitors in the school unless a pre-arranged appointment is made.

Staggered Dismissal Reminder

A friendly reminder of our staggered dismissal times.

Staggered Dismissal

- FDK and Grades 1, 2, 3 will begin their dismissal 15 minutes early at 2:40 pm.
 - Kindergartens will be dismissed from the Kindergarten Yard
 - Grades 1 to 3 will exit from the Primary doors.

- Grades 4, 5, 6 – will begin their dismissal at 2:50 p.m.
 - Our Grades 4 and 5 classes will exit from the staff parking lot doors.
 - Grade 6 students will exit from the Intermediate doors.

- Grades 7 and 8 – will be dismissed at bell time - 2:55 p.m.
 - Intermediate students will exit from the Intermediate doors.

Mental Health Team Information

This month's virtue is courage. Courage for our students as they return to school and the classroom. As parents/caregivers, let your children know that it is normal to be nervous when starting a new grade; to meet new people and learn something new. We know it may be difficult for many. Supporting the mental health of our students is a priority for us. Our school support staff, including behaviour resource staff, psychological services staff, and mental health workers, are available to determine the best way to support individual students. To learn more about mental health services and supports available visit [Mental Health @YCDSB](#) or [YCDSB Student & Family MH Site](#). Follow us on Twitter [@YCDSB_MH](#) and on Instagram [@mh_ycdsb](#).

Here are some resources you may find useful:

[Supporting Mental Health and Wellness during the Return to School](#) and [How Do You Know If You Should Be Concerned](#)

Yours in Catholic Education,

Mr. A. Modica

Principal

anthony.modica@ycdsb.ca



York Catholic District School Board

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September 2021

Dear Families,

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year! It feels like this school year is a mix of both familiar routines and practices, and new approaches to learning. This is encompassed in the recent appointment of our new Director of Education, Domenic Scuglia, who has returned to York Catholic to help guide our Board. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I look forward to working with him to help steer our York Catholic ship.

I would like to extend a special welcome to new families who joined our Board for the first time. I also would like to welcome our existing families back for another school year. Thank you for choosing our Board to deliver publicly-funded Catholic education to your children.

Our Board and school staff continue to work tirelessly with the Ministry of Education and York Region Public Health to follow all health and safety directives, so that students can return to class and focus on learning in a safe and healthy school environment.

We begin the new school year in the midst of the fourth wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our Board recognizes the uncertainty this brings as parents, staff and families continue to navigate the rocky waters of this pandemic. The vast majority of students have returned to in-person learning this year, however, we will continue to provide families with a remote learning option, as we understand different families have different needs.

Whether your child is learning in person, or remotely, we encourage you to stay connected with your school community, attend school events in person or virtually, and follow our Board on Twitter [@ycdsb](https://twitter.com/ycdsb) for the latest updates. Our YCDSB Mental Health Team is an excellent resource for students or families who may be anxious about returning to school. Follow our Mental Health Team on Twitter [@YCDSB_MH](https://twitter.com/YCDSB_MH) or visit <https://www.ycdsb.ca/mental-health/> for more information.

Our school re-entry plan is posted on the Board website at: <https://www.ycdsb.ca/reopening/>. This plan will be updated as we continue to steer our way through the pandemic. If you have any COVID-19-education related questions, this resource is a great place to start.

Thinking about this pandemic as a series of waves, I thought it appropriate to pray to St. Brendan the Navigator, the patron saint of sailors, to bless us as we journey into the new school year.

Prayer of St. Brendan the Navigator

*"Help me to journey beyond the familiar and into the unknown.
Give me the faith to leave old ways and break fresh ground with You.
Christ of the mysteries, I trust You to be stronger than each storm within me.
I will trust in the darkness and know that my times, even now, are in Your hand.
Tune my spirit to the music of heaven, and somehow, make my obedience count for You. Amen."*

Best wishes for a successful school year!

Yours in Catholic Education,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth Crowe".

Elizabeth Crowe
Trustee, Aurora/King/Whitchurch-Stouffville

Elizabeth Crowe, Trustee – Aurora/King/Whitchurch-Stouffville
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