

During our Meet and Greet we welcomed all of our returning young Knights and all of the new Knights that will be joining us this year. A big thanks to parent representatives from School Council who helped with some ice-cream treats.



School News - Take a look at what's coming up next week! Sept. 2 - 6

Monday (2)	School Closed Labor Day Holiday
Tuesday (3)	1st Day of School Gr. 1 - 9 Staggered Start Kindergarten(Half the K students)
Wednesday (4)	Staggered Start Kindergarten(Half the K students)

	Boys and Girls Jr. Volleyball Tryouts - 3:30 - 5:00 pm
Thursday (5)	Spirit Week Activities Begin Boys and Girls Jr. Volleyball Tryouts - 3:30 - 5:00 pm Travel Club Meeting@6:30 pm in Learning Commons
Friday (6)	Boys and Girls Jr. Volleyball Tryouts - 3:30 - 5:00 pm

1st Day of School - Sept. 3

Tuesday is the big day! Beginning at 8:10 am parents are welcome to walk into the school via the Main Door with their child and head directly to their child's classroom. If you were not able to come to the Meet and Greet and your not sure where to go head to the office and we will be able to help you on your way. Once you bring your child to the classroom it is strongly recommended that you wish them well and let them get on with their day once announcements start and the teachers are ready to begin. We know it can be stressful for parents and children on the first day, we are here to help but usually it's best to leave as soon as possible.

Entry to School Beginning September 4 - June 26.

All students from K-8 must wait outside of the school until 8:15 am when the entry bell goes. Please have your child use the following entrances:

- Kindergarten, Gr. 1, Gr. 7 and Gr. 8 - Main Entrance
- Gr. 2, Gr. 3, Gr. 4, Gr. 5, Gr. 6 - East Entrance Near Visitor Parking Lot

My Child is Registered in the SIGIS Before or After School Program

All children K-6 who attend Before School Care at SIGIS will enter the school with their parent/guardian via the EAST Door in the morning and be checked in by the SIGIS staff. The SIGIS staff will wait until the School Entry Bell and then take the students to their classroom at 8:15 am.

All children who attend AM Kindergarten will be picked up by a SIGIS staff member just outside of their classroom at 11:10 am and walked back to the SIGIS room for pm care.

All children who attend PM Kindergarten will be brought down to the kindergarten class prior to the 12:03 start.

All children K-6 who attend After School Care at SIGIS will be picked up at their classroom at the end of the school day and walked back to the SIGIS room for after school care.

My Child Rides the Bus - How will they Know Where to Go?

Currently there is one bus that transports students to Sister Alphonse Academy. It is due to arrive at the school directly in front of the main doors. A staff member will be on supervision waiting to direct the students into the school. All teachers are given bus rosters so at the end of the school day they know which children need to proceed outside to the bus zone. Teachers will help students get to the bus for a few days. There will also be a staff member on bus supervision and with the bus driver they will monitor the loading of the bus and check to ensure all students are on the bus before departing. Some parents prefer to drive their children to school on the first day. That is fine, rest assured that the procedures listed above continue day after day.

Bus Departure and Arrival Times

The bus is due to arrive at SAA at 8:15 am. It is scheduled to depart SAA at 3:08 pm every day. AM kindergarten students are scheduled to depart SAA at 11:20 am. Please be aware that for the first couple of weeks as students get used to the routine of boarding and riding the bus arrival and departure times may vary a little and the bus may arrive at a stop for drop off a few minutes later than what you have on your schedule. It's a good idea to be at the stop a few minutes prior to your time and not to be concerned if the bus does not arrive exactly as scheduled, especially in the first couple of weeks.

Important Reminder for Children in Kindergarten and/or Grade 1 Riding a Bus

According to Administrative Procedure 540.7 of GSACRD **students in ECS or grade 1 will not be dropped off at their designated stop without a parent present to accept them.** In the event there is nobody present students will be returned to the school of enrolment. Individuals meeting students should be at the bus stop five minutes before the scheduled bus arrival time. If a parent cannot fulfill this requirement, he/she can:

Designate an alternate adult or older sibling to receive their child. Advance written notification of this alternate adult or designated older sibling must be provided to the Transportation Department and it will be held on file for the current school year. The Transportation Department will notify its contractors. If a parent wishes their child to be released without an approved adult or designated older sibling at the stop at the time of disembarkation, a Waiver Form can be completed by the parent/guardian. This Waiver Form releases the District, its elected officials and officers, agents, administrators, independent contractors, employees and volunteers from any and all liability once the child disembarks the school bus. This Waiver Form can be obtained from the [Transportation Department](#).

Please be advised that there is no noon bus run for ½ day staggered start kindergarten children on Tuesday, Sept. 3 and Wednesday, September 4. Parents who have children in am kindergarten that ride the bus must arrange transportation home for their child on these days. The noon run will begin on September 5.

Kindergarten Staggered Start

A reminder to parent(s)/guardian(s) that have children who are registered in kindergarten this year. Your child will attend school on either September 3 or September 4. Beginning September 5 students in kindergarten will follow the regular schedule. Staggered start allows the children to attend their first day of school in a smaller group.

Severe Medical Conditions

Please ensure that you have updated and reported all information required if you have a child that has severe medical conditions including Anaphylaxis or life threatening allergies. District administrative procedures require students who are old enough (6-8) carry their ep-pens on their person. Where students are not old enough an epi-pen would be provided to the office and a plan developed with parents to ensure that the epi-pen is available and administrable. The administration of prescription medication should be done at home by parents. However, in the event that circumstances require the administration of medication during the day it is done at the office and requires parent consent be completed.

Severe Allergens - No Peanut or Nuts

Currently we have a few children and one staff member who have severe allergies to peanuts and nut products. Please be sure not to send these products or food containing nuts to school. Remember, any child, at any time can become allergic to various foods or products. Thank you for your cooperation in our goal to provide a safe learning environment for all children.

Expect a Call

After all class configurations have been determined you should receive a call from your child's homeroom teacher sometime before September 20. The purpose of this call is to check in and discuss briefly how things are going.

Parking and Unloading of Students

It is paramount for student and staff safety that all visitors to the school drop off and pick up students in the correct areas of our site. The site plan for loading and unloading of passengers has been carefully designed to route traffic safely. All we need is the cooperation of visitors to the school to adhere to the plan. This year we estimate that our school population will be almost double. PARENTS MUST NOT enter or use the staff parking lot to drop off students at the school.

STAFF PARKING

The Staff at Sister Alphonse Academy will park directly in front of the school along the North Side of the school. Staff should enter the staff parking lot via the northeast entrance. Visitors to the school MUST NOT ENTER the staff parking area.

BUS LANE - LOADING AND UNLOADING OF STUDENTS

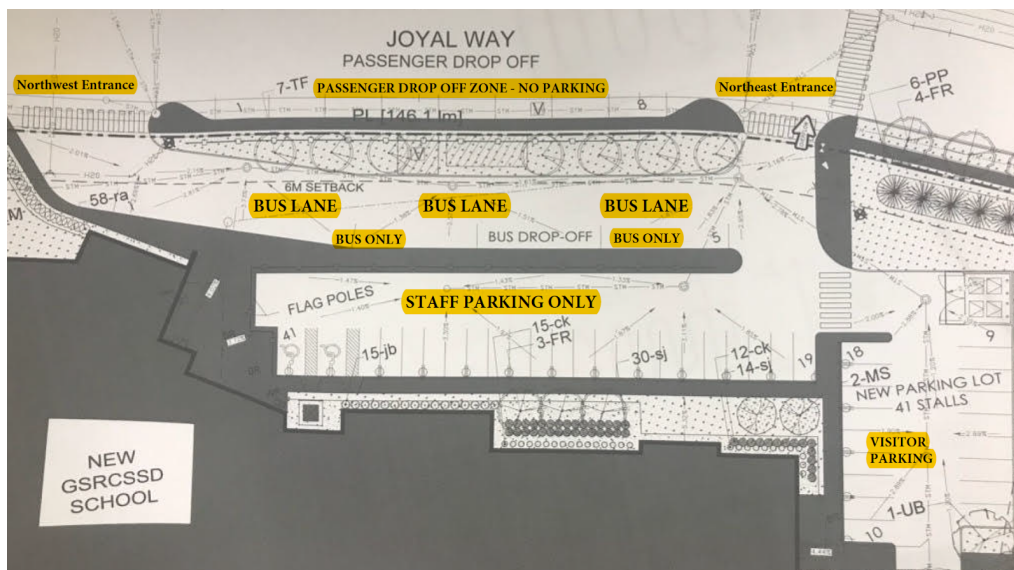
Busses will enter the parking lot via the northwest bus lane. The BUS LANE is reserved for busses between the hours of 8:00 am and 9:00 am and 2:30 pm and 3:30 pm. The bus lane is one way only. Students will board and disembark busses along the sidewalk adjacent to the bus lane.

STUDENT DROP OFF

A passenger drop-off lane has been created along the north sidewalk in front of the school. This lane is only for dropping off of students. PARKING IS NOT PERMITTED in the drop off zone.

VISITOR PARKING

A visitor parking lot is found immediately east of the school. Visitors must enter and exit the visitor parking lot via the northeast entrance.



Home to School Information/Communication

We do our best to provide as much information as we can about school events through a variety of methods. This includes: [SAA School Website](#) and [Web Calendar](#), email, [SAA Facebook Page](#), [@Sister Alphonse Twitter](#), [SAA Instagram](#) [sisteralphonse_gsacrd](#) and our SAA School App. **As long as your email address is current you will receive our weekly bulletin on the last day of school each week.** If there is the rare occasion where we need to send home paper correspondence we usually try to do it on a Monday. The [SAA Weekly Bulletin](#) is also posted on our school website.

SAA School APP

The SAA App for iOS and android is available. Just search for "My School Day" on the app store. When you run it, it will guide you through selecting Sister Alphonse Academy - this only needs to be done once. The app will be used to send out news and notifications from our school. Another excellent way to stay connected to our school.

SAA Spirit Wear

We have now entered into an agreement with Sportfactor to provide our school with Spirit Wear. We are hoping that parents will once again consider purchasing SAA Spirit wear for your children. If you choose not to do this we would ask that you consider having your child(ren) wear blue or green on our Formal/Spirit Wear Days. Generally, this is every Thursday during the school year but check our calendar for dates. Clothing will be ordered online and then delivered to the school. The first clothing deadline is **September 20**. Click on the [Spirit Wear Link](#) to begin ordering.

School Fees

Early in September you will receive information about payment of 2019/20 School Fees. School Fees for the 2019/20 school year for students in grades 1-9 are \$68. There is no fee for kindergarten unless you have chosen to enrol your child in Full Day or Progressive kindergarten.

Junior High Stuff

Please be advised that all parents who have children registered at SAA will receive an email in late September that will allow them to have access to the Powerschool Marks portal. This will allow parents to check their children's updated marks on a regular basis. Parents, please be aware that students in Junior High may leave the school property during the lunch hour. This privilege will be restricted if there are any problems with late returns to school in the afternoon.

Weekly Bulletin

We send out a weekly bulletin via email to all parents on our list. We also send out a link via a notification on our School App. Our weekly bulletin is also posted on our website. If you are not receiving the weekly bulletin via email please call our school office to ensure that we have the correct email information on record.

Robust Device

Just a reminder to all parents that we would ask that students in grade 4 - 6 and Junior High come to school with their own Robust Device(laptop, chromebook, iPad) for use at school. If you are unable to provide a device we do have some extra units at the school that can be borrowed.

Volleyball Tryouts

Junior High students are welcome to try out for our Junior Volleyball teams beginning the first week back in school. Tryouts/practices will occur on Sept. 4, 5 and 6 from 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm. Parents must arrange for transportation home for their child.

Absence Reporting – SAFE ARRIVAL SYSTEM

Please be advised that our District uses the SAFE ARRIVAL absence reporting system. This absence reporting system will allow the school to verify student attendance, and quickly notify parents and guardians of absences that were unexpected or unplanned.

Report your child's absence in advance with 3 convenient methods:

1. On a mobile device, install the District App (search "Greater St. Albert Schools" in the Apple App or Google Play stores). Select SafeArrival - Attendance - Report an Absence. (Please note, to sign up for the new School Messenger SafeArrival it is best to use a computer)
2. On the SAA website select REPORT ABSENCES or SafeArrival website, go.schoolmessenger.ca. Sign Up to create your account, then select Attendance followed by Report an Absence.
3. Call the toll-free number 1-844-502-5100 to report an absence using the toll-free system.

Anxious Child

You may be noticing that your child could be experiencing some anxiety or anxiousness as the start of school is near. Not to worry, it's a very regular emotion that many children/students experience. From an adult point of view, it's kind of like starting a new job, your excited but nervous. You want to do well, you're hoping your colleagues will like you and you them. Your not quite sure you will know how to do everything and you're hoping your boss will be happy with your work. That's what it can be like starting a new school year, in a new class with a new teacher. The big thing is to reassure your child that feeling nervous or anxious is normal and that things will go well.

Sponsorship Opportunities

One of our goals at Sister Alphonse Academy is to provide authentic learning opportunities for our students which we believe can lead to Deep Learning and Conceptual Understanding. Greater St. Albert Roman Catholic Separate School District No. 734 believes that the formation of educational partnerships or sponsorships from individuals, businesses, or community partners provides an opportunity for educators to work collaboratively with the community in an effort to

support learning and growth opportunities for students in the District. Thus principals may work with partners or sponsors with the intention of assisting students with ongoing activities and/or events while ensuring that the primary goal for the partner or sponsor is to provide valuable resources.

Our school is looking for individuals, businesses, or community partners that would be willing to assist/sponsor some of the costs associated with providing our students with these incredible learning opportunities. Our staff has already applied and been accepted for some activities for next year but they are costly. These costs could include transportation and or registration costs. Our District Administrative Procedures allow for some public recognition of sponsors via newsletters, banners, etc. If we have individuals, businesses or community partners that would like to discuss this opportunity please call Mr. Lamer at SAA at your earliest convenience.

2019/2020 Junior High TRAVEL CLUB

We have started to organize a Junior High Travel Club and plan a trip to the Canadian Maritimes for the upcoming school year, tentatively in the spring of 2020. Students will travel for approximately one week with teacher supervisors and a travel guide from EF Tours to experience New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. **We had a preliminary meeting in June but still require more students to make the trip viable for this spring. If you are interested and your child will be in Junior High, you are invited to a meeting on Thursday, Sept. 5 at 6:30 pm or you can contact Mrs. Trenchard at natrenchard@gsacrd.ab.ca.** Come and find out more details (flights, accommodations, possible itinerary, costs) about this exciting opportunity. A trip like this would cost approximately \$2800 to \$3300 per student depending on the final itinerary. The tentative travel date being considered is May 17 - 24. Twenty students would be required in order for the trip to move forward. All trips outside of Alberta require tentative approval from the Superintendent or designate six months in advance of the trip and require final approval two months before the intended date of the Field Trip.

Student Support Fund

Occasionally there are some families that would have some difficulties in paying for hot lunches, field trips or extracurricular activities at our school. We would never want to have any of our children miss out because of this. At SAA we do have a fund that has been created through donations by parents or friends of SAA that helps to offset the cost for these activities. If you would like to contribute to the fund please contact Mrs. Despina at our school. Donations of \$25 or more are eligible for Tax Receipts. Thank you for your support.

School Council News

Please be advised that we continue accept nominations for the Executive of the Sister Alphonse Academy School Council. Nominations will be accepted for the position of Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Secretary until the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, September 11 when elections will be held. If you would like to nominate a person please call Mr. Lamer at the school or email him at glamer@gsacrd.ab.ca. Parents are invited to attend our meetings that occur once a month. All parents who have children attending SAA are members of our School Council.

Mark your calendar. We are tentatively planning a Family Movie Night on Friday, Sept. 13/19. It will be a good way for new families to meet returning families from our school. More details to come.

St. Albert Parish News

Click on the [SAP Parish Link](#) to access the weekly bulletin for St. Albert Catholic Parish.

Holy Family Parish News

Click on the [HF Parish Link](#) to access the weekly bulletin for Holy Family Parish

