

SAA Bulletin - September 7/2020

Serve Achieve Aspire

Students at SAA participate in our first Thursday Spirit Wear this past week. It was great to see all the KNIGHTS gear and students wearing our school colours; blue & green.



SAA Bulletin #2 - Monday, September 7, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Happy Monday! We hope that all of our Sister Alphonse Academy families are enjoying a wonderful Labour Day long weekend. As we move into this second week of school, we are experiencing the joy of being together once again, whether we are learning online together or are participating in Face-to-Face instruction. All of our staff, including myself, are enjoying each morning being able to greet our students, parents and guardians. Our Gospel this week speaks of the importance of knowing Jesus is with us when we come together in community. We are all God's children.

**“For where two or three are gathered together in my name,
there am I in the midst of them” (Matthew 18:20)**

Please feel free to click on the link below if you wish to hear Bishop Robert Barron's homily regarding communication and relationships as he discusses the Gospel message of Matthew 18: 15 - 20. [Bishop Barron's Sunday Sermon](#)

Superintendent's Update - Week ending September 4, 2020:

Please click on the link below to read the latest update from Dr. Clint Moroziuk, Superintendent of Schools.

- [COVID-19 Update - Sept. 4, 2020](#)

Daily Health & Safety Protocol Information:

- Before coming to school each day, all staff and students must complete the Alberta government's [COVID-19 Information Screening Questionnaire](#), which is available in [multiple languages](#), to determine whether they **can attend or must stay home**. The form does not need to be submitted to the office. If your child has any symptoms, contact your school office to let your child's school know. Everyone who enters a school will see a sign that reminds them to complete the daily COVID-19 Information Screening Questionnaire before entering the building.

Quick Links for Parents/Guardians:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• COVID-19 Information Screening Questionnaire - Daily questionnaire for safe arrival at school each day.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SAA School Website
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• GSACRD District School Re-Entry Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• St. Gabriel Education Centre - Online Learning
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parent Handbook *UPDATED SEPTEMBER 4, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• K-6 Mental Health Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• GSACRD Transportation - Please check this link out if you require information regarding bussing, transportation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• GrACE (Graceful Advocates for Catholic Education) - Please click on this link to learn more about GrACE and supporting Catholic Education in Alberta.

Faith Filled Fridays are back!

Faith Fridays are back! Last Friday we had the opportunity to visit our new faith in addition to learn about the importance of prayer and community! Through prayer we enter into a relationship with God. Prayer is our response to God's love.

Students in the Grade 4 participate in our first Faith Filled Friday. We focused on writing prayer petitions and asking God to hear our individual prayers which went in our prayer jars.



Arise! Get up, Get going, and Go with God!

Three Year District Theme:

September 2020: "I say to you, **arise!**" (Lk 7,14)

September 2021: "Arise! I have appointed you as a **witness** of what you have seen." (Acts 26,16)

September 2022: "Mary arose and went **with haste.**" (Lk 1:39)

ARISE (be healed) from sadness, Arise from difficulties, Arise (be healed) from fear! Through Jesus Christ we experience healing and use our gifts in the world to Arise! Persevere, Experience Joy, Friendship, we can be there for one another!

Praying the Novena:

Our partners at [GrACE \(Graceful Advocates for Catholic Education\)](#) planned a province-wide novena from Aug. 28 to Sept. 5. A novena is an ancient tradition of devotional praying; it is a form of worship consisting of a special prayer repeated for nine successive days. Students and staff at SAA participated together in community each day through sharing a Novena prayer.

St. Gabriel Education Centre!

What do I do if my child starts in online programming and then would like to switch back to face-to-face programming? Your child will start in his/her pathway of choice in our school. Because you are one of our families, you will have opportunities throughout the year to indicate whether or not you choose to stay in online education. Each reporting period, you will receive an email on certain dates, as outlined in the 'Reporting and Notification' section of the Parent Guidebook (see pages 16 and 17). You may also contact the Acting school Principal, **Mr. Evan Holstein** at eholstein@gsacrd.ab.ca or **780-459-6616**.

Emergency Evacuation Drills

We will begin practicing our emergency procedures over the next two weeks (weather permitting). We will always notify our students that we are running a drill. As per District Administrative and Hour Zero Emergency Procedure we shall complete Emergency Evacuation drills (Fire Drills), Lockdown, On-Alert, Hold-Secure, and Shelter-In-Place drills during the year. Our Evacuation drills will still be meeting COVID-19 School Re-Entry Plan requirements:

Students in grades 4-12 should wear masks.

- It is recommended that students in K-3 wear masks for evacuation drills, although it is not mandatory at this time.
- Drills may be conducted in a variety of ways to incorporate physical distancing such as in small groups using various exits or one class at a time.
- It is critical to ensure students are familiar with the proper exit to use and the proper exiting procedures and gathering procedures.
- LIVE EVACUATION: Should a live evacuation be required, student safety should take precedence and physical distancing would be of secondary importance.
- Physical distancing can be planned at the prescribed meeting place following an evacuation drill.

If you require more information about our emergency procedures, please do not hesitate to call the school.

Point, Pause, Proceed at Crosswalk:

Play show and tell with your kids – *tell* them how to cross safely using the Point, Pause, Proceed method, then *show* them you mean it by setting a good example. Use the crosswalk, cross at the corner, and make eye contact with drivers. Make sure the vehicle stops before stepping off the curb. With school starting and more families walking, please help us work at keeping all of the kids safe. Thank you!

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 school entrance door outside for the 8:15 am entry bell. All children who attend AM Kindergarten will be picked up by a SIGIS staff member outside the front entrance at 11:10 am and walked back to the SIGIS room for pm care. All children K-6 who attend After School Care at SIGIS will be picked up at their school entrance door outside at the end of the school day and walked back to the SIGIS room for after school care.

Bus Lane - After School:

A reminder that the bus lane is not for parent drive through as this area must be available for school bus/daycare van drop off during the times of **8:10-8:25 am and 2:50-3:15 pm**. If you come outside of those times you may drop off and pick up your child in the bus lane. Thank you for your cooperation.

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.

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

Some children or staff members may have severe allergies to peanuts and nut products. Please be sure not to send these products or food containing nuts to school. Thank you.

Safe Arrival (School Messenger) – Student Absence Reporting

At Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools we use the Safe Arrival absence reporting process to support families in having their children arrive safely to school. This system will make it easier for

you to report, and respond to, school absences for your child. The system also integrates with our notification system, School Messenger. The **student absence reporting system** will allow the school to verify student attendance, and quickly notify parents and guardians of absences that were unexpected or unplanned.

At this time we ask that you only enter absences for students that are taking classes in school, not for online learners. Report your child's absence in advance with 3 convenient methods:

On a mobile device, install the District App (search "Greater St. Albert Schools" in the Apple App or Google Play stores).

- Select **SafeArrival** à **Attendance** à **Report an Absence**. (Please note, to sign up for the **School Messenger SafeArrival** it is best to use a computer)
- 1. On the **SafeArrival** website, go.schoolmessenger.ca.
- **Sign Up** to create your account, then select **Attendance** followed by **Report an Absence**.
- 1. Call the toll-free number 1-844-818-9908 to report an absence using the automated phone system.

What happens if I do not report my child(s) absence?

If your student is marked absent and it is not explained in advance, the SafeArrival system will send notifications by automated phone call, text message, email, or mobile app push notification to get a reason for the absence. If our system is unable to reach the designated contacts, office staff will follow up. Calls and contacts will continue until you choose an option to explain the absence.

When should I start using this system? You may start entering absences for the 2020-21 school year now, please report absences using the Safe Arrival instead of sending notes or calling/emailing the school.

How do I make sure my child(ren) is set up in the system? It is important that all contact information on file is the same for each child. Please update your contact information at their school as soon as possible.

Who do I contact for more information? Please contact your child's school the last week of August if you have any questions.

Please call our Office to Register or Update Your Information

Our school secretary Mrs. Despina has asked that all parents please call the school to ensure that all registration documents have been submitted and all paperwork has been 100% completed. If you have had any change in email or contact information, please call our office at **780-809-2996**. **Please note:** A registration is not considered complete until reviewed and approved by the school Principal. Thank you!

Bring Your Own Device

School owned technology lent out to students are high touch areas that require extra cleaning and sanitizing protocols. Students are encouraged to bring their own device to school if possible. If a student wishes to bring his/her own device to school, here are some recommended devices: **Laptop** (ex. Macbook Pro, Macbook Air, Acer Aspire, HP Laptop, Toshiba Satellite Laptop) **Chromebooks** (ex. Asus Chromebook, Acer Chromebook, HP Chromebook, Samsung Chromebook)

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.

Call for Lunch Supervisors:

As we experience enrollment growth, we will require more lunchtime supervisors. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity and would like to apply, please contact Mrs. Samson at csamson@gsacrd.ab.ca, or Mrs. Kleparchuk at kleparchuk@gsacrd.ab.ca. Please note you will require a current child welfare and criminal record check. Thank you!

Junior High Stuff

Parents who have students in Junior High can expect to receive information regarding Powerschool access to view student achievement and attendance at the end of September or early October. More information will be coming later on. Junior High students can begin to leave the school property at lunch hour beginning Tuesday September 8th. Students will need to have a signed consent form and will need to check in with the office prior to leaving. Parents can choose not to provide consent if they wish. This is a privilege and it can be removed if there are any issues or returning late for classes in the afternoon. Junior High Options will begin on **Tuesday, September 15.**

We all have strengths and Gifts from God to share!



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

Teacher and Class Configurations *Please note these numbers are subject to change*

Kindergarten AM/PM/FULL TIME - Mrs. Shmyr

15 Full Day students, 10 AM students, 2 PM students:

Gr. 1 AM – Mrs. Teixeira AND Ms. Shannon Dugan: 27 students

Gr. 1 PM - Ms. Shannon Dugan

Gr. 2 - Mrs. Rayner: 21 Students

Gr. 3 - Mrs. Trenchard: 18 Students

Gr. 4/5 - Mrs. Lobel: 24 Students

Gr. 5/6 - Mr Brass: 27 Students

Junior High:

Gr. 7 - Mrs. McKinnon 22 Students

Gr. 8 - Ms. Bennett: 18 Students

Gr. 9 - Mr. Parks - 15 Students

Supporting Mental Health Resources:

The Covid-19 Pandemic has been a challenging time for families all over the world.

Communication and support is more important than ever in meeting the needs and challenges that people are facing today. Included here is a resource for supporting mental health and your family: [K-6 Mental Health Resources](#)

School Council News!

Another school year is here! Parents are invited to attend our meetings that occur once a month. Our next School Council meeting is: **Wednesday, September 16, at 6:30 p.m.** via Google Link. All parents who have children attending SAA are members of our School Council. If you would like to attend, please email Mrs. Samson, SAA Principal, at csamson@gsacrd.ab.ca to receive the link for the meeting. **Thank you to all of the parents who serve the Sister Alphonse Academy community in this way!**

Coming up Next Week - Welcome Back Spirit Week Activities!

For the week of September 14-18th we will be hosting some fun spirit activities and our school opening liturgy (virtually). Watch for more details in next Monday's bulletin.

Picture Day this Week!

Reminder to all of our students, parents and staff that we have scheduled individual photos for this Thursday, **September 10, 2020**. An order home will come home after the pictures are taken with the proof for you to view.

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.

School News - Take a look at what's coming up! **September 8 - September 11**

Monday (7)	Labour Day Holiday Monday!
Tuesday (8)	Welcome back to school after the long weekend.
Wednesday (9)	<i>Another exciting day of Learning!</i>
Thursday (10)	Reminder: Individual School Picture Day!
Friday (11)	<i>Happy Friday!</i>

God bless and take care.

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