

Welcome back to all Sister Alphonse Academy Students, Parents and Staff!



SAA Bulletin #1 - August 31, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

We are back! Thank you to all of the parents and guardians this morning for supporting us with providing a safe entry and exit on our first day. We look forward to seeing our second group of students tomorrow! Today we had an opportunity to teach the students about the importance of hand washing, sanitizing, physical distancing and developing safety routines. Parents/Guardians please continue to reach out if you have any questions, need assistance with anything or if you would just like to say "Hi".

As part of our orientation today we also had the opportunity to introduce our new three year District theme to our students: **Arise! Get up, Get going, and Go with God!**

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!

In Jesus' words...

37 He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' Matthew 22:37 (NRSV)

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.

Health & Safety Quick Links for Parents/Guardians:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19 Information Screening Questionnaire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online Learning Information
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSACRD District School Re-Entry Updates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAA School Website
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent Handbook *UPDATED AUG. 28, 2020 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Supply Lists

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.

Online Learning Update!

Thank you to everyone for your patience and support in supporting the online option for our students and families. Please see the latest information shared by Dr. Clint Morozuk dated **August 28th:** [Online Learning Information](#)

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.

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!

What school supplies should I bring?

Because we know that many students usually have help from their parents in bringing their school supplies into the school on the first day, we would suggest that students bring some of their supplies (to be able to work) along with their bagged lunch that may fit into the student backpack. Students will keep their belongings with them along with their lunch. Supplies may be sent to school as they need them/small amounts at a time. **Please note - Junior High:** Lockers are **NOT** being used at this time. Thank you.

School Supplies

Click on the link to access [School Supply Lists](#) for the 2020/21 school year. Parents who choose to take part in the Staples School Supply Program can still order them. At the link here: Staples.ca/SchoolTools If you have any questions please contact Mrs. Despina in the office.

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)

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.

Formal/Spirit Wear Days

We are hoping that you will 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.

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!

Snack Shack & Hot Lunch Program

Due to health and safety restrictions, the Snack Shack and hot lunch programs will not be taking place at this time, but we will keep you informed if/when the status changes.

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.

A parent consent form will be shared shortly that will allow your child to leave the school property over the lunch hour. Students will need to have this form 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 17.

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*

Elementary:

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

Students will be taught together by both teachers for the first week or two until their learning needs and groupings may be determined and this will be communicated to parents. Once the groupings are determined, the larger group will be divided into two smaller classes. Mrs. Teixeira teaching one class and Ms. Dugan teaching the other one. Ms. Dugan will then teach the whole group together in the afternoon. Please feel free to contact me if you require further clarification at: csamson@gsacrd.ab.ca Thank you!

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: 19 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!

School News - Take a look at what's coming up! Aug. 31 - Sept. 4

Monday (31)	First Day of School for students who have last names beginning (A-K) would attend school on this day.
Tuesday (1)	First Day of School for students who have last names beginning (L-Z) would attend school on this day.
Wednesday (2)	Regular Classes September 2, 2020: Regular classes resume on this day.
Thursday (3)	SAA SPIRIT WEAR DAY! WEAR YOUR BLUE AND GREEN COLOURS!
Friday (4)	<i>Happy long weekend SAA Families!</i>

God bless and take care.

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