



## **From the Principal's Desk...**

Thank you to everyone who made it out to the Welcome Back BBQ yesterday. It was so great to see so many families and we absolutely loved the energy from everyone. I think we ended up cooking over 500 hotdogs!

As we make our way to the first days of the school year, please note that our official first day back is Tuesday September 2nd for all grades 1-9 students. The only staggered entry we have this year is for kindergarten. The reasoning behind this is to ensure we are protecting instructional time for students. With the later start time this year, it was paramount for us to be able to do this.

We wish everyone a wonderful long weekend. We hope everyone gets a chance to relax before we get right into it on Monday.

Also, please remember to be curious in all that you do and know that God loves you, no matter what!

## **Week At a Glance:**

**September 1st- Labour Day( No School)**

**September 2nd- Gr. 1-9 ALL students  
Kindergarten A-M**

**September 3rd: Kindergarten N-Z**

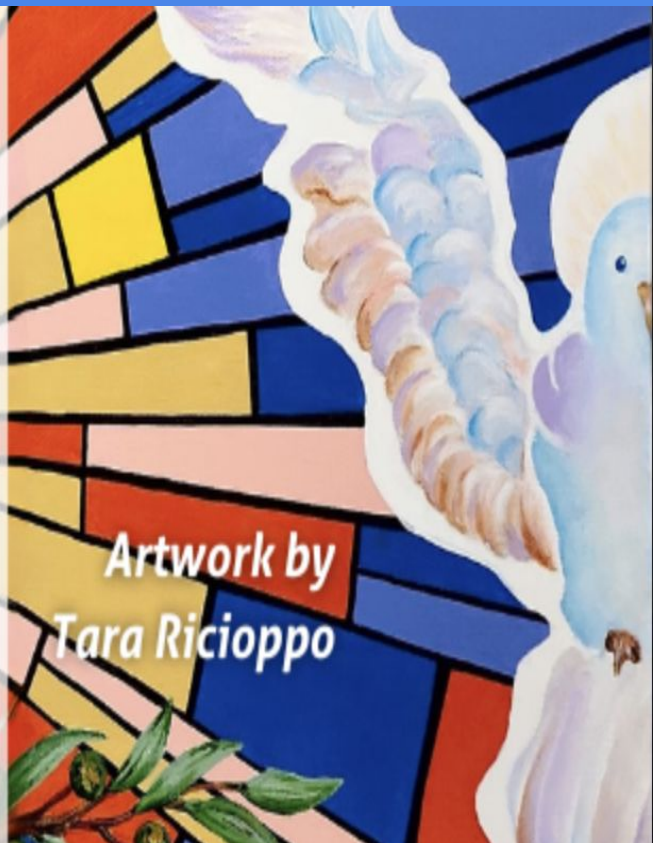
# 2025-2026 GSACRD Faith Theme (Year 3)

## Growing in Grace, with the Spirit

"Now we have received not the spirit of the world,  
but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may  
understand the gifts bestowed on us by God."

**(1 Corinthians 2:12)**

Greater St. Albert  
Catholic Schools



*Artwork by  
Tara Ricioppo*

# Faith in Action/Parish Information



St Albert Parish



Holy Family Parish

# SAA's Mission and Vision

## MISSION:

**Sister Alphonse Academy is a welcoming learning community that awakens the hearts and minds of students while educating and nurturing each to learn, live fully and serve others.**

## VISION:

**Excellence in learning through faith, learning and engagements.**

**At SAA we strive to: Serve, Achieve, Aspire**





# Welcome Mrs. Loressa Alfarela



Hi, my name is Loressa Alfarela and I'm excited to be part of the SAA community this year. I began my teaching career in elementary education, then took time off to raise my children before returning to the classroom in recent years. I have worked as a substitute teacher and most recently as a literacy and numeracy intervention teacher with Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools.

I'm also a proud mom, and my children are graduates of the Greater St. Albert Catholic school system. Outside of school, I enjoy baking, spending time with my family, and walking my dog. I look forward to getting to know the wonderful students, staff, and families at SAA.

# Bell Schedule

Please see the attached bell schedule for the 2025-2026 school year.

For the AM Kindergarten Program, please note that dismissal is at 11:07 AM

TIMES	
8:15 - 8:20	Entry
8:20 - 8:24	Announcements
8:25 - 9:05	Block 1
9:05 - 9:45	Block 2
9:45 - 10:25	Block 3
10:25 - 10:42	Recess
10:42 - 10:45	Warning Bell
10:45 - 11:25	Block 4
11:25 - 12:05	Block 5
12:05 - 12: 30	Recess
12:30 - 12:52	Lunch
12:52 - 12:55	Warning Bell
12:55 - 1:35	Block 6
1:35 - 2:15	Block 7
2:15 - 2:57	Block 8
2:57 - 3:00	Clean up and Dismissal

# First Day of Classes

**September 1st:** (Labour Day - No School)

**September 2nd:** (All students in grades 1-9)

Kindergarten- Students A-M

**September 3rd:** Kindergarten Students N-Z



# COUNSELLOR'S CORNER



Hi everyone,

Welcome back! I'm so glad to start another school year together. As the school counsellor, I support students in their well-being, help them navigate challenges, strengthen friendships, and build the skills they need to succeed. I'll be popping into each class in the next few weeks to introduce myself and share how I can help. Along with one-on-one conversations, I also run small groups and do whole-class sessions. One of my focuses this year will be helping students explore careers and build the skills they'll need for the future.

In the mornings I'm teaching Grade 6. Counselling time is scheduled for 11:25–3:00, Monday to Friday. If you think I can help in any way, just give me a call, send an email, or connect with your child's homeroom teacher.

Each week I'll share a short "Counsellor's Corner" with tips and ideas to support our kids and families. I'm looking forward to all the connections and great moments ahead this year.

Sean Brass    [sbrass@gsacrd.ab.ca](mailto:sbrass@gsacrd.ab.ca)





### Online Store Ordering:

<https://sisteralphonseacademy2025.itemorder.com/shop/sale/>

- Closes September 18th
- 4-6 week turnaround
- Items sent to the school for pickup



## SAA Nutrition Program

**For those families new to the school, we wanted to let you know that SAA has a nutrition program available to all students. Each day a piece of fruit, or vegetables, yogurt, etc. will be available to those students who want it. This program is free of charge to families. Students will be able to access nutrition program items at the snack shack at recess and lunch times.**



# Entrances For Students

## Entry to the Building

All students are to enter and exit through assigned entrances.

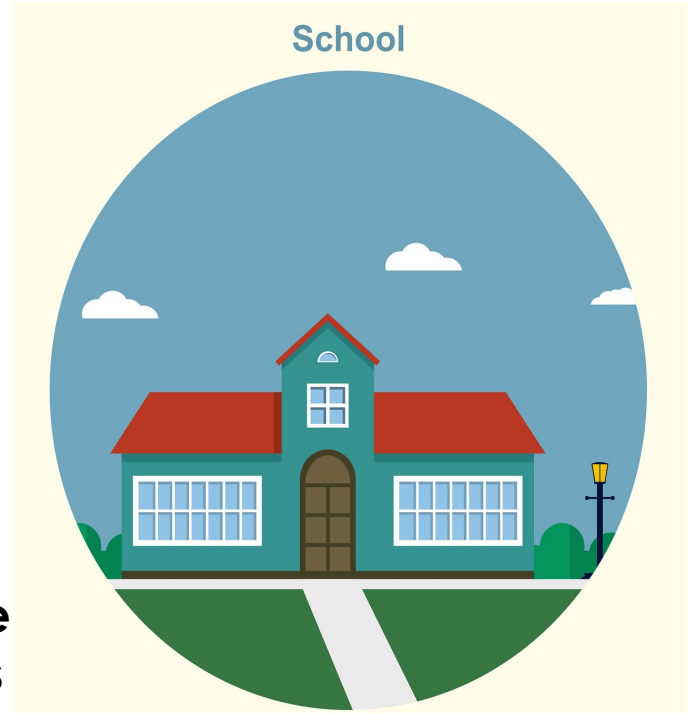
Main Entrance – Kindergarten/SIGIS

East Entrance – 1, 2, 3,

South Entrance (Back Field)- 4 & 5

West Entrance - 6, 7, 8, 9

**\*Other than the main doors, entrances are marked on the glass above the entrances with the appropriate grades**



# Parking

**Bus Lane:** Just a reminder that our **bus loop will be for school busses, REC busses and daycare vans only.** With the amount of traffic at the start and the end of the day, it is important to keep these areas as uncongested as possible to keep everyone safe. Please utilize parking out on the main street to ensure student transport vehicles have access to the bus lane.

**SIGIS Parking:** For those families utilizing SIGIS, there is a small window of 7-8AM that parents can access the main bus loop before busses start rolling in.





# Senior Girls Volleyball Tryouts

First round of tryouts! All grade 7-9 students are invited. **NO EXPERIENCE** necessary.

- Tuesday Sept. 2nd @ 3:00-4:45 pm
- Wednesday Sept. 3rd @ 3:00-4:45 pm

Second Round(by invite only)Some gr. 7/8 students may be sent down to the junior level.

- Thursday Sept. 4th @ 3:00-4:45 pm
- Friday Sept. 5th @ 3:00-4:45 pm

**Team practices will start Sept. 8-12.**  
**U of A Fog Tournament Sunday Sept.14th.**



# Boys Volleyball Tryouts

Tryouts! All grade 7-9 boys are invited. NO EXPERIENCE necessary.

- September 4th 3:00-4:15 pm
- September 5th 3:00-4:15 pm

Possible tournament Sept. 14th.



**Team practices will start Sept. 8th.**

# SAA School Council



**\*First School Council Meeting (AGM) on September 16th.**

**\*6:30 PM**

**\*SAA Foods Lab**

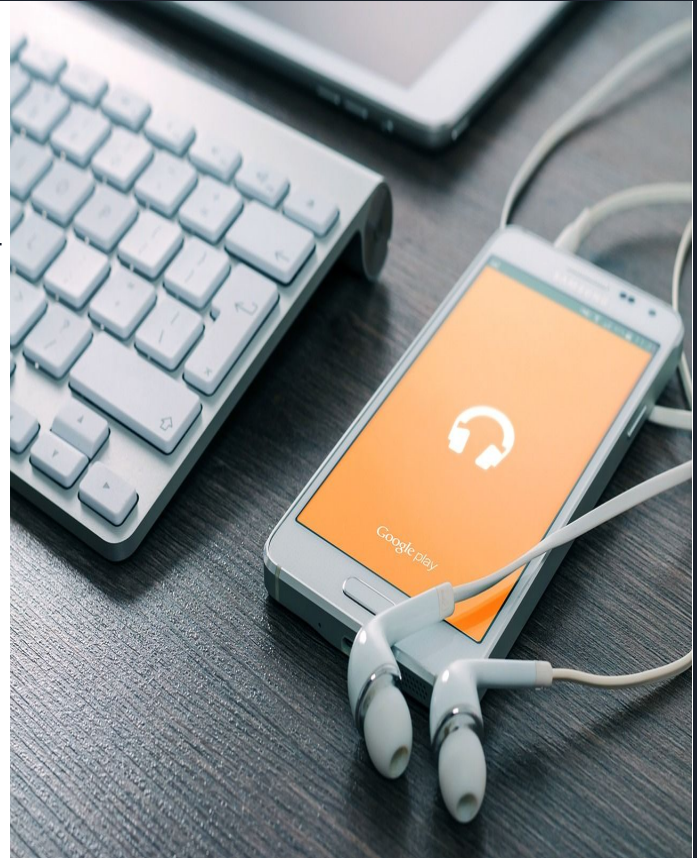
**\*Elections for positions**

**\*Excellent way to get involved with the school**

# Electronic Devices

For the 2025-2026 school year, we wanted to let all families know that devices will not be permitted at school for students in K-9. **Cell phones, smartwatches, air pods, etc. will not be allowed even during break times.** In conversations with our School Council and with legislation supporting not using non essential device use in schools, we feel this is the best decision for our students.

Please note there are exceptions as we understand some students use their device for medical and safety reasons. Additionally, we are also still a bring your device to school (chromebook) for learning purposes so please still bring those. Everything else however will be off limits for the 2025-2026 school year. Thanks for your support!





# **Class Configurations**

**Dear Parents and Guardians,**

**Class lists have been carefully finalized and are now in place for the year ahead. We know families place great trust in us, and we want to reassure you that staff have thoughtfully considered many factors in creating balanced and supportive learning environments for all students. With this in mind, class placements will remain as assigned.**


# Chargers Cheer Tryouts

The Chargers team is built up of Grades 7-9 students from VJM, Fowler, Grades 6-9 from ESSMY, and Sister Alphonse Academy. Depending on the number of athletes who try-out, the Chargers will have two separate teams this season! We are hoping to run an Intermediate and a Median cheer team! Both teams will run simultaneously at SACHS. Athletes will be expected to try-out as one large group from September 8 until October 8 with team placements on October 15. Parent emails will go home prior to the end of practice on October 15 with regards to their athletes placement.

Tryouts will be in SACHS Small Gym, Starting Sept. 8th and 10th  
Practice days will be MONDAY and WEDNESDAY 6-8pm

Should you have any questions please contact Leanne Oake  
[loake@gsacrd.ab.ca](mailto:loake@gsacrd.ab.ca)

Please use the following link if you are interested:  
<https://forms.gle/8RkXVPnsT74XDuvb9>



**CHARGERS**

**Who Can Join?**

École Secondaire Sainte Marguerite d'Youville Grades 6-9	Richard S. Fowler Grades 7-9	Vincent J. Maloney Grades 7-9	Sister Alphonse Academy Grades 6-9
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**CHEER**

**Go to**  
**@chargerscheerteam**  
**for more information to**  
**sign up!**

**When & Where?**

September 8 6:00-8:00 PM  
St. Albert Catholic  
High School Small Gym



## Spirit Days - Knights Wear

**Every Thursday will be Spirit Days where students and staff wear their Knights apparel to show our school spirit. Please remember that that we will have some t-shirts available for purchase at the welcome back BBQ. We will also be doing our fall clothing order so families can purchase additional items if they want.**

**If you do not have any SAA apparel and are not wanting to purchase anything, please feel free to wear blue if you want to participate in the day.**

**GO KNIGHTS!!!!**



## Grade 6 & 9 Immunizations

Monday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025- grade 6  
first doses

Monday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026- grade 9

Monday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026- grade 6  
second doses and grade 9 students  
who may have missed their  
immunizations on January 12<sup>th</sup>,





# SNACK SHACK IS NOW OPEN!

On Tuesday September 2nd, Snack Shack will officially open for students to purchase items. Until we can get Snack Shack cards and fees uploaded, we can only do cash sales. If you have a snack shack card from last year, those are still good to use.

Please note that we also do special food specials intermittently throughout the year. We will let our families know when those come up. Prices range from \$2-\$4

Items Available:	Price:
Gatorade/Ice Drinks	\$2.00
Water	\$1.00
Bubly	\$1.00
Muffins	\$2.00
Cookies	\$1.00
Small Chips/Pringles	\$1.00
Hot Rods	\$1.00
Pizza Pops	\$1.00
Rice Krispie Squares	\$0.50
Welch's Fruit Snacks	\$0.50
Chocolate Milk	\$1.50
Cup of Noodles	\$2.00
Ice Cream/Freezies	\$1.00



# September Dates

**September 2- First day of classes (Grades 1-9)**

**Kindergarten Only (A-M)**

**September 3- Kindergarten Only (N-Z)**

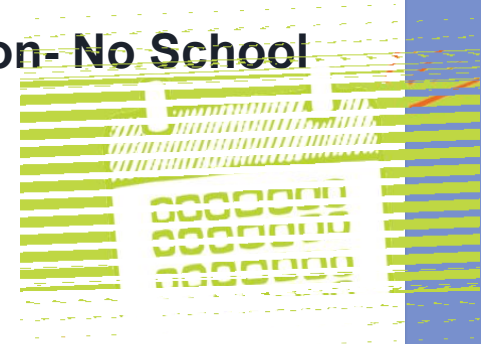
**September 18- Opening Mass @ St. Albert Parish 9:30**

**September 19- PD Day**

**September 23- Picture Day**

**September 27- Gr. 7 Faith Rally**

**September 30- National Day for Truth and Reconciliation- No School**



# Stay Connected

<https://www.saa.gsacrd.ab.ca/> (Sister Alphonse Academy)

<https://www.gsacrd.ab.ca/> (GSACRD)

<https://stalbert.caedm.ca/> (St. Albert Parish)

<https://twitter.com/KnightsCommons> (SAA Learning Commons)

Don't forget to look for us on Facebook and Instagram!

Also, please join our SAA Parent Facebook Page.

<https://m.facebook.com/groups/1024072471126540/?ref=share&mibextid=S66qvF>

