



# St. Michael's School

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March 27, 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope and pray that all our school families are continuing to do well and that everyone is healthy.

As I mentioned in the bulletin sent home via email on March 25<sup>th</sup>, the Ministry of Education (MoE) and the Superintendent's Office of CISVA are providing ongoing guidance as to what the expectations are regarding the resumption of learning once Spring Break ends.

Because in-classroom learning has been suspended in the province, how schools are to deliver education will take on some new forms and approaches. Our staff is already working to anticipate the changes needed to ensure the continuity of learning for your child in order to put a comprehensive plan together. We hope to provide more details to families by April 3, 2020.

Today, the MoE is set to release an *Integrated Planning Framework* which will provide further support and direction of our school's plan. These directives will also include information on how services and supports are to be provided to students. Our teachers will need some time to digest this framework and will put it into practice as soon as possible.

**Special Note: For Essential Service Workers** (health care workers and emergency responders) If you have unaddressed childcare needs, please contact me directly at [cmeisl@smeschool.ca](mailto:cmeisl@smeschool.ca).

In a separate attachment, you will find a very helpful set of *Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on Continuity of Learning* released by the Ministry of Education.

The following questions and answers may also be helpful to you:

**1). How will teaching and learning take place when in-class instruction has been suspended?**

Learning for your child will be delivered in a variety of ways. We recognize that the methods used will need to be age appropriate, and our teachers are working to ensure this for our students.

It will take time to work this out, and we ask for your patience and understanding as we work through the logistics of how this will occur. The goal is not to replace the classroom experience, but to provide the best possible learning under these circumstances. We do not want learning to become a source of stress and conflict in the home and recognize that striking the right balance will take some time. Ultimately, it will be up to parents to

determine when and how much work can be accomplished each day. This is an opportunity for all of us to work together to support our students.

## **2). What materials and equipment will students use?**

Individual classroom teachers will provide more details directly to their parents. Besides basic school supplies, we are hoping that students will have access to a device (i.e. tablet, laptop or desk computer) and to an internet connection. Please note that teachers will be sensitive to the fact that each student may not have access to a device all day every day. The classroom teachers will find a way around this for their students.

## **3). How do we collect our child's personal items from school?**

Prior to the start of Spring Break, all students emptied their desk and took home all their belongings, including cloak room items. However, individual classroom teachers may decide that their students need other materials from school. In this event, and depending on current Ministry of Health protocols, we will make up a schedule so that these items can be safely picked up.

## **4.) Will students who receive learning support at school continue to receive support at home?**

Our LRC and classroom teachers are still working through this area, and we hope to provide more information next week. Please refer to the *FAQ on Continuity of Learning* (see section 2).

## **5). When can I expect to be contacted by my child's teacher?**

All classroom teachers have already sent a short message to their students' parents. Classroom teachers will be in contact with families again early next week.

## **6). Will tuition be waived?**

The Ministry of Education has been clear that while in-classroom learning has been suspended student learning continues. Our goal is to ensure that this takes place in as seamless a way as possible recognizing the challenges this presents for all concerned – parents, student and staff. We will continue to charge tuition to meet our financial obligations to staff and suppliers.

If your financial circumstances have changed significantly as a result of COVID 19 and you are unable to pay your tuition, please write to Father Rossi and me. Father Rossi's email is [aldemar@shaw.ca](mailto:aldemar@shaw.ca) and mine is [cmeisl@smeschool.ca](mailto:cmeisl@smeschool.ca). We will work with you on an appropriate plan to defer whole or in part. We are here to help. We do not want anyone to withdraw from the school should they be unable to pay tuition.

Note: If you need to make such a request, please email **before April 1, 2020**, otherwise tuition payments will be processed on April 3, 2020.

## 7). What can I be doing now?

i.) Keep yourself and your family healthy by following all Ministry of Health Directives which include:

- Washing your hands is the most important thing you can do to prevent infection. Wash with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If a sink is not available, alcohol-based rubs can be used to clean your hands as long as they are not visibly soiled.
- Do not touch your face, eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a disposable tissue or the crease of your elbow when you sneeze or cough.
- Regularly clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.
- Do not share food, drinks, utensils, etc.
- Try to stay at home as much as possible to avoid contact with others.
- Minimize your contact with others through physical distancing by keeping two metres apart when outside your home.
- Wear a mask if you are sick to prevent transmission to other people. A mask will help keep a person's droplets in.

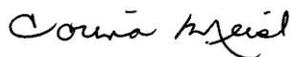
ii.) If you have spare non-perishable food items which you can donate to those less fortunate, please bring these to St. Michael's Church and leave them in the box at the back. The church is open from 7 am until 7 pm.

iii.) If you have access to any Protected Personal Equipment (PPE) such as surgical masks (N95 or N100), latex free disposable gloves of any size, or medical gowns, please let me know asap. I will put you in contact with one of our parents to arrange for pickup/drop off, and then these will be given to health care professionals in need.

iv.) While maintaining social distancing, please stay connected with each other; reach out to those who are elderly, those in need, and those who are housebound or lonely. Finally, try and pray together as a family. Invite your children to offer their personal prayer petitions. Our parish prayer to our patron, St. Michael the Archangel, is also very powerful. We know that prayers can work miracles!

Should you have any further questions, please feel free to email me ([cmeisl@smeschool.ca](mailto:cmeisl@smeschool.ca)), and I will try and answer these for you.

Sincerely,



Corina Meisl  
Acting Principal

### **PRAYER TO ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL**

St. Michael the Archangel defend us in battle.  
Be our defense against the wickedness  
and snares of the devil.  
May God rebuke him, we humbly pray,  
and do thou, o Prince of the heavenly hosts,  
by the power of God,  
thrust into hell Satan and all the evil spirits,  
who prowl about the world  
seeking the ruin of souls.  
Amen