



ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGIATE

HOME OF THE KNIGHTS SINCE 1960

Wednesday, May 20th, 2020

Dear STMC Students and Parents,

I hope and pray that each one of you – and all whom you hold near and dear – are well and in good spirits! I am truly grateful to ply my craft and serve in a faith and learning community where the mantra of **care, comfort, and compassion** has shaped our response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. I am also incredibly appreciative for the steadfast support and the unbelievable patience that our entire school community has shown since we pivoted from face-to-face learning to our STMC Remote Teaching & e-Learning Plan on March 30th, 2020. During these unprecedented and trying times, this was no small feat. Thank you!

As you have likely heard, Premier Horgan, Education Minister Fleming and Public Health Officer Dr. Henry, shared details about what a Phased Re-Opening of Schools could look like for the remaining two-weeks of our school year. The health and safety of all will continue to be our top priority.

Depending on the risk of transmission, the Government is recommending the following for high schools:

- *Students in grades 8-12 have the option to go to school about one day a week
(To a maximum of 20% of school population onsite on any given day)*
- *Families that decide not to send their daughter/son to school will continue learning from home*

After very thoughtful deliberation, we have determined that our instructional plan for the final two-weeks of school in June (June 1-12, 2020) will be to keep our STMC Remote Teaching & e-Learning Plan as the primary platform for instruction.

Our entire STMC school community did a phenomenal job of adapting quickly to ensure continuity of learning for our young Knights. Given that only four classes for each subject remain *after* May 31st, 2020, as well as the huge investment of sweat equity by our staff to design and implement it, it is a plan that we want to see through to its completion. Moreover, we have the utmost confidence, based on feedback from students and parents that our Remote Teaching & e-Learning is working for the majority of our students. There will likely be some exceptions to this model, but this will involve conversations with the students and the parents of those who we currently deem to be most *at-risk* of not passing certain courses. Students in Grade 8 through Grade 12, who we have identified as requiring additional support or instruction, will be contacted to come into the school to complete their remaining work.

Apart from those who we will be asking to come back and work onsite, we estimate that we will be able to accommodate approximately 15% of our students at each grade level on June 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, and 12. Everyone at STMC understands that a decision to send your daughter/son to school is voluntary and will vary family to family. We are committed to doing all that we can to maintain safety for your daughter/son and our staff. Every health and safety measure advised by the Provincial Health Officer – from hand hygiene, maximizing physical distance, enhanced cleaning and much more – will be strictly adhered to in the dedicated spaces that we will set up throughout the building.



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Please Note: If students choose to return to campus, they will continue with their online e-learning, while supervised in a safe manner that follows strict health and safety protocols.

We ask all parents to complete the attached survey by Monday, May 25th, 2020 to notify the school of your intention to either allow your daughter/son to return to campus as per Government's guidelines or to have them complete the 2019-2020 school year from home.

Based on the responses that we receive from the STMC & COVID-19 Phased School Re-Opening Plan Parent Survey ([link](#)), as well as more detailed information from the Provincial Health Officer and the Ministry of Education, we will be following up with additional on-campus health and safety protocols and instructions before Friday, May 29th, 2020.

As I indicated in our communication on May 11th, 2020 to students and parents we are still developing a plan for students – by Grade... in batches of 30 – to enter the school at specified times during the Week of June 15-19 in order for students to clean out their lockers and return any/all learning resources/uniforms/STMC equipment that they have been assigned. More details to follow!

God Bless & Kind Regards!
Steve Garland
Principal – STMC

Care + Comfort + Compassion

Continuing our work to connect Heads & Hearts...

Grounding all of our work in that which fills our soul and gives meaning to our work as a community...