



# ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGIATE

HOME OF THE KNIGHTS SINCE 1960

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Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Dear STMC Students and Parents,

First, I would like to wish all of our STMC mothers a belated Happy Mother's Day! Truly hope that you were able to enjoy this special day with your family... as a family!

Today marks the beginning of our seventh week of our Remote Teaching & e-Learning Plan. I am incredibly grateful to everyone – our entire staff, all of our students, and our parents – for the ongoing **care, comfort, and compassion** that we have collectively shown each other during these unprecedented times.

While we were able to pivot to an online format with relative ease, this is most definitely not the world any of us want. Nor is it at all an ideal long-term solution to replace the effectiveness of face-to-face learning. That said, with only five weeks of course work remaining until our last day of classes June 12... and with no substantive changes expected in a return to in-school learning on the horizon... we are moving ahead with the expectation and planning that we will be utilizing this format for the duration of this final term. 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 successfully passing certain courses.

Please be advised: We are 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. Our Grade 12s will also be asked to return their STMC issued Chromebooks when they come into the school to clean out their lockers and return any/all learning resources/uniforms/STMC equipment that they have been assigned.

A few updates as we begin week seven of our Remote Teaching & e-Learning Plan...

## Upcoming Masses & Community Celebrations (Livestreamed Events)

- **Mother's Day Mass: Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 12:30pm** – STMC Alum, Father Gary Franken will be the celebrant. We are still waiting for the link for Mass this Wednesday. **Please stay posted! We hope to have it to you shortly!**
- **Graduation '20 Mass: Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup> @ (Time TBA)** – Father Jack Herklotz, the pastor at St. Peter's in New Westminster will be the celebrant for the Graduation '20 Mass.
- **STMC Night of Knights: Wednesday June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020** – This is our annual celebration of student contribution to our school and community...

## Founders' Day: Tuesday, May 19, 2020

This date was already in our calendar. We typically split the difference in terms of a date to honour and recognize the respective Feast Day of our founder and namesake – Blessed Edmund (May 5) and St. Thomas More (June 22). **There will be NO online classes on Tuesday, May 19, 2020. We have asked staff to NOT assign work to our students to complete on this day as it is a feast day that will be celebrated by all in our community.**



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## UPDATE: Graduation 2020 Celebrations

Discussions/planning on this front continue daily! The gathering restrictions of no more than 50 are seriously impeding our plans, but please know that we are working tirelessly on options that will allow us to properly fete our graduating Grade 12s while staying within the limit of numbers. A separate email to all Grade 12s and their parents will be out before the end of the week .

### Grad Ceremonies

What we are currently working on is a combination of 'live' in-person and online elements to our Graduation Ceremonies for this year. Our current plan involves Grads being able to have photos taken in the Graduation Dinner-Dance outfit before donning their Cap & Gown and walking the stage to receive their STMC Graduation Certificate. Students will then exit the stage and have a photo taken with their immediate family. All of this will take place here at STMC on **Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup> or Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup>**. Working with our videography and photo companies to nail down the exact day and times. Please bear with us – we are trying to coordinate with teams of professionals whose services are massively in demand at this time.

The full video of all of the Grads crossing the stage – complete with the opening remarks from the President and the Board Chair, a brief address by the Principal, as well as the Valedictory Address – will be made and aired on our original **Grad Ceremony** date of **Wednesday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020**. A 'livestream' portion on the evening June 24<sup>th</sup> will be used to announce our Gr. 12 scholarship and major award winners for 2019-2020.

### Grad Dinner-Dance & Dry-Grad

We have reserved four additional dates with the Vancouver Hotel for our Grad 2020 Dinner-Dance: July 10; July 17; August 21; and August 29, 2020. While we acknowledge that this event, as well as the Dry-Grad event hosted by our Parents' Association that is part of this evening of celebration, will not be able to happen until there is a lift on the gather restrictions by the BC Public Health Officer and the Minister of Health... Please know that the school is fully committed to hosting a gather to fete the STMC Graduates of 2020 at a future date – at a time when we are able to do so!

### Additional Grad 2020 Events/Activities

Stay tuned! Even during this period of isolation and physical distancing we are looking at creative ways to celebrate of Grads of 2020! You just never know who might show us at your door in the weeks ahead 😊!

### Mental Health & Wellness Updates

The latest installment of our **Wellness Break (Episode 5)** presentation, **Box Breathing**, can be viewed using the following ([link](#)).

Our Personal Counsellors would also like to remind to our students that if they would like to schedule a time to chat with our personal counsellors – Mr. DeLazzari, Mrs. De Lazzari, and Ms. Danielle Lowe – that you please send them an email ([steve.delazzari@stmc.bc.ca](mailto:steve.delazzari@stmc.bc.ca) ; [patricia.delazzari@stmc.bc.ca](mailto:patricia.delazzari@stmc.bc.ca) ; [danielle.lowe@stmc.bc.ca](mailto:danielle.lowe@stmc.bc.ca) ). If you have



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any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact any of our counsellors at the emails listed above - Parents too!

Finally, as I have asked in each of my communiques I ask that you pray for the continued good health of our Christian Brothers – Bros. Bassett, Cass, and O’Neil – as well as everyone associated with our St. Thomas More family!

God Bless & Kind Regards to all!

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...