



ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGIATE

HOME OF THE KNIGHTS SINCE 1960

Friday, September 4th, 2020

Dear STMC Students & Parents,

I continue to marvel at the commitment and dedication of our STMC staff and I am deeply indebted to each and every one of them for the work that they have put in over the last number of weeks readying our school for the arrival of our students later next week. I repeatedly remind myself that – through God's good graces – *I am a blessed man... who (indeed) lives a blessed life*. This mantra not only applies to my personal life, but it also extends to my work world because of the people I am blessed to work and learn with... and alongside. As a school grounded in the notion of Servant Leadership, we honestly do not need to look far for outstanding examples or for inspiration.

IMPORTANT: School Start-Up Orientations **[Thursday, Sept. 10th & Friday, Sept. 11, 2020]**

We have two more days as a staff – on Tuesday and Wednesday next week – to continue our preparations for the arrival of our students beginning with the students from the **MORE Family** of Houses (**Canterbury, London, & Oxford**) on **Thursday, September 10th**, 2020. The **RICE Family** of Houses (**Dublin, Limerick, & Waterford**) will go through their Start-Up Orientation on **Friday, September 11th**, 2020.

Thursday, September 10th, 2020 – MORE FAMILY of Houses

- **All** Gr. 8-12 **More Family** students (**Canterbury, London, & Oxford**) are asked to arrive at the school between **9:00-9:15am** next Thursday morning.
- Upon arrival we will ask all students to entry the school from the **Main Entrance**.
- As per our **Updated STMC COVID-19 School Safety Plan** ([link](#)), all students will be required
 - to wear a non-medical facemask once entering the building and continue to wear it while in all common areas (e.g. hallways);
 - sanitize their hands;
 - and, report directly to their **A-Block** class. [All student schedules are now available via the student and parent portals of PowerSchool. An electronic copy of each student's 2020-2021 schedule will also be sent out via email before the end of the day next Wednesday.]
- **Format of the Start-Up Orientation**
 - After a quick attendance by A-Block Teachers, there will be a **Opening Assembly LIVESTREAMED** to classrooms that will allow us to take students through **all** of the new protocols and the procedures that every single one of us will need to adhere to this year.
 - The Students will then go through the ENTIRE sequence of their schedule – both Day 1 & Day 2 classes (A-H).
 - **A-Block & Opening Assembly** – 9:30am – 10:10am
 - **B-Block** – 10:15am – 10:35am
 - **C-Block** – 10:40am – 11:00am
 - **D-Block** – 11:05am – 11:25am
 - **E-Block** – 11:35am – 11:55am
 - **F-Block** – 12Noon – 12:20pm
 - **G-Block** – 12:25pm – 12:45pm
 - **H-Block** – 12:50pm – 1:10pm
 - **Grade 8 Orientation & Lunch** (Led by Students' Council Executive) – 1:15-2:30pm



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[Grade 9-12s Dismissed @ 1:10pm]

- The day – as you might imagine - is quite compact. We recommend that ALL students bring a refillable water bottle and a snack. Grade 8s are asked to bring a bagged lunch from home. They will have an opportunity to eat their lunch as part of their Orientation after the completion of their A-H block rotation.

Friday, September 11th, 2020 – RICE FAMILY of Houses

- All Gr. 8-12 **RICE Family** students (**Dublin, Limerick, & Waterford**) are asked to arrive at the school between **9:00-9:15am** next Friday morning.
- Upon arrival we will ask all students to entry the school from the **Main Entrance**.
- As per our **Updated STMC COVID-19 School Safety Plan** ([link](#)), all students will be required
 - to wear a non-medical facemask once entering the building and continue to wear it while in all common areas (e.g. hallways);
 - sanitize their hands;
 - and report directly to their **A-Block** class. [All student schedules are now available via the student and parent portals of PowerSchool. An electronic copy of each student's 2020-2021 schedule will also be sent out via email before the end of the day next Wednesday.]
- **Format of the Start-Up Orientation**
 - After a quick attendance by A-Block Teachers, there will be a **Opening Assembly LIVESTREAMED** to classrooms that will allow us to take students through all of the new protocols and the procedures that every single one of us will need to adhere to this year.
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 - **G-Block** – 12:25pm – 12:45pm
 - **H-Block** – 12:50pm – 1:10pm
 - **Grade 8 Orientation & Lunch** (Led by Students' Council Executive) – 1:15-2:30pm
[Grade 9-12s Dismissed @ 1:10pm]
- The day – as you might imagine - is quite compact. We recommend that ALL students bring a refillable water bottle and a snack. Grade 8s are asked to bring a bagged lunch from home. They will have an opportunity to eat their lunch as part of their Orientation after the completion of their A-H block rotation.

Our first Minimester Day 1 rotation of classes will commence on Monday, September 14th, 2020 for all Grades 8s and for all MORE Family students. Please see the attached 2020-2021 Calendar. It identifies the rotation of Day 1/Day 2 classes by House, the various Adjusted Days throughout the year, as well as a number of other key calendared events. Our full STMC Google Calendar is available on our website: <https://stthomasmorecollegiate.ca/news-media/news-events/calendar/>



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IMPORTANT NOTE: While this marks the last of our series of four Start-Up Communications, please note that we will be sending out a number of important and actionable emails to our students and our families beginning next Tuesday.

These communiques will address a number of important topics including:

- Our Chromebook and Acceptable Use Policies
- Changes to our Updated School Safety Plan
- Daily Health Checks (Students) and Attendance Record changes for this year
- Changes in our Food Services in the Cafeteria.

Finally, as I have asked in each of my communiques to you since the start of the pandemic, I ask that you pray for the continued good health of our Christian Brothers – Bro. Ted Bassett, Bro. Owen Cassidy, and Bro. Hugh O’Neil – as well as for **everyone** associated with our St. Thomas More family!

Pax et Bonum!

Yours in Christ,
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...