*Proud member of the Saint Francis Family of Schools*

*“The Spirit of Excellence”*

**January 10, 2022 Update**

**Happy New Year**

Lord, You make all things new

You bring hope alive in our hearts

And cause our Spirits to be born again

Thank you for this new year

For all the potential it holds.

Come and kindle in us

A mighty flame

So that in our time, many will see the wonders of God

And live forever to praise Your glorious name.

Amen

- Author Unknown

**Happy New Year!!**

Good Morning Families. I hope all of you had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. As we move forward with 2022, I have added a few pieces of information to our weekly update so that you are aware of the changes in schedule for virtual learning and the return to in-person learning on January 17. I have re-attached the information about the daily screener that will be in place once we move back to in-person learning. Please make sure you complete the daily screener. Thank you.

I will continue to keep you informed of any changes through what could become daily updates. All the best to you and your family and I look forward to seeing you all very soon.

**Daily Covid Screener and New Screening - When returning to in-person**

Niagara Region Public Health mandated daily active screening for students and staff in schools and sites earlier this year. Last week, the government announced that it will now require daily active screening in schools.

Daily, active screening is a simple, effective way to protect those around you. By pausing to ask your child questions about their health - or by observing them for any symptoms of COVID-19 - you are doing an important service to your community. We know that mornings are busy in your home but urge you to please ensure that your child’s daily self-screener is completed as a part of your morning routine.

We are replicating the online screening tool into a hard copy format for families who have issues with technology. If you cannot do the screener online, please request a hard copy version for each child in the school and one will be provided to you. You will be required to send the signed paper to the school every day.

 As we need a record of students who have either completed the screener themselves (if old enough), or that a parent or guardian has completed it for them, you will no longer be able to defer to the government’s online screening tool.

Until now, we have relied on parents to complete the Niagara Catholic screening tool for their children and have sent reminder emails to parents and guardians when the screener is not completed. While many parents complete the screener when prompted, others have not submitted daily screening for their children at all times in the year. When schools reopen, parents who do not complete their child’s screener after receiving the email prompt will be called to pick up their child from school.

Parents who send their child to school when ill will be contacted to pick up their child from the isolation room and will be instructed to follow [public health guidance](https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/covid-19/pdf/child-with-symptoms.pdf) about when their child may return to school. *Please note that Niagara Region Public Health is in the process of updating information on their website based on last week’s announcement, so references to testing may be outdated. Please contact Public Health or your healthcare provider for further guidance.*

***This will be the practice moving forward, as we have a shared responsibility to do all we can to limit the spread of COVID in our schools.*** We thank you in advance for your cooperation in this very important public health issue.

**January 17 - Return to in-person**

We will be returning to in-person learning. I have indicated the expectation of completing the screener above. Furthermore, there will be a change in recess and cohorts. All classes will be cohorted at recess and only students from the same class will be playing together. The playground will be organized in order to accommodate this change.

**Food Days**

The first food day was scheduled for January 20. Please hold off on ordering food days until further notice. In the event that the virtual learning is extended, we will move food days to a later date.

**Daily Schedule - Remote Learning**

|   |   | Period |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 8:40 | 8:50 | Login to meeting link |
| 8:50 | 9:22 | 1 |
| 9:22 | 9:54 | 2 |
| 9:54 | 10:26 | 3 |
| 10:26 | 10:41 | Recess |
| 10:41 | 11:13 | 4 |
| 11:13 | 11:45 | 5 |
| 11:45 | 12:25 | Lunch |
| 12:25 | 12:57 | 6 |
| 12:57 | 1:30 | 7 |
| 1:30 | 1:45 | Recess |
| 1:45 | 2:50 | asynchronous |

All grades 1 - 8 will have 7 periods of 32 mins as seen in the schedule above. Kindergarten will have the first 5 periods plus 20 mins after lunch for follow-up and preparing for asynchronous learning.

**January Calendar**

I will post an updated January calendar later this week.