



# St. John XXIII Catholic School

125 Krieghoff Avenue, Unionville, ON., L3R 1V8  
905 - 477 - 3288



Good Afternoon Parents/Guardians,

Welcome back to school! The staff missed the students dearly and we can't wait to see everyone on the first day of school on Wednesday, September 8th. Please note that **you will be notified of your child's homeroom teacher on Tuesday, September 7th via SchoolMessenger.**

## **Please ensure that ALL students bring the following:**

1. **Mandatory Masks** (Grades 1-8). It is strongly encouraged for students in Kindergarten to also wear a mask;
2. **Paper bag or breathable cloth bag (best practice)** in which to store their mask during recess time;
3. **Unscented hand sanitizer**;
4. **Lunch and snacks for the full day.** There will be no hot lunch options offered to begin the school year. Parents are not permitted to drop off lunches at school;
5. **Refillable water bottle** to be used at our water filling stations;
6. **Personal tissues**;
7. **Indoor shoes.**

## **Before Arriving at School Routine:**

- Self-screening is required for all staff and students **every morning** before coming to school.
- Self screening involves: A daily self-assessment that must be conducted by all students (supported by parents). Please click on this [link](#) to access the self screening tool.

## **Reporting a Child's Absence:**

Please call the Safe Arrival System to report absences and lates before 8:55 a.m. Call 1-855-856-7862, go online at [go/schoolmessenger.ca](https://go.schoolmessenger.ca) or by using the School Messenger app on your smartphone. **Please have a pick up plan in place in the event that your child is not feeling well and needs to go home.**

## **Student Transportation:**

For those students eligible for bus transportation, you are able to access bus stop pick-up and delivery times using the "Find My Bus Stop" tool at [www.schoolbuscity.com](http://www.schoolbuscity.com). Student Transportation Services has developed a transportation specific COVID Safety Update to help answer commonly asked questions about transportation. You are encouraged to visit the following [link](#) and review bus procedures with your children. **Please note that students in**

**Grades 1-8 MUST wear a mask on the school bus.** Parents of students in FDK to Grade 2, please have a conversation with your child/children so they know if they are taking the bus on the first day of school.

### **First Day of School Procedures:**

You will be notified through email as to who your child's classroom teacher is on **Tuesday, September 7 via SchoolMessenger**. We kindly recommend that you drop your child off as close to the bell time (8:55 a.m) as possible on **Wednesday, September 8**. Parents will not be permitted to enter the school as per Public Health direction. Staff members will be in the school yard, within the school, and in the Kindergarten pen to help facilitate the direct entry plan. Please refer to "Entry and Exit Procedures" for information on how students will enter and exit the building.

*Note: In order to encourage a positive back-to-school transition, we are asking parents to prepare their child in advance letting them know that they will be saying a "goodbye" at the edge of the schoolyard and then going directly into the school.*

### **Entry Procedures:**

- **All students in Grades K-8 will have direct entry into their classrooms in the morning**
- All students are to make their way into the school yard and proceed to their entrance doors under the direction of staff who will be situated throughout the school yard. Signage will be posted on the exterior doors to assist students in finding their entrance door and classroom.
- The front door is not to be used for entry until after 8:55 a.m.
- Students are to be physically distant while making their way into the building.
- Students will enter the building in single file, following the directional arrows on the ground. Please note that staff members will also be in the building directing students to their homeroom classrooms.
- Hallways have directional arrows and signs to ensure proper flow and physical distancing.
- Staff and students will maintain physical distance as they enter, move through, and exit the building.
- Staff will accompany their class in and out of the building during entry, exit and recess routines.

### **Staggered Dismissal Procedures:**

- Students and Teachers from Kindergarten to Grade 3 **will begin their dismissal procedures at 3:15 p.m. (ten minutes prior to the end of the day)** for an orderly dismissal.
- **Parents of students from Grades 1-3 are permitted to enter the Primary school yard (east gate) to receive their children from the classroom teacher.** Parents are asked to maintain physical distancing (while wearing a mask) at all times while waiting.
- **Parents of students in Kindergarten** will pick up their children outside the pen area. The classroom teacher and DECE will facilitate the dismissal at that time. Parents are asked to maintain physical distancing at all times while waiting.
- **Students from Grades 4-8** will be dismissed at the regular dismissal bell (3:25 p.m.).
- Please note that **ALL bus students** will receive instructions on the first day with regards to their end of the day procedures.

### Recess:

Students are not required to wear masks outdoors; however, distancing will be encouraged between cohorts as much as possible. This year students will return to a full 40 minute outside lunch recess routine.

### Lunch Routines and Snacks:

Students will bring lunches and snacks with them every day. **Parents are not permitted to drop off lunches for students.** Students will eat their lunches at their own desks daily while being supervised by staff.

*Please note that students that go home for lunch are permitted to return in the afternoon.*

### Note: New Lunch and Recess Times

Start Time	Morning Recess	Lunch Begins	Lunch Ends	Afternoon Recess	Dismissal
8:55 a.m.	10:15 - 10:30 a.m.	11:50 a.m.	12:50 a.m.	2:10 - 2:25 p.m.	3:25 p.m.

### Washroom Routine (Please review with your child/ren):

- We use a “Post-It” note system for students going to the washroom. Students each have their own set of post-it notes to use when they go to the washroom, they will place a singular post-it in one of the 2 or 3 boxes (depending on the size of the washroom) located just outside of the washrooms on the wall. This serves as an alert for the number of occupants. After students are done, they recycle the post-it note (bins located outside of each washroom) before returning to class.
- Maximum capacity of students in the washrooms will be indicated outside the washroom entrance by a sign (either 2 or 3 depending on the size of the washroom).
- “Stand here” signs have been placed on the floor outside of the washroom.
- **Students must wash/sanitize their hands every time they leave and re-enter the classroom.**
- Once a student is finished using the washroom, they are to wash their hands with soap and water. In addition, a sanitizing station will be placed outside of each washroom.
- Every other stall and urinal will be closed off to ensure physical distancing.
- Hand dryers are turned off and cannot be used. Extra paper towels will be provided for washroom use.

### Visitors to the School:

- Until further notice, visitors are not to enter the school during hours of operation unless identified through a pre-arranged appointment.
- It is expected that parents first contact the school by telephone if assistance is required.
- Visitors will only be allowed to enter after they have read the self-assessment notification and have no outlined symptoms.

- Visitors will be admitted individually and they will remain in the school foyer standing on the designated floor decals.
- Upon entering the building, all visitors must sign in and sanitize their hands in the space between the two sets of doors.

**Personal Technology:**

**Students are permitted to bring their own devices (BYOD)** such as tablets, laptops and Chromebooks. NO cell phones or iPods are to be used as devices; however, personal devices may be brought to school once the appropriate permission forms have been signed. Please refrain from bringing personal devices on the first day of school. Further information will be provided by the classroom teacher during the first week of school. **Just a reminder, families who have borrowed devices during last year's distance learning (that have not yet been returned) are asked to return them on the first day of in person learning.**

Please take some time to review the current Re-Entry Plan. Please note that information in the plan will be updated if changes from York Region Public Health and the Ministry of Education necessitate an update. For the most current version of the Re-Entry Plan, please visit the Board website: <https://www.ycdsb.ca/reopening/>

Thank you to all families for your continued support, patience and understanding as we plan for a safe return to school. If there is any additional pertinent information prior to the start of school, it will be communicated to all parents/guardians via School Messenger.

Yours in Catholic Education,

Mr. C. D'Agostini  
Principal