



ST. PATRICK FINE ARTS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

September 2025

www.spfa.holyspirit.ab.ca
School/Newsletters/SPFA Newsletters

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Sunday gospel readings listed below:	1 Labour Day— school closed 	2 1st Day of School 	3 Spirit Day— "Sea of Green" 	4	5	6
7 <i>Luke 14:25-33</i>	8 1st Day of M/W Kindergarten 	9 1st Day of T/Thu Kindergarten	10	11	12	13
14 <i>John 3:13-17</i>	15	16	17	18 Opening Mass at St. Martha's Church Family Blessing / Meet the Teacher Night 6:00-7:30 School Council AGM @ 7:30 pm	19 	20
21 <i>Luke 16:1-13</i>	22	23 School Photos— Kindergarten & Div I 	24 School Photos— Kindergarten & Div II Div Board Meeting @ 3 pm	25 Terry Fox Run 	26 Orange Shirt Day 	27
TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION WEEK						
28 <i>Luke 16:19-31</i>	29 Professional Development Day — no school for students 	30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation — school closed				



ST. PATRICK FINE ARTS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

October 2025

www.spfa.holyspirit.ab.ca
School/Newsletters/SPFA Newsletters

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Sunday gospel readings listed below:			1	2 School Council Meeting @ 6:30 	3	4
5 <i>Luke 17:5-10</i>	6 Thanksgiving Liturgy 	7	8	9	10	11
12 <i>Luke 17:11-19</i>	13 Thanksgiving Day—school closed 	14 Spiritual Development Day—no school for students 	15 Divisional Collaboration Day—no school for students	16	17	18
19 <i>Luke 18:9-14</i>	20	21	22 Gr. 2 Reconciliation Retreat at St. Martha's 9:00-2:00 pm	23 Wear Blue for Catholic Education School Interviews 4:30-7:45 pm	24 School Interviews 12:00-3:15 pm 	25
CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK						
26 <i>Luke 18:9-14</i>	27 School Photo Retakes 	28	29 Divisional Board Meeting @ 3pm	30	31 Halloween 	



"SCARE AWAY HUNGER" Food Bank Drive—October 20th to 31st



September 2025

ST. PATRICK FINE ARTS

LEARN ACTIVELY - GROW SPIRITUALLY - LIVE CREATIVELY

www.spfa.holyspirit.ab.ca 403.327.4386

Facebook/Instagram: @spfaschool #hs4

Message from the Principal

Welcome back to a new school year! On behalf of all of our staff, I want to warmly welcome you and your children to a year of creativity, fun, growth and friendship! Already today, there is a lot of positive energy in the air and the kids (and adults) are all finding their way.

Please do what you can to keep up on school news and happenings - we don't want you to miss anything. Ensure you are signed up for School Messenger texts/e-mails and when it comes home, sign up for your child's Remind and Spaces accounts. Get the MyBusStop app if your kids ride the bus. This newsletter is sent out via e-mail, but can be printed if you prefer - you just have to ask! I know sometimes the number of things can be overwhelming, but we try to reach you in many ways to ensure you are in the loop.

As you know, there is some uncertainty around possible labour action from Alberta teachers this Fall as collective bargaining remains stalled. Please know that our board and school staffs are hopeful that a strike or lockout can be averted through meaningful bargaining talks and pray for all involved. Should school conditions change, information will be shared out with you ASAP. It is not a bad idea to explore childcare options in case schools close temporarily. The learning experience of your children is front of mind for everyone, and I am hopeful through whatever happens, the priority remains making education in Alberta as strong as possible.

Future dates of note so you don't book anything else:

Thursday, December 4 - Christmas Concert (all students performing)

Thursday, May 14 - Learning Through the Arts Festival (exhibits and live performances - all attend)

Spirit Dress Up Days through the year:

September 3 - Sea of Green

October 27 - Halloween Colours

October 31 - Halloween costume parade

November 17 - Career Day

December 15-19 - Spirit Week

January 14 - Beach Day

March 17 - Sea of Green

April 15 - Matching Day

May 6 - Hats on for Mental Health

June 10 - Creative Hair Day

As we 'Open Wide the Doors' of our hearts to Christ's love and to welcome all to the community of our church this year, your child will decide on one word to inspire their year. What might your word be that guides you through challenge, through joy or through faith? Share that with your child - they love knowing more about you and what makes you uniquely you, too.

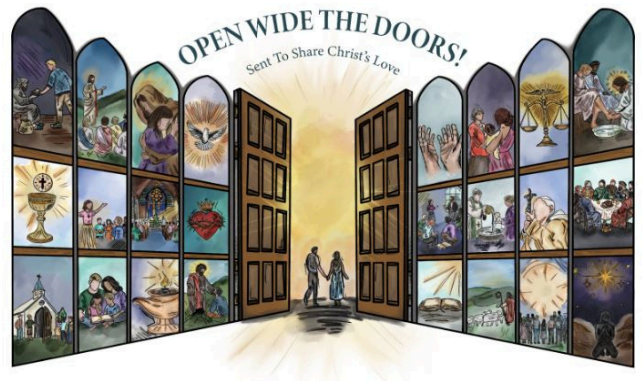
Blessings on a beautiful school year, creating great things together!

Mrs. Jones-Husch (Kathy)

Growing in Faith

The 2025-26 school year marks the beginning of our new three-year faith plan, “Open Wide the Doors! Sent to Share Christ’s Love”.

This year, we are called to “Know God” and will focus on walking humbly with Him. Our school is taking part in the One Word Project. Each student and staff member will choose one meaningful word to guide them in growing, showing kindness, and sharing God’s love.



Words are powerful; they shape how we think, act, and treat one another. By choosing a word, we are reminded that God made each of us special and that everyone matters. Together, our words will help us grow and shine as a school family.

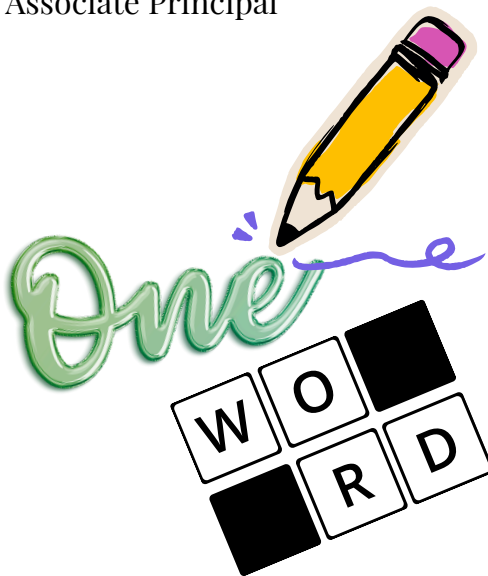
In our guiding scripture for the year, Matthew 11:29, Jesus says: “Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”

In this verse, Jesus invites us to bring Him our worries and struggles. When we follow His gentle guidance, we discover peace, comfort, and true rest for our hearts.

If you have any questions about faith in school or getting connected to a city parish, please call me!

May this school year be filled with faith, kindness, and joy. May our chosen words guide us each day, and may we find peace and strength in Jesus’ gentle love.

Carla Ferrari
Associate Principal



GROWING IN FAITH
GROWING IN CHRIST

Our School uses the *Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ* program for Religious Education!

Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ features a Student-Home Website with videos, songs, bible stories, prayers, interactive activities and more – all designed for students and families to explore their faith together.

Log in at:

Pearson Canada website

Grades: 1-8 available!

Username: holyspirit99

Password: Student99



2025 - 2026 St. Patrick Fine Arts School Staff

Mrs. Jones-Husch	Principal	Ms. Ferrari	Associate Principal
Mrs. Mabin	Grade 1	Miss Tarnava	Grade 1
Mrs. Forrest	Grade 2 & Music	Mrs. Pellerin	Grade 2
Miss Park	U of L PSIII Student	Mrs. Hernandez	Head Caretaker
Mrs. Balint	Grade 3	Mrs. Neufeld	Grade 3 & Dance
Mrs. Skretting	Grade 4 & Music	Mrs. Brydges	Grade 4
Mrs. Grisbrook (nee Duncan)	Grade 5	Ms. Miller	Grade 5 & French
Mrs. Davey	Grade 6	Mr. Lidstone	Grade 6
Mrs. Ward	Kindergarten	Ms. Turcotte	Library Clerk
Mrs. Stovel	Admin. Assistant	Mrs. Vanderburgh	Admin. Support
Miss Tymko	Ed. Assistant	Mrs. Pankoski	Ed. Assistant
Mrs. Tapang	Ed. Assistant	Mrs. Cahoon	Ed. Assistant
Mrs. Roos	K. Ed. Assistant	Mrs. Walters	Ed. Assistant

2025-2026 Bell Times

Grades 1 - 6

Monday to Thursday:

8:35 am entrance bell

11:43 am-12:28 pm lunch/recess

3:48 pm dismissal bell

Grades 1 - 6

Friday:

8:35 am entrance bell

9:59-10:14 am recess

11:30 am dismissal bell

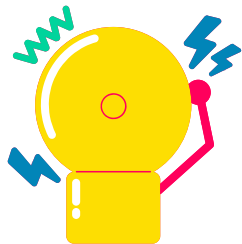
Kindergarten

Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday only:

8:35 am entrance bell

12:00-12:30 pm lunch

3:48 pm dismissal bell



Being regularly on time is a life skill that helps kids feel secure in their environment. If your child must be late for school, please contact the office at 403-327-4386 to excuse them and we'll welcome them upon arrival!

General Information - Please review fully

Newsletter Distribution- To be environmental stewards, we do not print newsletters except by request. You receive them as e-mails via the School Messenger app and they are posted online. If you have any e-mail address changes, please let us know.

School Fees - School fees will be attached to your School Cash Online account and are due on **October 1st**. Should you need to request that your fees be waived or have payment delayed, please contact the office.

School Access - during the day, only the front doors (field side) remain open. At all times, parents and guests must stop at the office to sign in. If you need to connect with your child, please come to the office and we are happy to help you out.

Bussing- There is no charge for bussing this year. Bus passes will be distributed once you have registered your child via your School Engage account. For any help, please call Mrs. Stovel (in the office) at 403-327-4386. Families are also encouraged to use Southland Transportation's GPS tracking service app, "[MyBusStop](#)," which provides real-time information about bus location, route stops, schedules, and possible delays. Known delays are also pushed out via the app and e-mail feature of School Messenger.

School Agendas - The school agenda helps the students to manage their time and organize their day. Inside the agenda, you will find our school handbook, Catholic knowledge, and some subject supports. Please take time to read all parts of the agenda as it will give you a great deal of information about your child's school.

Student Absences - If your child will not be attending school for any reason, please contact the office. You can call **403-327-4386** or email **spfaoffice@holyspirit.ab.ca**. A phone out begins mid-morning to let you know if your child is not accounted for.

Early Pickup -If you need to pick up your child early, please **come to the office to sign your child out** (do not go directly to the classroom). The office staff will call your child to the office. Signing your child out is a safety precaution and we appreciate your co-operation. Students **must be signed out** before they can leave the school.

Food Allergies - The school asks that **NO NUTS** come in for snacks and lunches. This request is designed to reduce the risk to students with severe allergies. Other high-risk allergies may be managed on a classroom by classroom basis and you may hear more from your child's teacher. Any questions around allergy policies can be directed to the Principal.

New Family Blessing, Meet the Teacher & School Council AGM - New families are invited to attend a blessing on Thursday, September 18th at 6:00 pm. All families are welcome to attend the open house to "Meet the Teacher" at 6:30 pm. Please stay for the School Council Annual General Meeting in the library.

General Information

Volunteer / Chaperone Registration - In order to ensure the security and safety of our staff and students, all volunteers, chaperones and student drivers in our schools need to be approved. This form must be completed at the start of each school year. The information collected on this form is held in strict confidence. Registration will be available online under Forms/Volunteer/Chaperone Registration. Please contact the office if you have any questions.

"Volunteer" means a parent or adult community member who provides support in the classroom/library or on a field trip but does not have supervision of students away from the teacher. Volunteers are never left alone with students. A criminal check and vulnerable sector search is not necessary to be a volunteer.

"Chaperone" means a parent or other adult community member who accompanies staff members on a field trip for the purposes of providing assistance in the supervision of students. A criminal check and vulnerable sector search must be uploaded at the time of registration with the school. Please contact the office for a volunteer letter to submit to the police station when requesting your check.

Student Handbook - The same handbook you see in your child's agenda is available online. It guides you through school routines, basic policies and practices important at St. Patrick Fine Arts School.

Choir News - The choirs will meet during the lunch recess (12:03-12:28 pm) in the Music Room. Div I Choir (for grades 1 to 3) will meet on Wednesdays starting September 10th. Div II choir will meet on Mondays and Thursdays starting September 8th. Please see the information sheet sent home for more details. These kids gain great musical skills and perform throughout the community many times per year. New students are always welcome and no experience is needed.

Lunch Requests - we do not provide microwaves for kids to warm up their food, so please send 'hot' food in insulated containers. It is best to also send a fork and/or spoon as needed so you can wash it at home. Reusable containers are always best, too - many lunch choices produce a lot of garbage waste! If your child brings juice boxes or yogurt drinks, they can bring their deposit containers home for recycling. Forgot your lunch? No worries - we have lunch items as well as healthy snack items for kids who forgot or who don't have enough to keep them going through the day.

Lost and Found - we keep a bin at the front door for lost items. Please label your child's coat, mitts, etc. so we can return them to you! Each year we donate many bags of lost and found that would be better back with its owners. You can pop in to check the bin anytime or ask in the office.

General Information

IMPORTANT SAFETY REMINDERS

- Outdoor school-provided supervision times are 8:25 am –8:38 and from 3:48 to about 4:00 pm. Buses leave at 3:55 sharp. Please consider this when dropping your child off or picking up. Talk to your child often about playground and road safety. If you need to drop your child off earlier, please consider BLAST— our before and after school child care partner. In inclement weather, students can come inside to keep warm and go to classes as early as 8:25.
- The drop off loop on the east side of the school is for drop off only! Please do not park your car in the loop as it significantly slows down the flow of movement for all and small bodies crossing the road in the loop are hard to see. Also, insist that your children get out on the sidewalk side of the car if possible to reduce risk of accidents.
- if you are coming in for a meeting or staying to play at the park after school, park on the street or nearby parking lots and walk over.
- We have 3 yellow buses this year, and they require enough space on Rivergreen Rd after school. Please park far enough away so they can pull in and out easily.
- Please do not park in the staff parking lot. We have several staff coming and going at different times and need parking access. Thanks for your understanding. The 2 accessible stalls require a permit for use at all times. Thank you!

PICKING UP CHILDREN AT DAY'S END

We ask that parents wait outside to pick up their children. That way, students can complete their end of day routines and the hallways do not become congested with students, staff, parents and younger siblings. It is amazing how quickly even the youngest students grow in their independence among peers! Grade One and Two teachers bring their classes out to ensure the kids connect with their parents, while older students generally know the family or bus routine and leave the school building on their own.

Don't forget that as your children get older, you can make plans for them to meet you (and the car) at an agreed upon spot further away from the school to reduce the heavy traffic.

If you wish to meet with your child's teacher after school, you can certainly do that. It is often best for you and the teacher to make plans in advance so that everyone can be prepared and focused on the meeting. Please come to the office first so we can help to get you connected.

Any visitors to the school for meetings or volunteerism must come in through the front door and sign in at the office before going elsewhere. We want to greet you and make sure you know where you are going. Thank you!

Names matter!

Please take a few minutes to write your child's name on the inside of jackets and shoes so lost items can be returned to them!

General Information

COMMUNICATING WITH SCHOOL STAFF

Parents and caregivers are invited to communicate openly with school staff as partners in learning. There are a few guidelines everyone needs to keep in mind to maintain a healthy relationship that encourages productive, solution-focused dialogue:

- follow the communication format outlined by the teacher. This year teachers will use the REMIND App for one or two way communication and all teachers can be reached by e-mail or by leaving a message for them at the office (403-327-4386). Even if you have a teacher's cell phone number, please do not text or call them there unless they have expressly asked for that.
- be patient in awaiting a response. During the school day, teachers are teaching and cannot be expected to respond to parent correspondence. 48 hours is a reasonable amount of time to expect an e-mail response. For work-life balance, our division follows a 'Right to Disconnect' policy that encourages staff to keep their work focus to the hours of 6 am to 6 pm Monday to Friday.
- if you would like to meet outside of parent-teacher interview times, please let the teacher know what you wish to discuss in advance. That helps you and the teacher be prepared to have the most productive conversation to support your child going forward.
- if you have concerns about your child's learning, please take them directly to the teacher. Everyone deserves a chance to speak for themselves instead of hearing things through the grapevine. Generally, administration will direct parents with learning concerns to the teachers. If necessary, the Principal can become involved after initial contact.
- aggressive, abusive or toxic language will not be tolerated and any meeting or call where this comes into play will stop immediately. Follow a 24-hour cooling off period to address a hot topic for the sake of all. Administration can be involved in any parent-teacher communication at either party's request, as well.

SPACES DIGITAL PORTFOLIO AND REPORTING TOOL - CHANGES THIS YEAR

This year IN GRADES 3-6, we will again be using the SpacesEDU digital platform (www.spacesedu.com) to share evidence of your child's learning. This is along with 2 mid-year report cards in November and March. A final Summary Report will be created in June, which is required by Alberta Education and valuable for you to understand what your child has achieved across 10 months of learning. The emphasis on Spaces posts is in student self-reflection about their own progress. More info on the format of Spaces will be coming to you soon, along with an invitation to join your child's class.

For Kindergarten to Grade 2, there are much fewer expectations for using Spaces, and teachers may decide to share some photos of what they've been up to. Again, more information about signing up for Spaces is coming out soon.

General Information

MASS ATTENDANCE AT ST. MARTHA'S PARISH (First is Thursday, September 18th)

We ask that parents of walking/driven children to **drop the students off at the church** no earlier than 8:25 am for whole-school masses. Students who ride the school bus will be taken directly to the church instead of school, and BLAST kids already at school and any other children here first thing for any reason will ride to church on 1 bus that stops here. All staff and students will take the bus back to the school after mass. Attending mass as part of a Catholic education is a rich experience for the kids and for you if you can come.

OUR SAFETY PATROL TEAM IS OUT THERE

We are again partnering with AMA to offer a safety patrol program open to students in grades 5 and 6. Formal training is required (over 1-2 lunches) and then schedules are built that suit the kids' activity schedules.

Our patrollers are proud to serve in the crosswalk. Please look for their stop signs and remember to look all ways going no more than 30 km/h in a school zone between 7:30 am and 9:00 pm daily.



PARK AND WALK OPTIONS

Did you know our school is linked to several smaller roads through the city park path system? A great way to have a daily visit, to get steps in and to enjoy nature is to 'Park and Walk' to and from school.

Check out this map suggesting great connected parking locations. The school is the grey building on the right side.

You don't have to live with the frustration of a busy pick up time if you take a few minutes to build a new plan with your child, especially if he or she is older and more independent.



School Council Update



Welcome Back, SPFA Families!

Welcome back to another amazing year as a St. Patrick's Family! We hope your summer was filled with fun and relaxation, and that you're ready to dive into all the opportunities this school year brings.

- **Did You Know?** Having a child at St. Pat's automatically makes you part of our School Council. Together, we ensure every SPFA student has a memorable year. Each month, we come together to advocate for students and staff, plan fundraising initiatives and organize social events.
- **Get Involved with School Council.** All SPFA parents are welcome—no experience necessary! If you can't attend but have creative ideas, please email us at: spfasc@holyspirit.ab.ca.
- **Annual General Meeting.** **Thursday, September 18 at 7:30 pm** in the school library. We'd love your voice and ideas! Join us as we report on 2024–2025 accomplishments as well as brainstorm events and fundraisers for 2025–2026.
- **Looking Ahead to 2025–2026.** With your support, we're planning community-building social nights and new fundraising campaigns for school resources. Stay tuned for detailed event dates in our next newsletter!
- **Questions or suggestions?** We're here for you. Reach out any time and let's make 2025–2026 the best year yet!

Becca Innes
SPFA School Council Chair

2025–2026 School Supplies

School Supply packages are still available for purchase from School Start at www.schoolstart.ca

Supply lists are also posted on our website under School / School Supplies and you can elect to purchase them wherever you wish to.



chromebook

ONE TO ONE INITIATIVE FOR GRADE 4, 5 and 6 STUDENTS

Google at St. Patrick Fine Arts Elementary

St. Patrick Fine Arts staff have been embracing the learning and creation possibilities that Google Suite has afforded our students. For this year, to continue in this direction, we are inviting students in grades 4, 5 and 6 to bring their own devices. This option will allow for more exploring, creating and sharing learning. This is totally optional, but may be a good fit for you.

Acceptable Devices

Although many students have access to iPods, iPhones, and Android phones, those do not meet the necessary requirements as acceptable learning devices. We also recognize that not all parents will send their child to school with a device. Teachers will continue to plan assuming that not every student will bring a personally owned device to school, but we are still moving toward having less of an ecological footprint (i.e. less paper usage). As it is now, school-owned devices will be available for students to use while at school when needed.



One to One Benefits

Education today requires students to have a readiness to thrive in a complex, global, and tech-rich society. The introduction of a one to one program in other schools has shown student growth in a number of areas including technology literacy, independent learning, greater collaboration and engagement in deeper learning. Most recently, with the necessity for online learning, our students grew their skills even faster. With the introduction of a one to one Chromebook program, students will have more opportunities to take part in critical thinking activities, communication and ethical use activities.

In order to proceed with a one to one initiative in the most effective way, students need to have the technology 'in hand' in their classrooms. Therefore, we are inviting grade 4, 5 and 6 parents at St. Patrick Fine Arts to consider purchasing an acceptable device for their child for this school year. We are confident that this route will increase our students' access to technology for rich learning. **This is totally optional.**

Unfortunately, there is no purchase plan through the division, but there are many price options in stores.

Why One to One now?

Personalized learning experiences are important to us, and with ongoing access to a robust device, students are empowered to communicate with peers and experts, work collaboratively, research and use data to solve complex problems, and create freely, using a



Acceptable Devices, continued

You may want to provide a different device than a Chromebook. You might consider a laptop with Apple OS or Windows OS. Ex: Apple, Samsung, Acer, Sony, Windows, Lenovo.

-Must have Chrome downloaded as that will be the primary platform used

-Screen must be at least 9.7"

- cellular phones are not acceptable devices for rich learning and are not permitted in St. Patrick Fine Arts classrooms, on our playground, or on our buses.

- iPads or other tablets are not robust since they lack separate keyboards, have small screens, and may not support all of the programs students will use.

Guiding Documents

- Acceptable Use Agreement
- Use of Personal Device Agreement

Have questions? e-mail
Mrs. Jones-Husch
(jonesk@holyspirit.ab.ca)
anytime.

wide range of available resources. It is important for our older students to learn to use various platforms and to hone their typing skills. They complete provincial grade 6 exams on Chromebooks and will use them quite frequently for school beyond grade 6.

This does not take away from equally important learning using one's hands (ie. printing/writing/drawing/physical activity) and interacting in real time with one another. Those aspects of a quality school experience are vital and not going anywhere. Also, students will not be on their screens all day long. Technology use must be a tool to enhance learning and is not a substitute for thoughtful teaching.

Why choose a Chromebook?

When considering a one to one initiative, we want to see students with devices that are affordable and **robust**. A robust device works reliably, has a separate keyboard and sufficient battery life for a school day. It can also be managed easily by students, teachers and parents. Chromebooks meet all these needs. Chromebooks require a secure Google login, store almost everything in the cloud, and allow for additional extensions and apps to meet students' personal learning needs. They are much less expensive than most laptops, and are normally lighter, too. For smooth results with wi-fi, a device no older than 3 years is best.

Managing your own Chromebook

With a personal device, the student will work in their division Google account (username@holyspirit.ab.ca) to download necessary apps to complete coursework and the student will be responsible for all aspects of the computer. By using their division Google account, website monitoring and file access/security are included. No hardware service nor tech support is available through the division, though, and the device must go home daily for continued studies and charging. A padded carry case for safe storage while not in use is also wise to avoid unnecessary damage.

Digital Citizenship Lessons Included

To support your and your child's journey through greater technology use at St. Patrick Fine Arts, lessons in Digital Citizenship will be delivered early and often and shared with you at home so that you, too, can adopt the language of Christian safety, responsibility, and courtesy appropriate for elementary-aged students. We want the kids to be successful in their life learning with this technology!



Welcome to St. Martha's Parish Registration for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist (Grade 2 and up)

Registration for First Reconciliation and Confirmation is now open! Classes for First Reconciliation will begin in October 2025. Confirmation classes will begin in early 2026. **Registration forms are available online.**
Please send in your completed forms as soon as possible.

How can we help your family on your faith journey? If you are looking for answers about Sacramental prep, please contact Zachory Hampton at 403-381-8891 or sacraments@stmarthasparish.ca.



Notices

Please visit the school website for any **Community Notices** under Newsletters / Community Notices.

This month's postings include:

- Lethbridge Public Library / Word on the Street
- Lethbridge Cougars Basketball Club
- Lethbridge Badminton Club
- Lethbridge Volleyball Club
- LFC / Lethbridge Soccer Association

A big **thank you** to Bryce and his team at **Cloverdale Paint Inc.** for supplying paint sticks. These sticks are used in the library as bookshelf markers. This is most helpful to our librarian, Ms. Turcotte, as it reduces the number of books that are placed in the wrong spot!



OUR SOUTHLAND RIDERS CAN USE...

MyBusStop



REAL-TIME SCHOOL BUS TRACKING FOR:

- ROUTE STOPS
- ROUTE SCHEDULES
- TRAFFIC
- BUS LOCATION
- BUS PROGRESS
- POSSIBLE DELAYS

ST. PATRICK FINE ARTS SCHOOL'S CODE:

contact the office

For more information, visit: www.holyspirit.ab.ca/transportation/mybusstopapp

All students (including siblings) **must** be registered via School Engage to ride the bus. Please contact the office if you have any questions regarding the Transportation Registration Form.

ST PATRICK FINE ARTS SCHOOL 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

Aug 25 First day for staff
Aug 29 Opening Mass
O – 5
I – 0

AUGUST '25						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

SEPTEMBER '25						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Sept 1 Labour Day Sept 2 First day for students Sept 24 Div. Board Meeting Sept 29 Div. PD Day Sept 30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
O – 20 (25)
I – 19 (19)

Oct 13 Thanksgiving Day Oct 14 Spiritual Dev. Day Oct 15 Div. Collaboration Day Oct 29 Div. Board Meeting
O – 22 (47)
I – 20 (39)

OCTOBER '25						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

NOVEMBER '25						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Nov 3 School PD Day Nov 10 Wellness Day Nov 11 Remembrance Day Nov 26 Div. Board Meeting
O – 18 (65)
I – 17 (56)

Dec 17 Div. Board Meeting Dec 19 Last day before break Dec 20-31 Christmas break Dec 25 Christmas Day Dec 26 Boxing Day
O – 15 (80)
I – 15 (71)

DECEMBER '25						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

JANUARY '26						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Jan 1 New Year's Day Jan 2-4 Christmas break Jan 5 First day after break Jan 26 School PD Day Jan 28 Div. Board Meeting
O – 20 (100)
I – 19 (90)

Feb 16 Family Day Feb 17 & 18 Non-operational Days Feb 19 & 20 SWATCA Feb 25 Div. Board Meeting
O – 17 (117)
I – 15 (105)

FEBRUARY '26						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

MARCH '26						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Mar 13 Div. Collab Day Mar 25 Div. Board Meeting
O – 22 (139)
I – 21 (126)

Apr 2 Last day before Easter break Apr 3 Good Friday Apr 6 Easter Monday Apr 7-10 Easter break Apr 13 First day after break Apr 22 Div. Board Meeting
O – 16 (155)
I – 16 (142)

APRIL '26						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

MAY '26						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

May 18 Victoria Day May 19 School PD Day May 27 Div. Board Meeting
O – 20 (175)
I – 19 (161)

Jun 24 Div. Board Meeting Jun 25 Last day students Jun 26 Last day for teachers
O – 20 (195)
I – 19 (180)

JUNE '26						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

JULY '26						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

No students
Stat Holidays
School PD/Div. PD/Spiritual Dev./Collab. Days
Div. Board Meetings
First and last days for students
First and last days for teachers



Notice to Parent or Guardian of Religious Permeation

Section 58.1 of the *Education Act* requires a school board to give notice to a parent or guardian when courses of study, education programs, institutional materials, instruction or exercises include subject matter that deals primarily and explicitly with religion. All of the schools in this division are Catholic Separate Schools, the essential purpose of which is to fully permeate Catholic theology, philosophy, practices and beliefs, the principles of the Gospel and teachings of the Catholic Church, in all aspects of school life, including in the curriculum of every subject taught, both in and outside of formal religion classes, celebrations and exercises. Every course of study and educational program, all institutional materials, instruction and exercises will at all times include subject matter that deals primarily and explicitly with religion.



Fair Notice Letter

Dear Parents / Guardians,

The Holy Spirit Catholic School Division is committed to providing safe learning environments for all students, staff, school visitors and community members. When a student behaves inappropriately, principals use progressive discipline to help a student take responsibility for their actions, change their behavior and learn from their mistakes.

When students' behaviors pose a potential threat to safety or serious harm, the Southwest Alberta Regional Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) Protocol assists administrators in taking the necessary steps to protect the well-being of students and staff. This protocol ensures that schools can respond promptly to worrisome behaviors or threatening incidents, such as possession of a weapon or replica, bomb threats or plans, verbal, written, or electronic (internet, text) threats to harm oneself or others, as well as other acts of violence, including fire-setting.

The protocol requires trained division staff and community partners to work together as a team to complete an Assessment of Risk to Others (ARTO) whenever a student threatens to harm others. The ARTO process leverages the team's knowledge, skills, and experience to assess the level of concern and identify appropriate interventions to protect individuals from harm and ensure a safe environment in both the school and the community. A multi-disciplinary approach is used to address these concerns. Please be advised that the school team will take positive and proactive measures to address all known threats or high-risk behaviors. If you are invited to a meeting to discuss safety concerns about your child, please be assured that our protocol is being followed and that our primary goal is ensuring safety.

The Southwest Alberta Regional VTRA Protocol outlines how a school should respond immediately to threatening behavior. Principals may first assemble a School Threat Assessment Team, ideally comprising the principal or associate principal, a school-based counselor or jurisdictional lead, and local police. If the situation is serious, the principal may also consult the Superintendent of Schools and involve members of the Community Threat Assessment Team. This team may include representatives from local police, children's mental health organizations, or Child and Family Services, among other community agencies that collaborate with us to enhance school safety. Parents/guardians will be notified as soon as possible during the Stage I - VTRA Process. If parents/guardians cannot be reached, but a safety concern persists, the threat assessment may proceed. Personal information shared during this process will respect and balance each individual's right to privacy with the need to ensure everyone's safety.

This letter complies with procedure 2 of *Administrative Procedure 322: Violence Threat / Risk Assessment (V-TRA) Protocol*, which states that parents/ guardians will be provided with "fair notice" that each threat will be taken seriously. Should you wish to further review this Administrative Procedure, please visit our website at www.holyspirit.ab.ca.

If you have any questions regarding the Holy Spirit Catholic School Division's use of the Southwest Alberta Regional V-TRA Protocol, please contact the Director of Support Services at the St. Basil Catholic Education Centre. We appreciate your support in ensuring our schools are safe environments for our students, staff and community partners.

Sincerely,

Chantel Axani, Superintendent of Schools

Register for SchoolCash Online today

It's fast, easy&free

Create an account today so that you can be notified via email and pay for your child(ren)'s school activity fees online.

Why register?

- 24/7 shopping convenience
- Secure, contactless & easy-to-use
- Receive email notifications as new items are available for purchase
- Manage all of your child(ren)'s school activity fees from a single account
- Check your account history at any time
- View & print receipts as needed
- Eliminates the need for your child(ren) to carry cash

How to register

- Go to <https://holyspirit.schoolcashionline.com> and click **Register**.
 - o Enter your first name, last name, email address, and create a password
 - o Select a security question
 - o Select **Yes** to receive email notifications (note that you will not receive any promotional emails)
- You will receive a confirmation via email. Check your Spam folder if you don't receive it.
- Use your email address and password to log in to your account.

How to add children to your account

- Sign in to **SchoolCash Online**:
<https://holyspirit.schoolcashionline.com>.
- At the top of the page, navigate to **My Account**.
- From the dropdown menu, select **My Students**.
- Click to add a child:
 - o Type your school board name.
 - o Choose your school from the list.
 - o Enter your child's details. You may add up to 8 students to your account.
 - o Click **Confirm**.

How to make a payment

- Select the item which you would like to purchase & click **Add to Cart**.
- Once you have finished adding items to your cart, click **Continue** to make a payment.

Pay online for school fees, safely and securely



holyspirit.schoolcashonline.com



Security

Your information and payment details are safe with us. We use strong encryption and regularly test for security risks. You can feel confident that SchoolCash Online is secure and well-guarded.



Compliance

KEV holds the highest industry security certifications, ensuring that your payment information is handled with the utmost care and attention to safety.



Reliability

Our US data centers have top-level security checks, so you can trust that the system is reliable and well-protected against potential threats.



Privacy

Your family's privacy is a top priority. We have clear guidelines on how we handle and protect personal information.

SchoolCash Online has been designed with the highest level of security at its core.

holyspirit.schoolcashonline.com



St. Patrick Fine Arts Conference Manager Instructions

The process for booking appointments/interviews is broken into the following steps:

Step 1 – Register a new parent account:

(If you have previously registered with Conference Manager, you do not need to do this step. Just log in & choose your preferred time block.)

Register from the school website (<https://spfa.holyspirit.ab.ca/>) by clicking on the Conference Manager link (in the green bar). Click the REGISTER NOW button and complete the registration form. Your login credentials (email and password) will remain in the system to make it easy to access the Conference Manager in the future.

In order to ensure that your email program does not block emails sent from the Conference Manager, we suggest adding appointments@schoolsoft.ca to your address book.

Step 2 - Book your time slot:

Select the teacher with whom you want to book a time slot. After booking your appointments you can print off your schedule. You will also receive an email containing the teacher name, time and location of the conference. You can log into the system at any time to view your bookings, print, cancel or re-schedule appointments. You have the option of submitting comments or questions to the teacher as part of the booking process.

If you have any questions, please contact the school at 403-327-4386.





Stay Up-To-Date with Our Schools' Communication!

Holy Spirit Catholic School Division is reminding families to ensure you are set up to receive text (SMS) messages from our schools and division. This is one of multiple ways that we send out important messaging to both our families and staff. Please take some time to follow the steps below to ensure you're receiving our text (SMS) messaging.

In addition, for those who have not signed up or utilized our SchoolMessenger App, we've included step-by-step instructions on how to do so. SchoolMessenger helps our parents and families to access important notifications, receive school messages and set your communication preferences.

Text (SMS) Messaging

1) ***Did you receive a text from us?***

When a new mobile number is entered by the school, within 24 hours, a text should be sent to that number asking if you would like to subscribe.

Simply respond with your preference:

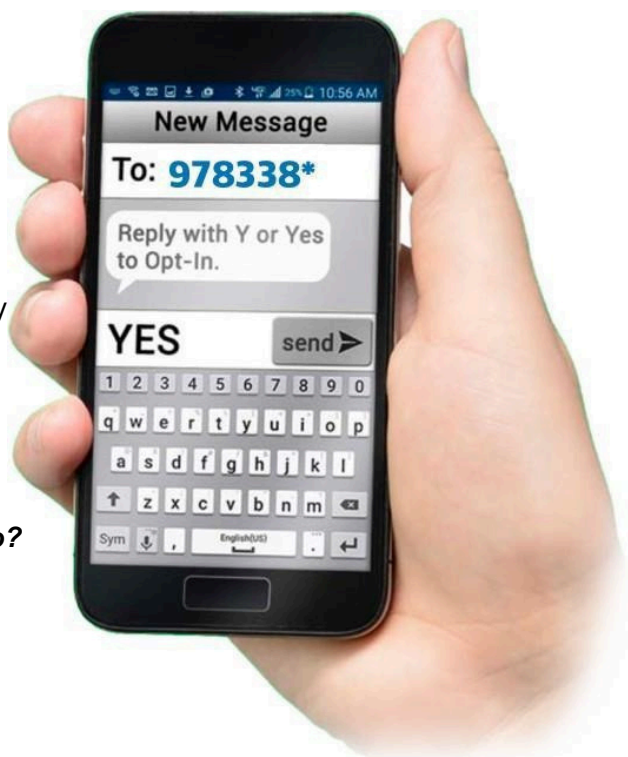
- Type "Y" or "Yes" to receive messages by text.
- Type "N" or "Stop" if you'd prefer not to receive messages by text. You can do this to unsubscribe at any time.

2) ***You haven't received a text and you'd like to?***

You can always subscribe to receive texts from the school by sending a "Y" to **978338**. You will receive a notification that your opt-in is complete if successful.

3) ***Do you have a new or different device you'd like to receive texts to?***

First, make sure your child's school has this new number in their system! You should receive a message in 24 hours asking you to respond with a "Y." If you don't, send a "Y" directly to **978338**. You will receive a notification that your opt-in is complete if successful.



****While this service is free, standard message and data rates may apply. Please check with your device's data provider if you have any questions related to charges.***

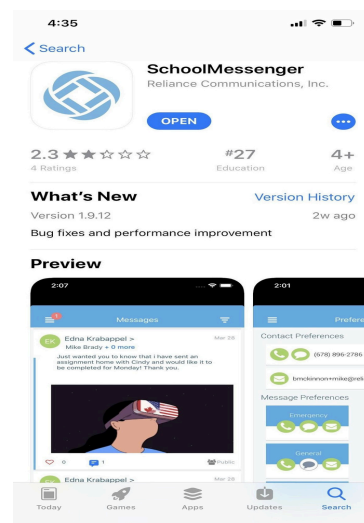


SCHOOLMESSENGER®

SchoolMessenger App

The School Messenger App allows parents to:

- Access important school notifications 24/7/365
- Set your communications preferences for calls, emails, texts, and more
- Receive all kinds of school messages in one single app (classroom and group updates, activity alerts, school and division notifications)
- Review your messages on any device (smartphone, laptop, etc...)



1) **Download the School Messenger App:**

Go to the GooglePlay or Apple Stores to download "SchoolMessenger" (the version with the blue logo).

You can also download the app, or set up your account, from <http://go.schoolmessenger.com>.

2) **Sign up for an account:**

Make sure you enter the email address that the school has on file for you. This will allow the app to find all of the students associated with you. Also, make sure you select "Canada" as your location.

Location

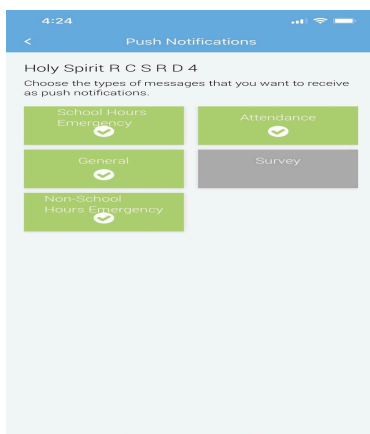
UNITED STATES

CANADA

3) **Set your preferences:**

When you first log in, click on the  icon in the upper left corner of your screen and select "Preferences." For each category, you can select how you would like to be notified:

- **School Hours Emergency** –For urgent messaging during school hours
- **Non-School Hours Emergency** - For urgent messaging before and after school hours
- **Attendance** – For calls regarding your child's attendance.
- **General** – Day to day information from the school.



4) **Enable push notifications:**

Even if you turn off most types of notifications (phone, text, email), you can still receive those messages through push notifications on your phone.

To set your push notifications, click on the  icon in the upper left corner of your screen. Select "Settings," then "Push Notifications."

Click on all of those boxes for which you would like to receive push notifications on your device.