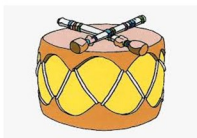


SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<i>Sunday gospel readings listed below:</i>		1 First Day of School 	2	3	4	5
6 <i>Matthew 18:15-20</i>	7 Labour Day— school closed 	8	9	10	11	12
13 <i>Matthew 18:21-35</i>	14	15	16 	17 Family Blessing / Meet the Teacher / School Council AGM	18 Opening Mass @ St. Martha's Church 	19
20 <i>Matthew 20:1-16a</i>	21	22	23 Gr. 6 to Helen Schuler Nature Centre Divisional Board Meeting	24 Terry Fox Day 	25	26
27 <i>Matthew 21:28-32</i>	28 Orange Shirt Day 	29 School Photos for Kindergarten and Division I 	30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation— school closed 	Food Drive September 28th to October 9th. 		

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Sunday gospel readings listed below:	Catholic Education Week October 17th—23rd			1 School Council Meeting	2	3
4 <i>Matthew 21:33-43</i>	5 School Photos for Kindergarten and Division II 	6	7 Thanksgiving Liturgy	8 Grade 4 to Children of St. Martha's Powwow 	9	10
11 <i>Matthew 22:1-14</i>	12 Thanksgiving—school closed 	13 Professional Development Day — no school for students Oct 22 Pizza order opens on SchoolCash Online	14 Professional Development Day — no school for students 	15	16	17
18 Oct 22 Pizza order closes <i>Matthew 22:15-21</i>	19 Alberta Referendum Polling Station (Gymnasium)	20 Photo Retakes	21 Wear Blue for Catholic Education 	22 Pizza Lunch 	23	24 Div II choir performance
25 <i>Matthew 22:34-40</i>	26	27	28 Divisional Board Meeting	29	30 Halloween Parade 	31 Halloween



September 2026

ST. PATRICK FINE ARTS

LEARN ACTIVELY - GROW SPIRITUALLY - LIVE CREATIVELY

www.spfa.holyspirit.ab.ca 403.327.4386

Facebook/Instagram: @spfaschool #hs4

Christensen's Corner

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the 2026/27 School year at St. Patrick Fine Arts. This year we will be welcoming several new staff members to our wonderful community. In addition to myself we have added the following teaching staff: Mrs. Cleverley (grade 2), Mrs. French (grade 2), Ms. O'Brien (grade 2), Mrs. Crawford (grade 3). We also have an intern teacher from the U of L joining us in the fall. Mr. Lamontange will be working with Mrs. Davey in grade 6 and will also be running some drama workshops with other grades. Finally, we have added Mrs. VanderBeek and Mrs. Witing to our compliment of exceptional educational assistants. Please welcome all our new staff to SPFA!

This year we are in year two of our current faith plan. The title for this 3-year plan is Open Wide the Doors! Sent to Share Christ's Love. This plan builds off of our previous 2 plans as well as the jubilee year of hope declared for 2025 by Pope Francis prior to his passing. In year 1 our focus is going to be to know God, by humbly walking with him. The primary scripture we will be using throughout the year is Acts 2:42, "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." As we progress throughout the year our focus will be on Loving God. I look forward to sharing more details about our school division faith plan in the upcoming months and I am excited to continue to grow in my faith with each of you and your families.

This is year three of four of our Holy Spirit School Division Board priorities. The four action based priorities are as follows: Strengthening our Catholic Faith, Living Truth and Reconciliation, Belonging in our Diverse Community, and Learning Through Quality Teaching. These four priorities will continue to drive our focus and our continuous improvement plan at St. Patrick Fine Arts Elementary School.

The staff of St. Patrick Fine Arts is committed to bringing the faith plan and the division priorities to light in all that we do this year and we will continue to challenge our students to do the same.

Some items worth noting as we head into the new school year:

The loop in the front of the school is for dropping off students. Please refrain from parking and getting out of your vehicle at drop off and pick up times. We try to keep the loop moving with 2 lanes. Drop off on the right side so that traffic can keep moving forward on the left. I understand this can get quite busy and congested and I appreciate your support in being patient and mindful of the safety of all our students during these busy times. Unfortunately we do not have a parking lot at our school for parents and community members. Our staff parking lot is over capacity and we appreciate your help in ensuring that staff can access their spots in the morning.

This year we have also asked students not to bring food out for recesses. Homeroom teachers are developing procedures for students to have a snack in the classroom at appropriate times throughout the day. This decision was made with student safety and the cleanliness of our playground and community in mind.

Looking forward to an amazing year at St. Patrick Fine Arts Elementary School,

Brent Christensen

Please send your thoughts/feedback to spfaoffice@holyspirit.ab.ca

Growing in Faith

The 2026-27 school year marks the second year of our three-year faith plan, “Open Wide the Doors! Sent to Share Christ’s Love”.

This year, we are called to “Love God” and will focus on love and kindness, the Mass, and the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Our guiding scripture for the year is Acts, 2:42

They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teachings and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

This verse highlights how the early church prioritized genuine community, demonstrating that true belonging is created when people come together to share meals, prayers, and life's simple moments. When we actively open our hearts and tables to one another, we move beyond mere welcoming to foster a deep, enduring sense of spiritual family. By centering our lives on shared devotion and intentional connection, we create a space where everyone is seen, valued, and truly home.

May our school reflect this spirit, becoming a place where every student, family, and staff member feels welcomed, valued, and truly at home.

Carla Ferrari
Associate Principal



Food Drive

Grade 6's are hosting a Food Drive from **September 28th to October 9th**. Please consider sending in donations for our community. Thank you in advance



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



2026 - 2027 St. Patrick Fine Arts School Staff

Mr. Christensen	Principal	Ms. Ferrari	Associate Principal
Mrs. Mabin	Grade 1	Miss Tarnava	Grade 1
Mrs. Cleverly	Grade 2	Mrs. French	Grade 2
Miss O'Brien	Grade 2	Mrs. Skretting	Music
Mrs. Balint	Grade 3	Mrs. Crawford	Grade 3
Mrs. Alvarez	Grade 4	Mrs. Brydges	Grade 4
Mrs. Grisbrook	Grade 5	Ms. Miller	Grade 5 & French
Mrs. Davey	Grade 6	Mr. Lidstone	Grade 6
Mrs. Ward	Kindergarten	Mrs. Roos	Kinder Ed Assistant
Mrs. O'Donnell	Admin. Assistant	Mrs. Vanderburgh	Admin. Support
Mrs. Cahoon	Ed. Assistant	Mrs. Pankoski	Ed. Assistant
Mrs. Tapang	Ed. Assistant	Mrs. Walters	Ed. Assistant
Mrs. Vander Beek	Ed. Assistant	Mrs. Hernandez	Head Caretaker
Mrs. Whiting	Ed. Assistant	Mrs. Boora / Ms. Turcotte	Library Clerk

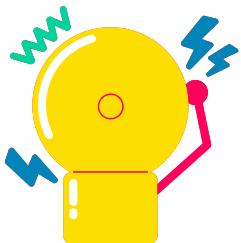
Grades 1 - 6

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

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 you 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. Bus passes will be distributed from the office once you have registered your child. For any help, please call Mrs. O'Donnell (in the office) at 403-327-4386. Families are also encourage 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. Please contact the office for the school code.

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 - To enhance our safe arrival process, we are implementing a new system that will simplify the reporting and handling of student absences at all schools. The new student absence reporting system, **SafeArrival**, allows you to report an absence in advance using a mobile app, a website, or an interactive toll-free phone line. It is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to make it convenient for you to report future absences.

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 17th 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 starting at 7:30 pm 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 in the Music Room.

Div I Choir (for grades 1 to 3) will meet on Wednesdays starting September 9th.

Div II choir will meet on Mondays and Thursdays starting September 10th.

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

MASS ATTENDANCE AT ST. MARTHA'S PARISH (Opening Mass is Friday, Sep 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 SPFA Families!

Welcome to another amazing year at St. Patrick's Fine Arts! We welcome all the new families joining us and all those who are returning.

We would also like to extend a warm welcome to all the new teaching staff, support and lastly to our new principal. We look forward to what the year holds for us all.

Get Involved in School Council.

Our first meeting will be held September 17 at 7:30PM for our yearly AGM (annual general meeting) Meeting will be in the school library.

We'd love your voice and ideas! All SPFA parents are welcome—no experience necessary!

If you can't attend but have creative ideas, attend virtually at meet.google.com/esi-gwiq-uhz.

Did You Know?

Having a child at St. Pat's automatically makes you part of our School Council. Each month we come together to: Advocate for students and staff, plan fundraiser initiatives, organize social and wellness events, create Hot Lunch programs. Together we ensure all students have a memorable school year

Thank you!

We would like to extend our thanks to Davis GMC for the wonderful rental BBQ for our year end School Dinner and for the sports day hot lunch. Also, a huge thank you to Cloverdale for the paint donations for the new 4-squares! Thank you to all the volunteers that helped throughout our last school year.

Looking Ahead

With your support, we're planning community building social nights and events and some new fundraising campaigns for school resources. We are currently looking for parent volunteers to help with these wonderful school community events. Please reach out to spfasc@holyspirit.ab.ca or beccainnes02@gmail.com for more information.

Stay tuned for detailed event dates in our next newsletter.

This year is going to be a year of growth, fun, partnerships, learning, laughs and so much more! I

am very excited about the new that is happening at the school, and we can't wait to share the excitement with you all. Let's make 2026-2027 the best year yet!!

Becca Innes
School Council Chair.

Dear Property Owner/Occupant,

The City of Lethbridge is planning to install a temporary traffic-calming curbs at **Rivergreen Rd W Frontage crossing of St Patrick Fine Arts Elementary School**. We are providing this notice before installation because your property is located near the proposed location.

The location was selected based on a review of road-safety data, including pedestrian crossing activity, visibility, and other site-specific safety considerations.

Traffic-calming curbs are large, precast concrete units placed along the edge of the roadway to create a temporary curb extension or narrow the driving lane. Each unit is approximately 2.75 metres long, 1.0 metre wide and 0.15 metres high, example below. The specific configuration at the proposed location may vary based on roadway conditions and site requirements.

The proposed traffic-calming measure is intended to:

- reduce vehicle speeds and encourage more cautious driving
- shorten pedestrian crossing distances
- ~~improve~~ ^{visibility} between pedestrians and approaching drivers
- help keep sightlines clear near crossings and intersections
- encourage drivers to yield and stop where required
- allow the City to assess effectiveness before considering permanent installation



Figure 1 Example of an existing temporary traffic-calming curb installation at Riverstone Boulevard W & Riverview Crescent intersection in Lethbridge

The curbs will be placed to maintain access to adjacent properties and support proper drainage. The temporary installation allows the City to monitor its performance and make adjustments as needed. Installation is anticipated within the next few months. Temporary traffic disruptions may occur during the work, but impacts are expected to be minimal.

Thank you for your cooperation and for helping the City improve safety for pedestrians, drivers, cyclists and other road users.

For general questions about the project, please contact:

Muhammad Qasim

Transportation Department

City of Lethbridge

Telephone: 403 320 4291

Email: Muhammad.qasim@lethbridge.ca



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 2026. Confirmation
classes will begin in January 2027. **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 School / Newsletters / Community Notices.

This month's postings include:

- Lethbridge Soccer Association
- University of Lethbridge Ukelele
- University of Lethbridge Children's choir
- Branches Community Program
- Lethbridge Cougar Basketball Club
- YQL Fall League Volleyball
- Lethbridge Rec Hockey

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.

HOLY SPIRIT EL/JH 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

Aug 25 First day for staff
Aug 28 Opening Mass

O – 5
I – 0

AUGUST '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					

SEPTEMBER '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			

Sept 1 First day for students
Sept 7 Labour Day
Sept 23 Div. Board Meeting
Sept 30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

O – 20 (25)
I – 20

Oct 12 Thanksgiving Day
Oct 13 PD Day
Oct 14 PD Day
Oct 28 Div. Board Meeting

O – 21 (46)
I – 19 (39)

OCTOBER '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

NOVEMBER '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					

Nov 11 Remembrance Day
Nov 12 Div. PD Day
Nov 13 PD Day
Nov 25 Div. Board Meeting

O – 20 (66)
I – 18 (57)

Dec 16 Div. Board Meeting
Dec 18 Last day before break
Dec 21-31 Christmas break
Dec 25 Christmas Day
Dec 26 Boxing Day

O – 14 (80)
I – 14 (71)

DECEMBER '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		

JANUARY '27

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 4 First day after break
Jan 25 PD Day
Jan 27 Div. Board Meeting

O – 20 (100)
I – 19 (90)

Feb 15 Family Day
Feb 16 & 17 Non-operational days – NO Staff or Students
Feb 18 & 19 SWATCA Teachers
Feb 18 & 19 CUPE – with the exclusion of EAs
Feb 24 Div. Board Meeting

O – 17 (117)
I – 15 (105)

FEBRUARY '27						
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 '27

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 24 Div. Board Meeting
Mar 25 Last day before Easter break
Mar 26 Good Friday
Mar 29 Easter Monday
Mar 26-31 Easter break

O – 19 (136)
I – 19 (124)

Apr 1-2 Easter break
Apr 5 First day after break
Apr 26 PD Day
Apr 28 Div. Board Meeting

O – 20 (156)
I – 19 (143)

APRIL '27						
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 '27

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 24 Victoria Day
May 25 Spiritual Dev. Day
May 26 Div. Board Meeting

O – 20 (176)
I – 19 (162)

Jun 23 Div. Board Meeting
Jun 24 Last day for students
Jun 25 Last day for teachers

O – 19 (195)
I – 18 (180)

JUNE '27						
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 '27

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.



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:

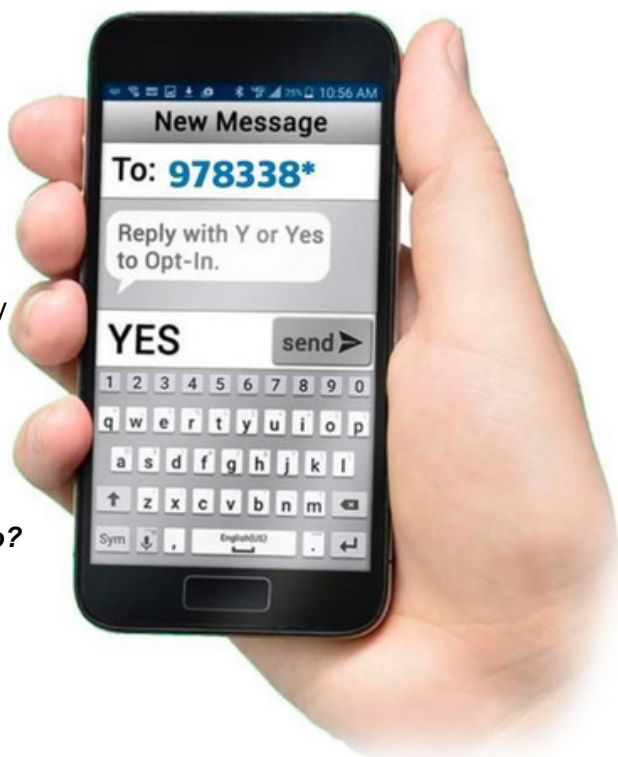
- Type "Y" or "Yes" to receive messages by text.
- Type "N" or "Stop" if you'd prefer not to receive messages by text. You can do this to unsubscribe at any time.

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.



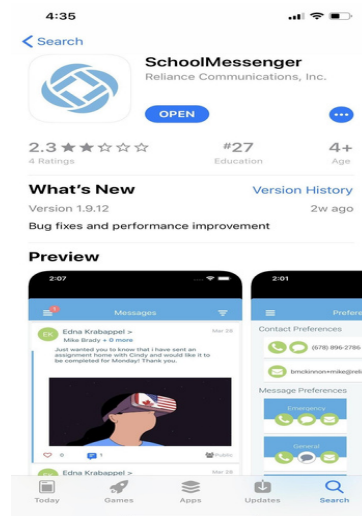
****While this service is free, standard message and data rates may apply. Please check with your device's data provider if you have any questions related to charges.***



SchoolMessenger 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...)



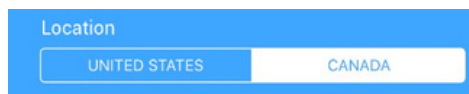
1) **Download the School Messenger App:**

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:**

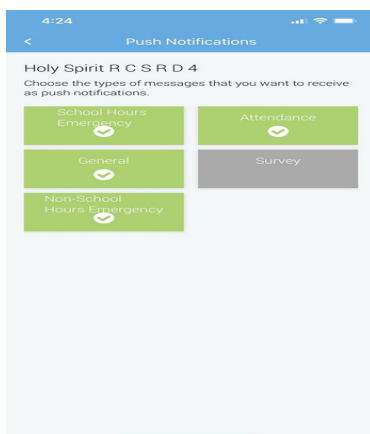
Make sure you enter the email address that the school has on file for you. This will allow the app to find all of the students associated with you. Also, make sure you select "Canada" as your location.



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.

Monthly Parable Family Learning

The Eucharist



The Eucharist looks like bread and wine, but it's more than that. The word "Eucharist" means thanksgiving. At Mass, when the priest blesses the bread and wine, the bread becomes the body of Jesus and the wine becomes the blood of Jesus. Not just a symbol. Not just a reminder. It is really Jesus with us, just like He promised.



You can receive Jesus in Holy Communion after you've made your "First Communion."

When you receive Him, Jesus comes into your heart in a very special way. He fills you with His love, peace, and strength. He is near; not far away.



At the Last Supper, Jesus sat with His apostles and said "This is my body, given for you. This is my blood poured out for you. Do this in memory of Me" (Luke 22:19-20). And ever since then we celebrate the Eucharist at every Mass. When you go to Mass and see the priest holding up the white host, that's Jesus! When you see the chalice of wine, Jesus is there too!

When receiving the Host (the bread), children are taught to fold their hands, say "Amen," and step forward to eat it, welcoming Jesus into their hearts.

He's really and truly present in the Eucharist because he loves us so much.

St. John Paul II

1920-2005 (Feast Day: October 22)



St. John Paul II was born in Poland in 1920. As a young man, he lived through World War II and saw many people suffer. Even during difficult times, he stayed close to God and trusted in Jesus.

He became a priest, then a bishop, and later pope. As pope, he traveled all around the world teaching people about God's love and encouraging them to follow Jesus. He especially loved young people and started World Youth Day so young Catholics could gather together in faith.

St. John Paul II had a deep love for the Mass and the Eucharist. He taught that Jesus is truly with us in the Eucharist and that the Mass gives us strength to live as Christians. Even when he became old and sick, he continued to pray faithfully and trust in God.

He reminds us that the Mass is the center of our faith and that Jesus is always close to us there.

Saint of the Month - St. John Paul II

St. John Paul II and the Eucharist

Saint John Paul II loved the Mass very much because he believed Jesus is truly with us there. He taught that the Mass is the most important prayer of the Church because it brings us close to God and helps us grow in faith.

St. John Paul II made time for Mass and prayer every day, even when he was very busy traveling around the world. He wanted people, especially young people, to understand that the Eucharist is a special gift from Jesus.

He reminded us that at Mass we listen to God's Word, pray together, and receive Jesus in Holy Communion. Then we are sent out to share God's love with others. St. John Paul II teaches us that the Mass gives us strength, peace, and joy to follow Jesus every day.



St. John Paul II Prayer

St. John Paul II,
please pray for us from heaven.

Help the Church to share the love of Jesus with the world.
Bless young people and help us follow God
with courage and joy.
Teach us to dream big and trust in God's plan for our lives.

Please bless our families and help them grow
in love and peace.
Protect all children and help every home be filled
with kindness and faith.

Pray for our world, especially where there is sadness,
fighting, or injustice.
Help us to be peacemakers who share love wherever we go.

St. John Paul II,
pray for us and lead us closer to Jesus and Mary.