

St. Nicholas Catholic School

480 Keith Avenue, Newmarket, Ontario L3X 1V5

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we are gifted with each other

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope you all had an enjoyable and safe summer. I would like to welcome all families to the 2021-22 school year. Myself and the staff at St. Nicholas are excited and hopeful that the new school year ahead will be full of optimism, fun and great learning. As we plan for school start up, I want to take a moment and highlight some important items:

- YCDSB Re-Entry. As we continue to find ourselves with the reality of Covid-19, we continue to focus on the safety and well-being of our students, staff and community. Our Board has released our updated Re-entry plan where you can find the most current information with regards to our health and safety procedures and protocols. Kindly take some time to review the [Re-Entry Plan](#)
 - Below are some key points to review:
 - Students and staff are required to perform daily COVID-19 screening before arriving at school using the Provincial Screening [Tool](#)
 - All students and staff will adhere to the following 3 principles: physical distancing, masking, and regular hand hygiene.
 - Students in Grades 1 to 8 **are required** to wear properly fitted non-medical or cloth masks indoors at school, including in hallways and during classes, as well as on school vehicles (i.e. buses). It is **strongly recommended** that students in Kindergarten wear non-medical or cloth masks in indoors while at school, as well as on school vehicles (i.e. buses), as tolerated
 - Parents/guardians are NOT allowed to drop off lunches or snacks during the school day at this time. Delivery services such as UBER eats are not allowed.
 - Students will enjoy outdoor recess without the use of a mask and will be encouraged to keep distance between cohorts as much as possible.
 - If a student develops symptoms of COVID-19 while at school, they will be removed from class and parents will be contacted immediately to pick up the student.
 - Assigned seating will be developed for all bus students.
 - Only essential visitors will be permitted to enter the school (i.e. public school nurses, superintendents, board personnel, repair and maintenance personnel, parish staff, emergency services personnel, guest speakers and external educators....)
 - Visitors are not allowed to enter the school unless they have a pre-arranged appointment.

- Parking Lot Safety. Entry and dismissal times are busy times within our school grounds, our parking lot, and community streets. For the safety of our children, a gentle reminder to use an abundance of caution when driving in and around our school at these times. In addition, please see the student drop off (Kiss n Ride) loop map to assist with morning procedures. We ask that parents/guardians do not park and/or leave their vehicles unattended in the East parking lot. Thank you for your support and cooperation with this procedure, we have seen a great improvement in the flow of traffic and safety in the last couple of years.
- Student Entry: We will continue with direct student entry from 8:10-8:25. Students can enter from the East or West entrance doors. We encourage parents to drop off kindergarten students at the East entrance as it is in close proximity to their classrooms. Staff will be on supervision duty within the building. On the first day of school there will be extra staff to support students and ensure all students get to their new classrooms safely.
 - Dismissal Doors: see map for the dismissal locations of students.
- Bell Time Adjustment. In order to ensure that we have the correct blocks of instructional minutes within the school day we have adjusted our bell times slightly. Changes are reflected below. There is **NO** change to morning or dismissal time.
 - Impacted times:
 - Lunch 11:20-12:20
 - Instructional Time: 12:20-1:40
 - Recess: 1:40-1:55
 - Instructional Time: 1:55-2:55
- Mental health and wellbeing continues to be a focus within the YCDSB and here at St. Nicholas. A great resource for families to explore is our Student Mental Health & Well Being [website](#). We hope this site will help you find information about mental health and well-being and give you ways to find help when you need it.
- School Communication. We will continue to use our school [Website](#) as the primary source of school information and news. Be sure to visit our website regularly to stay informed and connected. Pertinent information will also be shared via the school messenger email system as well as monthly Principal's messages.
- Safe Arrival: Parents/guardians are required to report student absences, late arrivals or early leaves using one of these three methods: Toll Free SchoolMessenger Phone Number 1 855 856 7862, The SchoolMessenger website: go.schoolmessenger.ca, The SchoolMessenger App.

- Classlists. You will receive an automated email after Labour Day to notify you of your child's teacher for the up coming school year.

The first day of school is Wednesday September 8th and we look forward to greeting all of our returning students. For your reference the 2021-22 school year calendar can also be found [here](#).

Yours in Catholic Education,

C. Zorzi

Mr. Zorzi

Principal