



877 Wilkes Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3P 1B8
tel: 204.989.6730
fax: 204.487.7068
www.lindenchristian.org

Education Built on Relationships

October 16, 2020

Dear LCS Families,

I know that we are all awaiting government advice on whether our school's status under the Restart MB Pandemic Response System will be elevated to the Restricted (Orange) Level following the increased instances of COVID-19. While Winnipeg was moved to the Orange Level on September 28, schools within the city remained at the Caution (Yellow) Level.

Public Health has found that there is very little evidence of school level transmission among the growing number of K-12 schools with confirmed COVID cases. They have also affirmed that cohorts have been effective in mitigating risk of transmission and informing contact tracing. Today, I am participating in government meetings that have a school focus. Following those meetings, I anticipate being in a position to give you additional information on government directives affecting our educational program.

We are very thankful for the way the vast majority of our students are settling into new routines and following established safety protocols. The Administration Team continues to work diligently with faculty and staff to further the school's mission of providing an excellent, biblically based education aimed at establishing a strong relationship between Christ and our K-12 students.

Linden Christian School remains vigilant in monitoring and enforcing the procedures put in place to keep members of our school community safe. We continue to do everything possible to keep our students on site within directives from the Government of Manitoba and Public Health.

Here are a few examples of steps we have taken over the past six weeks to keep our students on site for learning. We have:

- increased cleaning of high touch areas from the recommendation of twice daily to three times;
- hired additional staff for duty and assigned each SY cohort study and lunch spaces, as well as provided new spaces for study purposes;
- made changes to recess and lunch schedules to maintain the integrity of cohorts;
- reworked the Before and After School Care Program so that each student stays within their cohort in a specific area;
- created a rapid response team to facilitate timely communication of a confirmed COVID case within the school to the community, under the direction of Public Health;
- partnered with our Parents in Prayer group (pip@lindenchristian.org) and other prayer focused individuals to pray for all members of our community.

Although the increase in COVID numbers is concerning, please know that we have had plans on standby since early August in the event the risk level for schools is elevated to Orange. Be assured that we are ready to respond to government directives quickly if needed.

While I believe the overall health of our school community is best supported through on-site learning, directives from the Government of Manitoba and Public Health will take precedence in our decision making. Let's continue to practice the fundamentals shared by Public Health - wearing a mask, practicing proper handwashing, maintaining physical distance and staying home when we are sick.

I share with you Linden's theme passages for this school year:

Philippians 4:6-9

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition,
with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.*

*And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding,
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

*Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure,
whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—
think about such things.*

*Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice.
And the God of peace will be with you.*

It is my hope and prayer that these words speak to all of us as we navigate this school year. Please accept my deepest appreciation for your ongoing support.

In His Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R Charach". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert Charach
Principal and CEO