

August 26, 2021

Dear LCS Families,

We are looking forward to welcoming students back to campus for in-class learning on Wednesday, September 8.

As you are no doubt aware, on August 24 Public Health announced mandatory indoor mask use for all staff, students (K-12) and school visitors. They have indicated that mask use is part of their approach to reduce the risk of COVID transmission in schools, along with measures such as emphasizing good hand hygiene, daily self-screening, cohorting Kindergarten to Grade 6 students, physical distancing and encouraging vaccinations. These measures are intended to keep schools safe and open, so we can have all students back to in-class learning.

The requirements for mask use or other public health measures may change based on several factors, such as case numbers, data on severe outcomes, test positivity rates, public health capacity, the extent of community transmission, and vaccine uptake. Mask free time will be possible when there is a two-metre physical distance in the classroom and during recess.

The new orders also mean that LCS abide by the immunization requirements for employees that work with vulnerable populations, especially children.

With respect to ventilation in the school, much attention has been given to ensuring mechanical heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems are working properly in accordance with provincial requirements. In addition, the following safety measures remain in place for this school year:

- Posted signage related to Public Health directives and overall expectations when in the building, (physical distancing, handwashing, non-medical masks, directional signage) throughout.
- Increased frequency of cleaning, disinfecting and sanitizing high-touch surfaces in common and shared areas (e.g. stairwell handrails, exterior door handles, light switches, student desks, tables and chairs). Washrooms will be cleaned more frequently.
- Hand sanitizing stations remain outside all classrooms. They will continue to be situated throughout the building.
- Designated areas of the school to specific grades to reduce student movement.

- Classroom seating layouts will achieve a two-metre physical distance to the fullest extent possible with desks used in the majority of the classrooms.
- The Before and After School Care (BASC) Program will continue to operate with students grouped in cohorts.
- Coordinating efforts with Grant Memorial Church because of the shared space to ensure established protocols adhere to Public Health directives and are consistent throughout the building.
- Designated rooms to isolate students and other members of the community if they present with symptoms of a cold, flu or COVID-19 while at school.
- Kindergarten to Grade 6 students will be kept in grade cohorts. These cohorts will participate in school activities without co-mingling as much as possible with members from other cohorts. School arrival and departure schedules will remain staggered, as has the entrance and exit protocol so that cohort movement can be managed to avoid members of other cohorts being in shared spaces (e.g. hallways) at the same time.
- The requirement for self-screening for COVID-19 symptoms daily before coming to school and keeping your child(ren) home when they are sick or exhibiting any symptoms of a cold, flu or COVID-19.

Like last year, remote learning is not an optional choice. However, families with exceptional circumstances that require a student to stay home due to personal or family health risk factors related to COVID-19 will be supported in remote learning if they are able to have their family physician affirm the need in writing. Parents will need to advise the Vice Principal responsible for their child(ren)'s division of the school via email and include the letter from the family physician.

Once again, we find ourselves in complex and challenging times. It is important you are aware that directives from the government take precedence in our decision-making, as does our commitment to delivering the school's core values - a Christ-centred education, a commitment to excellence and a safe learning environment.

You can anticipate receiving the annual back-to-school welcome letter no later than September 2, 2021. Teachers and staff are excited to have students back in the classroom and are ready to kick off the school year!

In His Service,



Robert Charach
Principal and CEO