



SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS
HIGH SCHOOL

July 17, 2020

Hi Everyone,

Wow, what a school year we have had! I hope this letter finds you well and off to a good start to your summer break. I wanted to bring a few things to your attention at the beginning of summer so if you have to make arrangements, you will have more time to address these changes.

We don't know how September will look as far as school attendance goes, but we are prepared for 3 scenarios:

1. No students at school (remote learning)
2. Hybrid model (differing % of time at home and at school)
3. All students at school.

The government will be making a preliminary announcement later on this month and a definitive announcement on August 20th.

No matter what scenario we will be facing, a few simple, yet important protocols must be followed:

1. Wash or sanitize your hands when you enter the school and do it frequently during the day.
2. Social distance (the virus travels from hands and on airborne droplets from a person's mouth)
3. Follow the desk and chair sanitization protocol at the end of each class.
4. Stay at home if you are sick.

Students will continue to report for morning homeroom for an 8:30 A.M. start time. The duration of classes and the transition times will be unique to the scenario we find ourselves in. An appropriate schedule will be sent home in August with the students' schedules. Like this year, students will dismiss at 2:15pm on the **first Monday** of each month and 3:00pm on all other days.

Remote Learning and Cyber Issues

As many of us have experienced, our regular school day with all students in the building is preferred. We have learned a great deal over the past few months with the on-line instruction, some good, and some bad. One of the problems on the rise is cyber-bullying. This type of abusive behavior has increased with us cooped up at home with our computers.

One of the things we must remember is that remote cyber-bullying carries the same weight as if it happened at school. There is no latitude for off-site bullying such as posting obscene or derogatory messages about one of our students. The same goes for "liking" such a post as well. We are better than that and we must respect each other accordingly.

Anti-Racism

Another issue that has risen its ugly head during this pandemic has been the racism exhibited towards minorities. I have included our school's "mantra" and our stance against all forms of racism. It is times like these to stand up and be counted.

Please share these documents with your children. I am sure they will spark good discussion and sensitivity towards the challenges our world is facing.

Uniform

Our uniform is a compulsory requirement for students and it must be worn with pride and respect to reflect our commitment to our school and community. Ill-fitting uniforms due to students outgrowing the clothes or students not wearing the uniform in the manner that is expected (short rolled up kilts, un-tucked shirts, pants worn well below the waist, socks at the ankles, improper shoes, etc.) needs to change.

We wish to remind students and parents that with the exception of shoes, all uniform items must be purchased from our dedicated supplier Cambridge & Company in North Vancouver. Only sweaters with the 'new crest' are permissible. Also, blouses, shirts, trousers, etc. not purchased from Cambridge are not permitted. This is also the case for the new addition to the girls' wardrobe, the new pants option.

Students should not be wearing alternate sweatshirts in lieu of their school sweaters for this purpose.

Shoes

One area in which we wish to improve upon significantly next year is footwear. The school dress code specifically states "black leather dress shoes". These provide the best protection against rain, last longer, and provide the best support. Suede, black running shoes, or any type of canvas shoe (ie. Keds, Toms, etc.) **are not acceptable**. In addition, any shoes with colours other than black are not acceptable...also **NO BOOTS!**

Our goal this year is to have all students wear their uniforms properly. To reflect this expectation, an escalating disciplinary response will address uniform violations. We request your assistance and cooperation in ensuring that the appearance of our students reflects pride in our school and in wearing their uniform.

Hopefully with this letter going out early, you will be able to update your child's uniform before the late August rush.

Have a great Summer!

Sincerely,

John Campbell