

April 17, 2020

Hi Everyone,

I am sure you are getting tired of my frequent emails, so I am going to try to condense several into this one. Thank you for your comments, I am so happy to see everyone pulling together.

1. CREDIT CARDS NOW ACCEPTED FOR SPRING PLANT SALE

The Parent Association on-line Plant Sale can now accept credit card payments. See <https://stthomasaquinas.growingsmilesfundraising.com/home> for a selection of quality, locally grown flowers and plants and for flower baskets that would be appreciated by that special someone on Mother's Day. Order on-line by next Friday, April 24th and pick up by appointment (to maintain social distancing) on May 7th or 8th at the STA Convent, per the details on the ordering website. Proceeds to STA community activities hosted by the Parent Association and for student amenities. Firm deadlines loom - don't miss this chance to brighten your surroundings for the entire summer and to support the school community.

2. Please find the following link and share it with your family. As a former Biology teacher, I found it very factual and educational. I don't want to scare anyone, but I think if we know how the coronavirus causes COVID-19 and how we can protect ourselves against it, we are in a much better place to protect ourselves and each other. This video was passed on to me by one of our parents...thank you.

<https://youtu.be/BtN-goy9VOY>

PS: There will be a test at the end:)

3. Government Protocol

The Premier expounded on this pandemic response in his brief to the people of British Columbia on Wednesday when he said, "But I look at my colleagues across the country who've set arbitrary dates for a return (to school) before the data was in, before the science was confirming that, and we're not going to follow that lead. We're going to look at the numbers as they emerge over the weeks ahead before we make those determinations."

When you watch the video, you will see what he means.

4. YouTube Presentation

Mr. C, Mr. Horton and I have made a short YouTube video for you to share with your family. We will not win any Academy Awards...except maybe one for editing by Miss Hughes, but hopefully you have more answers than questions after you watch it:)

<https://youtu.be/c6svMCTpAvU>

Please forgive us for the poor social distancing...I noticed it when I watched the video, but it was too late.

5. Grade 12 Parents

- Grade 12 Retreat

Parents, can you please have the palankas mailed or delivered to the school by April 30th?

6. Weekly School Mass

-We will be incorporating a livestream weekly mass starting next week. Father Augustine and Father Cannio along with some staff will celebrate mass with our students via livestream on Thursdays at 11:00. I will send you the link next week. It will be a great opportunity for us all to 'congregate virtually' for a communal Mass celebration.

7. New Schedule

- In order to accommodate the weekly masses and Career Education, we have had to come up with a new schedule. The classes will be shortened and we will still accommodate both on Thursdays moving forward.

Typical Regular Time Schedule

Time	Class Period	Day 1	Day 2
8:30	Homeroom	Attendance	
8:45 -9:45	Period 1	D	H
10:15 – 11:15	Period 2	C	G
11:45 – 12:45	Period 3	B	F
1:30 – 2:30	Period 4	A	E
2:30 – 3:00	Tutorial Assistance		

Thursday Mass/Career Education Time Schedule

Time	Class Period	Day 1	Day 2
8:30	Homeroom	Attendance	
8:45 -9:30	Period 1	D	H
9:45 – 10:30	Period 2	C	G
11:00 – 11:30	Mass		
12:15 – 1:00	Period 3	B	F
1:15 – 2:00	Period 4	A	E
2:15 – 3:00	Advisory Block		

8. Course Selection

The course selection booklet is now on the website under:

ACADEMICS → Advising → Course Information.

Grade 11 students: Mr. Salituro and I will be giving a Google Meet presentation on Monday April 20th at 7:00. This will be of particular interest to grade 11 students who will be picking their courses. Course selection for grade 11 students will start on Tuesday April 21st.

Grade 10 students: Mr. Salituro and I will be giving a Google Meet presentation on Tuesday April 21st at 7:00. This will be of particular interest to grade 10 students who will be picking their courses. Course selection for grade 10 students will start on Friday April 24th.

Grade 8-9 students: Your course selections will follow later in early May.

9. Course Completion and Grades

There has been some misinformation that has been spreading out there regarding expectations for grades and course completion. One rumour was the students didn't have to do any more work this year because the mark prior to the school building shutdown was your mark and it can't go down...**WRONG!**

I have included a link to the following document that was published on April 7 by the Ministry of Education. To answer specific questions on mark expectations, go to pages 8 and 9 of the document under the heading **Section 4: Marks, Assessment and Graduation**. Albeit paraphrasing, it clearly says that school will continue as normally as it can under the present circumstances and the final mark will be a combination of what was achieved prior to the pandemic and after the school buildings closed to prevent the coronavirus spreading.

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/kindergarten-to-grade-12/safe-caring-orderly/bc-ministry-of-education-questions-and-answers-continuity-of-learning-k-12-education_system.pdf

We don't have answers regarding final exams and assessments yet, but in the meantime, we will continue to proceed as we have for the past 3 weeks. We will provide clarity on this at the end of the month.

Our students are not disadvantaged because they still have to maintain their marks...actually they are advantaged. They will be better prepared for the next grade as they would have covered all the curriculum and have the prerequisite information needed to be successful in the next grade or 1st year university.

For instance, if in grade 8, the math teacher skipped the trigonometry unit because it happened during the isolation. The grade 9 teacher would have expected the students to already have that knowledge because she was going to expand on the knowledge that was to be covered in grade 8...and so on...and so on.

We will all be fine! Your teachers will work with you through all of this...you are not alone!