



# Newsletter #5

January 21, 2022

## *Principal's Message*

*'Rise Above! Inspire Greatness!'*

Dear parents & guardians,

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year! Despite the ongoing constraints of the pandemic still in place, I'm choosing to make 2022 a happy one! It's really easy to become negative in times like these, but that doesn't help anything. Choosing to look for joy in each day, and to spread joy improves one's mindset and helps with the harshness of the unknown realities of our current worldly situation. I encourage you to do the same! Other ways we can be mindful to ensure we are supporting our staff and students at this time of the year, and with the newest regulations are:

### **STUDENT ILLNESS**

1. Please remember to complete the AHS Daily Checklist each day with your children before sending them to school. Only those that are healthy should be attending. If your child has any of the [core symptoms](#), you are legally required to isolate. If they test negative on a rapid Covid test, but are still symptomatic, they must still stay home until symptoms resolve.
2. For fully vaccinated students (2 doses) who test positive on a rapid test for COVID-19:
  - a. Isolate for 5 days from the start of symptoms or until they resolve, whichever is longer.
3. For students not fully vaccinated (1 dose or less) who test positive for covid on a rapid test:
  - a. Isolate for 10 days from the start of symptoms or until they resolve, whichever is longer.
4. Additional isolation information can be found [here](#).

**PREPARING FOR POTENTIAL SHIFT TO ONLINE LEARNING** In the event that we must move a class or grade to temporary remote learning, parents will be immediately notified by the school regarding the next steps. Temporary online learning may occur when it is not possible to continue in-person learning due to operational viability. Our teachers have been working on their Google Classrooms and other forms of connecting with their students and practicing those 'online learning' skills with students. If part or all of our school were to shift to online, we need to be ready. Please remind your child to accept any email requests to join their teacher's Google Classroom.

**RAPID TEST KITS & MASKS** The Government of Alberta has provided rapid test kits and medical-grade masks for use by students and staff members. Students who ride buses are still required to wear masks.

Each Kindergarten to Grade 12 student and staff member was given one box at distribution that will provide them with enough tests for 2.5 weeks; a second shipment will follow. It is recommended by our Medical Health Officer that rapid tests be used twice per week, 72 hours apart (e.g, Sunday and Wednesday or Monday and Thursday). Information regarding Rapid Test Kits can be found in the following links:

[Education At-Home Rapid Testing Program](#)

[COVID-19 Rapid Testing Guidelines](#)

[Video Resource](#)

## **REPORTING POSITIVE COVID-19 CASES AND STUDENT ILLNESSES**

Thank you to everyone for continuing to inform us if your child has tested positive on COVID-19 test, is exhibiting symptoms, or will be staying home from school for any reason. We will continue to monitor school absenteeism due to illness. Alberta Health Services (AHS) has ended the COVID-19 positive case notification process. This means families no longer receive letters home regarding positive cases.

## **ASSESSMENTS**

Our ongoing focus is on quality teaching and student learning. We believe in our motto 'Rise Above! Inspire Greatness' which means despite all restrictions- learning is continuing with as much rigor as possible sprinkled with lots of compassion and flexibility. Alberta Education has shared that the January diploma examinations for senior high students have been cancelled. As such, all High School classes will finish as of January 24th and exam week is from January 25th- 28th. The experience of writing cumulative final assessments is a potential lifelong skill and we will do our best to support, accommodate and ensure student's reach their potential in concluding Semester One. Look for JH and SH report cards the first week of February which we will be printing and sending home. In elementary, parents should be receiving regular reporting through SPACES which is officially underway and thriving. Although this shift to a different and online version of reporting is new, we feel the change is vital in order to keep us on par with other schools in Alberta. The most important way we can all support our children in learning is building that connection with our teachers. Do not hesitate, ever, to reach out to them and arrange an appointment (if needed) to discuss your child's progress or any concerns you may have.

All in all, our school looks different than it did one year ago in January. The pandemic is different, and I believe we are different too. We've learned a lot and we are continuing to show resilience, compassion and love toward those we are guiding and teaching each day. We really are still in this together. If you have any questions or concerns about the above, never hesitate to reach out!

May God continue to bless our wonderful school!

 Ms. Schmidt

# FAITH FOCUS:

3-Year Faith Plan – “Making Our Mark: Journey of an Intentional Disciple”

2021-2022 Theme – *Transformed by the Journey*  
Calls to Action – *Be Committed... Be Accountable...*

## A Shepherd Who Smells Like the Sheep

This year senior administration and school leaders have taken on the book study “The Catechist’s Backpack” by Joe Paprocki and Julianne Stanz. The following is an excerpt from ch. 3:

**Pope Francis is known for the many clever and powerful insights offered in his audiences, homilies, and written works. One of his most famous lines was delivered to the world’s priests at the Chrism Mass on Holy Thursday, 2013. “A priest who seldom goes out of himself,” the pope said, “misses out on the best of our people, on what can stir the depths of his priestly heart... This is precisely the reason why some priests go dissatisfied, lose heart and become in a sense a collector of antiques or novelties - instead of being shepherds living with ‘the smell of the sheep.’ This is what I am asking you - be shepherds with the smell of the sheep.”**

This message spoken to priests that day is a message for all of us, especially now! During the time of the global pandemic it has been difficult to keep alive deep connections with others. Jesus showed he was a shepherd who smelled like his sheep. He lived and walked with his disciples for three years before his death and resurrection. During this time he charged his disciples to go out and do the same with others, and that challenge goes for us today. It is important throughout this time when we need to social distance and lockdown that we don’t lose that deep connection with others. This is hard to do, but because it is hard it is even more important we make time for connection! When we can’t physically be together, we need to schedule time to talk on the phone, facetime, or even write. This time will pass, and when it does we will gather together again. Let’s aim to keep that connection alive so when we gather we can celebrate that we haven’t lost time and connection with one another!

### Important Upcoming Faith Dates:

- February 11 - World Day of the Sick
- March 2 - Ash Wednesday
- March 4 - World Day of Prayer
- March 14 - Spiritual Development Day
- April 15 - Good Friday
- April 17 - Easter Sunday

#### *Words from St. Michael Parish:*

- ★ Please visit the Parish website at:  
[www.catholicdirectory.com/canada/pincher-creek/church/st-michaels-parish](http://www.catholicdirectory.com/canada/pincher-creek/church/st-michaels-parish)



# School Events:

## Registration Updates

### Registration Updates are open now!

Registration Updates are very important as they hold your child's place in St. Michael's School and it helps administration to plan for the next school year. Attached is a link with detailed instructions to complete the updates: [Registration Update Instructions](#) (this will open a PDF at the bottom of the page)

## Student Holidays

Monday, January 31st: PD Day

February 21st to 25th: Family Week Break



## The Friends of St. Michael's

The Friends of St. Michael's are our school booster club. They support our school in many ways including: school activities, Dragon athletics, student awards, busing, Scientists in the Classroom, and much more.

[Friends of St. Michael's Information Page](#)

## School Council

St. Michael's School Council

**School Council Advisory:**

Chair - Christie Gustavison

Vice Chair - Roxane Baalim

Secretary - Leah Oyortey

[School Council Info](#)

**Next School Council Meeting:**

**Tuesday, March 1 @ 7:00 pm**

As always, school council can be reached at [stmikesschoolcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:stmikesschoolcouncil@gmail.com), or the chair directly at [stmikesschoolcouncil.chair@gmail.com](mailto:stmikesschoolcouncil.chair@gmail.com).

# What you Need to Know!

## St. Michael's Website:

**Click here: [St Michael's Website](#)**

Check out our school website for information such as: calendars, fees, staff contact information, our school handbook, bell times and so much more!

## St. Michael's Live Calendars:

[School Events Calendar](#)

[2021-22 School Year Calendar](#)

## Holy Spirit Board Meetings:

To view the Holy Spirit Board meeting dates and meeting briefs:

[Board Meetings and Briefs](#)

**Off Campus News:** [January Newsletter](#)

## Students Leaving Early:

If your child has an appointment or needs to leave the school during the day, please make sure you let the office know ahead of time. Please keep in mind recess times for elementary and junior high and if at all possible try to pick up your child before or after as it is challenging to get students back inside from recess in a timely manner. Thank you for your help with this! [Click here to view > Bell Schedule](#)

## Anyone have an old digital camera...

Mr. Smith is looking for digital cameras for his photography option in semester 2. If you have an old camera you are willing to donate, please drop it off at the school office. Thank you.



## Isolation Requirements:

Click here to see a flow chart explaining isolation requirements: [Flow Chart](#)

## Health & Wellness:

[Healthy Kids](#)  
[Healthy Teens](#)

## SMPC January 2022 Senior High Exam Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
January 10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21 <i>Last day of class for Gr 12 students</i>
24 <i>Last Day of Non-Diploma Exam Classes &amp; HS Option Classes</i> 9 am - 12 noon SS 30 1/2	25 9 am - 12 noon SS 20-1/2 Science 10 Science 14 Math 30 1/2	26 9 am - 12 noon English 10-1/2 Biology 20 Science 24	27 9 am - 12 noon Physics 20	28 9 am - 12 noon Exam Make Up Day Gr 12 Marks due to ABEd
31 No School PD day	February 1 Semester 2 Starts			



Looking forward to a new year with ...

# Holy Spirit Catholic School Division

## 2022/2023 REGISTRATION

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### Re-Registration Starts January 17, 2022

Families who already have students in our system should expect an email during the week of January 17-21, 2022 asking that the online "Registration Update Form" be completed for each child who will be attending during the 2022/2023 school year.

This update allows us to make sure the information on file is accurate and that any legal declarations, preferences and consents are renewed. It also allows our schools to plan for the upcoming school year.

Parents/guardians who are hoping to register younger siblings new to the division will also have the opportunity to do this at the same time that they re-register older students.



### New Student Registration Starts February 1, 2022

Students new to the division who wish to enroll for the 2022/2023 school year are invited to register online starting on February 1, 2022.

- Our **Early Learning Program** is designed to stimulate the growing curiosity of children 3 and 4 years of age.
- Our **Kindergarten** is designed for children 5 years of age on, or before, December 31, 2022.



For information about our Early Learning and Kindergarten Programs, or to discuss your child's specialized programming requirements, contact our Early Learning Coordinator at 403-381-8495 or [earlylearning@holyspirit.ab.ca](mailto:earlylearning@holyspirit.ab.ca).

### For More Information

If you need assistance with the online registration process, or have any questions, contact your child's school or visit the school division's website at [www.holyspirit.ab.ca](http://www.holyspirit.ab.ca).



**Holy Spirit Catholic School Division**

...where students are cherished and achieve their potential.

# January 2022

16 Last day to order oranges/grapefruits from the Friends	17 Registration Update Forms for continuing students open!	18 1/2E to Mass	19	20	21 Last day of class for grade 12's Friday 1	22
23	24 Last day of class for grade 10 & 11 Social 30 Exam	25 Social 20 Exam Science 10 Exam Science 14 Exam Math 30 Exam	26 English 10 Exam Biology 20 Exam Science 24 Exam  Board Meeting 6:00 pm	27 Physics 20 Exam	28 Exam Make up Day	29
30	31 	1  Semester 2 Starts Today! 3/4F to Mass	2	3	4 Friday 1	5
6	7	8 Tues/Thurs Kinders to Mass	9	10	11 Friday 2	12
13	14	15	16	17  Jostens will be here with grad jewelry to look at/order  Jr/Sr High Academic Awards 7:00 pm	18 Friday 1	19
20	21  gg85574829 GoGraph.com	22 No School	23 No School	24 No School	25 No School	26