

June 8, 2020

Dear Families,

We pray this letter finds you and your family safe and healthy. We continue to be very proud of our administrators' leadership, our teachers' innovative thinking, our families' and students' continued support, flexibility and feedback - the power of teamwork has been a blessing during these difficult times.

*1 Corinthians 13 We are one, we are strongest **working together** in unity.
Teamwork is the key to living life in harmony*

We appreciate your patience, understanding and flexibility since the government's decision to temporarily close schools March 15.

My primary purpose for this letter is to inform you that we have started our relaunch plan which encompasses the three scenarios that the Alberta Government has given us. I want you to know that there is a team working diligently on what the 2020-2021 school year might look like for our students, families and staff.

Your voice is critical in our planning. We have included a survey in this letter to families seeking feedback and intentions in regard to what September could look like for your family based on the scenarios the Alberta Government has provided for us. The link is:

[Parent Re-Entry Survey](#)

I suggest completing the survey after you have read the information below to see our plan moving forward.

The Alberta Government has indicated the reopening of schools will be in Phase 2. Earlier this month the government outlined three possible scenarios which could exist by September, including:

- **Scenario 1:** Normal school operations are able to resume
- **Scenario 2:** Schools are partially reopened, with some level of restrictions
- **Scenario 3:** Teacher-directed at-home learning continues

Our priority is the health and safety of our students and staff. It is important to note that any return to school will be done under the guidance and direction from Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health and Alberta Education. In the meantime, we need to plan for the worst and hope for the best.

If we proceed with **Scenario 1**, we realize there may be some students and families who don't feel comfortable returning, for various reasons, or who aren't able to return due to health concerns.

If we move to **Scenario 2**, there is much to consider including:

- Busing of students (in light of the two metre social distancing regulation this will result in the transportation of 11-12 students at one time)
- The possibility of staggering classroom entry and instruction so social distancing can be maintained (for example, this may be done by splitting classrooms up into Day 1 and Day 2 groups)
- Examining rules and new procedures for the use of technology and manipulatives
- Protocols around sick staff and students and those who become ill during school hours
- Enhanced cleaning procedures
- Protocols around the use of (or non-use of) PPE materials
- Social/emotional supports for staff, students and families

If the Government decides to continue with **Scenario 3**, we need to consider:

- Increased time expectations for students in regard to their coursework
- Requirements for students to pass their courses
- Refining of practices over the past three months to maximize learning

The Senior Administration team at Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools is working in collaboration with the Alberta School Boards Association, the Alberta Teachers' Association, the College of Alberta School Superintendents, Alberta Education, Alberta Health Services, Occupational Health and Safety, as well as neighbouring school jurisdictions to come up with the best approach to the three scenarios that we have before us. Rest assured that any decisions that are made will be under the guidance and direction from the Chief Medical Officer of Health and Alberta Education.

We continue to be thankful for your support, patience and understanding as we move forward with our plans for re-launching and the 2020/2021 school year.

On behalf of staff across the division, please know that we are praying for you and your children. We miss you all dearly and we can't wait to see you in our schools again in the near future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathleen Finnigan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "K" and "F".

Mrs. Kathleen Finnigan
Interim Superintendent of Schools