

reCONNECT

SUMMER

2020

ST THOMAS COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

A LONG AWAITED RETURN

Planning for— and looking forward to— a return to our facilities.

As our world continues to wrestle with the COVID-19 pandemic that has dramatically impacted our lives, we continue to look to God and lean on Him for wisdom, guidance and protection as we navigate these challenging times. We are confident that our God is faithful and continues to watch over us. We trust the promises that we read in God's Word:

Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations

Deuteronomy 7:9

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Hebrews 13:8

As we focus on God's faithfulness and provision, we move forward confidently knowing that He has a plan for our school and will lead us through this challenging time.

In this update, you will read about our plan for a return to school and the steps that we are taking in order to keep your children safe. Our goal is to balance our approach in order to protect the physical health of our students while we care for their spiritual and mental health as well.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work through these unprecedented times. Please understand that the information we share in this update may change in order to address the demands and complexities of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We look forward to reconnecting with all of you and having our students return to our facilities.



**PLAN FOR
RETURN**



**STAFF
INTRO**



**FACILITY
UPDATE**

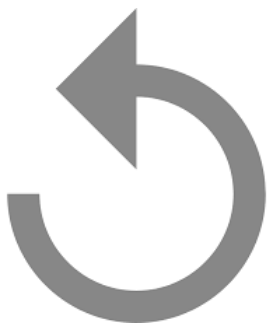
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RETURN TO SCHOOL

OUR PLAN

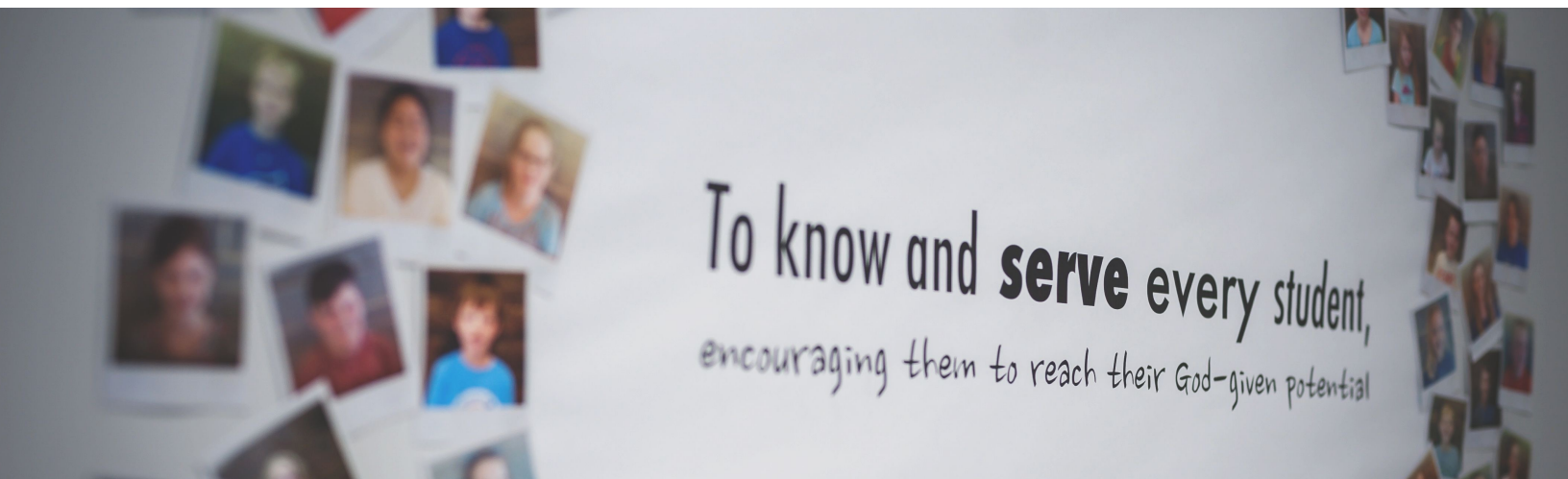
Over the past few months we have explored a variety of opinions, recommendations and guidance statements to protect our families and communities from exposure and spread of the SARS-COV-2 virus or COVID-19. The demonstration of STCCS's commitment to education in the midst of the pandemic was displayed through the quick and complete turn-about to support distance education for our students. The board and teaching staff at STCCS will strive to make 2020-2021 a positive year as we work to support families and our students' academic success.

As we move into the 2020-2021 school year, STCCS will remain committed to knowing and serving every student while balancing the risk of viral transmission within our community and school. We will resume with full-time, 5 days/week academic instruction while enhancing controls to keep our students safe. The 2020-2021 year will look and feel different from our normal community-supported school environment and will encourage us to look toward new and innovative ways to support parents and students for this unique season.

Daily Screening

STCCS will expect all parents to review the [COVID Symptom document](#) to screen your children daily before leaving for school. STCCS will send out monthly reminders to encourage regular parental screening. The avoidance and removal of COVID-19 in our school campuses will be the single most important step to sustaining our academic plan through this year. Please ensure you have robust plans for situations when your child becomes sick before or during school. Our teachers and administration staff will be supported in making final decisions to send students home if they are displaying any symptoms consistent with COVID-19.

- i) If your child develops symptoms please complete the [Self Assessment Tool](#) to direct you and your family to the most appropriate care.
- ii) In late August, further guidance will be shared around the procedures to return to in-class attendance once symptoms are identified.



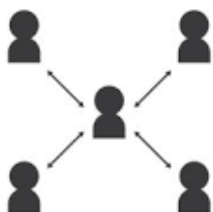


AREAS OF FOCUS



Hand Hygiene and Environmental Control: STCCS teachers and staff understand and want to promote the richness of active, in class learning. In order to support this model, we will be increasing our frequency of cleaning high-touch surfaces at both campuses. In most cases alternative staff will be responsible for this measure, but older age classes will be provided appropriate materials to wipe down their learning spaces or shared items (ex. microscope) on a regular basis. In line with this, we will build regular hand-hygiene breaks into our academic day. Our entrances and exits will have alcohol based hand sanitizer as well as each classroom. We ask that all students Grades 4 and up have their own hand sanitizer available for use throughout the day.

Water fountains at both campuses will be disabled for the school year. Each child should have a labelled water bottle provided and it should be returned home daily for cleaning.



Social Distancing: When possible, students and staff will be spaced apart appropriately. In order to accomplish this goal, classrooms will be arranged for as much physical distancing as possible. This will require that students will be at desks that are further apart than what is typical at STCCS. In addition, we will ensure that everyone queues and eats further apart than normal. In the playground and when doing physical exercise, children will be kept apart as best as possible. Visits to the washroom will be arranged in a way that allows for social distancing.



Masks: Based on available recommendations and various pediatric consensus statements we have chosen to align with our local Public Health Unit and the recent Guide to re-opening Ontario's Schools to support our students Grade 4 through High School to wear masks when social distancing is not possible. The concerns about the use of masks in a school setting are around the appropriate donning of masks, compliance during the school day and the contamination of other students, desks and equipment with dirty masks.

To support this recommendation, we would ask that all students from grade 4 through High School have 5-10 non-medical masks purchased or prepared for the first day of school. One or two masks per day will be sent to the school daily in a plastic or paper sandwich style bag. The bag will serve as the location for storage throughout the day when the mask is not required to be worn (Phys-ed, recess, activities where physical distancing can be maintained). We ask parents to review appropriate application and storage of masks with their children. As research evolves this year, we will revisit this recommendation frequently. Furthermore, we are a mask friendly school and we welcome any of our students to wear a mask at any time that they see fit. Please consult [this article](#) for further details regarding non-medical masks.

Student Drop-off and Entrance to School: To support the co-horting of students and limiting outside contacts, we will not allow parents into the school during regular academic hours. Parents are asked to drop their kids off and not leave their cars. Parents of younger children, JK-Grade 1, should park in the parking lot and help their child(ren) out of their vehicle and across the parking lot, at which point they can part with their child(ren) to be supervised by our staff.

Parents will be permitted on campus to pick up an ill child or respond to an emergency. Parents must wear a non-medical mask when entering either STCCS campus. Parents are strongly encouraged to maintain community contacts with other parents in the parking lots respecting social distancing guidelines.

On-line learning: STCCS will not be able to support full-time online learning for parents who feel that return to school is not currently safe. We are committed to provide continued education through unit-based modules to support children who are at home because of sickness or exposure.



STAFF TEAM UPDATE

Jody Brix - We are very excited to announce that we have hired Jody Brix to cover for Nicole Stephenson's maternity leave. Jody graduated from the University of Waterloo's French Teaching Specialization Program in 2013 (including a third year studying abroad in Nantes, France) and then attended Nipissing University in North Bay for her Bachelor of Education. Jody is a talented and thoughtful teacher who has spent the last five years teaching grade nine through twelve core French at King's Christian Collegiate. Jody has been highly recommended to us and will help us to build and develop a thriving French program at STCCS particularly in the Middle and High School next year. Jody is a dedicated teacher with a passion for teaching the French language and seeing students enjoy and grow in their ability to speak a second language. We are very excited to welcome Jody to our staff.



Facility Update: Grade 5

In order to address the growing needs of our high school, as well as the storage and space needs of both of our facilities, we have moved our grade five classroom back to our North Campus at 77 Fairview. This means that our Elementary school (North Campus) will support all of our JK through to Grade Five students for the 2020-21 school year. Our Grade Six through Grade Eight students and all Secondary students will continue to attend our South Campus (345 Fairview).

Personal Technology

As we strive to care for the physical health of our students during the COVID pandemic, we will be focusing our attention on reducing the number of school items that will be shared amongst students. In order to successfully accomplish that goal, while maintaining a quality academic experience for our students, we are asking our families to send Grade 4 - Secondary students to school with personal devices, particularly laptops or Chromebooks. This will allow our students to continue to use technology to support their learning while adhering to best practices to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Please note that we have a large number of Chromebooks and iPads available to share with students who do not have access to a personal device for regular use. In addition, all school rules concerning technology will apply to personal devices while they are on school grounds.

Next Editions of reConnect

There is so much more information to share before we return to class on September 8th, including information about:

Class Lists | School Supply Checklists | Before-and-After School Program Info | Additional procedures for COVID-19