

March 17, 2020 **Access to the School, School Fees & Graduation Info**

**Dear Parents & Staff:**

On March 16, 2020, the Deputy Minister provided additional direction to Superintendents and I am pleased to provide you with new/ additional information.

**Why were classes cancelled so abruptly late Sunday afternoon?** Some of the newly confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Alberta over the past weekend could not be connected to travel outside of the province or being in direct contact with someone who traveled outside of the province. Feedback from school authorities indicating they did not feel they had the supplies and/or resources and/or ability to meet the expectations of cleaning and maintaining distance between students provided in the protocol issued on Friday.

**Will families be able to get access to the school to retrieve our personal items?** Parents can expect to hear when and under what circumstances they will be able to visit their school to retrieve students' personal items, including books and supplies. This will most likely begin at some point next week. If your child has left a time sensitive item at school, such as medication, arrangements for visiting the school can be made promptly.

**I pay monthly for certain school fees. Will the monthly payments be cancelled?** All monthly payments scheduled for April – June for Pre-Kindergarten and Celtic Academy will be cancelled this week.

**Will I receive a refund for the fees that I already paid?** This question has a two-part answer.

**Pre-Kindergarten & Celtic Academy:** We will refund your payment for March and for April-June (if you pre-paid the entire year).

**School Fees (primarily Grades 8-12):** The province has requested that we wait to make a decision on these fees until the At-Home learning strategy is finalized, as the expectation to continue to deliver Alberta's high-quality education to students remains. This includes fees for Foods, Shop, Cosmo and other courses.

**My child was supposed to graduate this year!** Students in grade 12 will graduate this school year if they are scheduled to do so, and they will receive support from their teachers and their schools to ensure they will be able to complete courses required to enter post-secondary programs in Fall 2020. More information will follow.

**We appreciate your patience as we work through many details and significantly more information will be provided next week.** You can expect that our At-Home Learning Strategy will be comprehensive, incorporating a variety of strategies and activities to meet Alberta's world-class educational standard.

Yours in Catholic Education,



Karl Germann  
Superintendent of Schools

References:

Alberta Health Services (Info for Albertans) <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/topics/Page16997.aspx>

Alberta Health Services (Info for Schools) <https://www.alberta.ca/coronavirus-info-for-albertans.aspx#p22780s6>