

Dear St. Nicholas Parents,

In order to be able to work through all the new changes, **all the schools in EICS are planning a staggered school start this year starting on Tuesday, September 1**. For the first four days of school, about a quarter of the students will attend each day. The first full day for all students (both in school and on-line) will be Tuesday, September 8th. We are asking that parents have their child at school at 8:45am on your staggered entry dates and dismissal is 3:14pm **except for Wednesday, September 2 (early dismissal-2:14pm)**.

Use the letter of your child's last name to determine which day of staggered entry your child comes to school.

<u>Tuesday, Sept. 1st</u> <u>(8:45am-3:14pm)</u> A - D	<u>Wednesday, Sept. 2nd</u> <u>(8:45am-2:14pm)</u> E - L	<u>Thursday, Sept. 3rd</u> <u>(8:45am-3:14pm)</u> M - P	<u>Friday, Sept. 4th</u> <u>(8:45am-3:14pm)</u> Q - Z
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*** Kindergarten students will have their own specific schedule, parents will receive a separate email indicating your child's specific staggered entry day.

This staggered start will allow us the opportunity to greet and connect with our students, establish routines, discuss hand and respiratory hygiene, and PPE (masks) with a smaller number of students in our school. Please note, that with the online option available our class lists have been changing daily. Parents will be notified of their child's homeroom by email on Friday, August 28.

How to prepare

You will need to use the AHS Daily Screening Tool **each day**, prior to coming to school, including our staggered entry days, linked [here](#).

We recognize that there may be some apprehension from our parents because you will not be able to enter the school and share in those first day excitement and potential jitters. To help alleviate some anxiety, we will hold a **virtual "Town Hall" meeting on Monday, August 31 at 6:30pm**, where we will review site-specific protocols, and have an opportunity for parents to ask me any questions. Students are welcome to attend this virtual meet. Please find the link for the meet here - [St. Nicholas Virtual Town Hall](#)

Supplies

Please bring your child's labelled school supplies (link here - [Supply Lists](#)) in a backpack, their lunch, and a filled and labelled water bottle this day. Students will be given an individual bin to place their school supplies and backpacks will be placed on the back of their chairs. Lockers and boot rooms will not be available at the start of the school year, however, we will revisit this as a staff once routines and protocols have been in place.

PPE/Masks:

As per the Chief Medical Officer and Minister of Education's direction, **all grade four students** must also come with a mask. Students in grade 4 will be required to wear a mask when physical distancing can't be maintained. We highly recommend sending two per day. Mask use for kindergarten to grade 3 students will continue to be optional but it is strongly encouraged.

Cohorts

Students will be placed in a homeroom and that will be their "cohort class". Cohort classes will have separate entrances/exit doors. They will have a designated zone to play at recess. Cohort classes will be eating lunch in their homeroom. We will try to limit the amount of movement they will have throughout the day.

Entrance/Exit doors:

Your child will be entering and exiting through a specific door which will be labelled with their grade level (map attached) This will be their cohort entrance and exit door for the year. As per the [EICS re-entry plan](#), parents will not be allowed to enter the school so please make a plan with your child where you will safely meet before and after school.

Transportation:

If your child is registered to take the bus, please ensure you have read and understood the EICS Transportation Safety Guidelines listed [here](#)

Kindergarten Students:

Kindergarten students will have their own specific schedule, parents will receive a separate email indicating your child's specific staggered entry day.

Bell Schedule

I have attached a copy of our bell schedule. Please note early dismissal is the first Wednesday of every month and dismissal is 2:14pm on these days.

Student Illness

It is imperative to use the AHS Daily Screening Tool **each day**, prior to coming to school, linked [here](#), and to keep your child at home if they display any symptoms. If a student shows signs of illness at school, they will be moved to our designated infirmary area and provided with a mask. Parents/Guardians will be notified and advised to pick up their child promptly. Parents/Guardians must continue to assess their child's symptoms and the child will not be permitted to return until symptoms disappear. Those unsure if they should self-isolate should be directed to use the Alberta [COVID-19 Self-Assessment](#).

On-line instruction

EICS is providing an online alternative for families from Grades 1-12. If your family is in this situation, please contact me as soon as possible so we can talk about your situation and options available to support your child. Please call the school at 780-467-3633 or contact me directly at peterr@eics.ab.ca with an email outlining your request and a phone number that you can be reached at.

As a staff, we will work diligently to model a calm and supportive approach for our students entering this new year. Please continue to check the EICS Re-Entry document for information, linked [here](#) and found on the EICS website.

We are working very hard to plan, prepare and communicate as best we can. Please contact me with any inquiries you may have at 780-467-3633 or email peterr@eics.ab.ca

God Bless,

Peter Rachmistruk

Principal