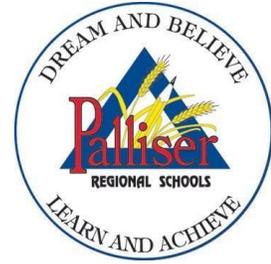




Calgary Christian School



Hello CCES families

As we are approaching September, we have been working to ready the school for the many changes that are part of the Covid 19 environment. We want to thank the parents that filled out the survey that was sent out to determine parent choices regarding in person or online learning for your children.

Some of the changes for this year will be procedural in nature, such as regarding school entry and dismissal, and some involve the acquisition and use of items such as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for staff and students, directional indicators for hallways, and social distancing markers for outside pavement areas. Other changes include the reassignment of some CCES teachers to work with our online learners.

Regarding Meet the Teacher night, which is on Monday, August 31 from 3:00-6:00, just a reminder that parents are not allowed, per AHS directive, to enter the building. Also, please note which day your child will attend during our staggered entry. The goal in the first number of days is especially to introduce the students to the procedural changes that are a part of this school year.

We have had more families choose the online learning option now in August than was indicated back in Spring when a similar survey was sent out. Consequently, we have needed to reassign some teachers to work with the online students in the various grade levels. We will still be using SeeSaw as our learning platform in K-2 and Google Classroom in grades 3-6, and we will also be using Google Meet for students to connect with their teachers virtually.

For those parents who chose online learning for their Kindergarten students, Mrs. Monika Pagenkopf will be their teacher. Mrs. Pagenkopf has taught Kindergarten for five years, and has been working at CCES since 2016. For those parents who chose online learning for their grade 1 & 2 students, Mrs. Grace Ernter will be their teacher. Mrs. Ernter taught grade 1 at CCES for many years, and is well known to the community. For those parents who chose online learning for their grade 3, 4 & 6 students (there are no grade 5 students in online learning), Mrs. Beth Gillard will be their teacher. Mrs. Gillard came to us in June from another Prairie Centre for Christian Education school in Leduc. She has taught grade 3 students as a Music teacher, grade 4 students as a French teacher, and grade 6 students as a grade level teacher.

Once again, because of the number of students in the online learning program, these teachers have been reassigned to these positions. Consequently, we will not have a Literacy Intervention program, Numeracy Intervention program, or grade 4-6 French classes for at least the first part of the year. If over time, families choose to move students from online to in person learning, we can revisit starting up these programs once again. Some of you may be aware that because of online learning requirements French is not being taught in Middle School this year at the secondary campus; that was a factor in our decision-making process at the elementary campus.

Those families whose children will be in online learning will be contacted in the first week of school (next week) by the above mentioned online learning teachers, according to their grade level. Online learning instruction will begin the week of September 8.

A number of families who have chosen the online learning option have indicated that their desire is for their children to eventually move back to in person learning. To this end, therefore, all our online learning students are assigned to grade level classrooms. We want to extend the opportunity to online learners to virtually be a part of the devotions that take place in their assigned classes every morning, through Google Meet. PE lessons will also be posted on SeeSaw and Google Classroom for online learners by our gym teacher, Mr. Mark Heppner. Further, Bible lessons will be posted for each grade level where there are online students, by the grade level teachers. So for example, Mrs. Williams, Ms. Janz and Ms. Vandermeer will post Bible lessons for the grade 4 online learning students.

Because our online students will be interacting with all the teachers in their grade level through the Bible lessons, and our in person instruction students who are self isolating will also be interacting with the various teachers at their grade level, the grade level teams will be making teacher introduction videos. These will be similar to what they did last Spring, in order to introduce themselves to all the students in their grade level.

We are asking for your grace and understanding as we navigate the many requirements of the Covid 19 environment. We prayed for the students and parents this morning in our staff meeting, and we covet your prayers for all our staff members.

I want to leave you with Isaiah 40:28-31. "Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and His understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

Mike Thiesen

Principal, CCES