



St. Maurice School Inc.

1639 Pembina Highway Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 2G6
Phone: (204) 452-2873 or (204) 453-4020 Fax: (204) 452-4050
Internet: www.stmaurice.mb.ca Email: info@stmaurice.mb.ca

March 14, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

On Friday, March 13, Manitoba Premier Brian Pallister announced that Manitoba schools will suspend classes for the one week before the spring break and the week after the break. This measure is being implemented to help stop the spread of coronavirus disease (also called COVID-19). St. Maurice School will be closed for students just as you read or view in the news regarding Manitoba public schools; this provincial directive applies to all public schools and all funded independent schools like St. Maurice. Public health officials have advised suspending classes in Manitoba Kindergarten to Grade 12 schools effective March 23 to April 10.

March 16 to 20:

Teachers will conduct in-school classes as well as help prepare students for remote learning which will take place from March 23 to 27 and April 6 to 9.

- Students should take home all personal items needed at home from their lockers/desks on or before March 19th
- Students are to take home their textbooks, workbooks and other materials as directed by their classroom/subject teachers during the classes on Monday to Thursday such that they will have what they need for the remote instruction which will begin on March 23rd

Public health-recommended social distancing strategies will be in place for the in-school classes which will be held from Monday, March 16 to Thursday, March 19, inclusive.

Note: Friday, March 20 is a pre-scheduled in-service day for school staff, with no classes for students at all levels, K-12 at St. Maurice. The school offices will be closed on this day, as all school staff will be involved in meetings.

Preventive measures that been in place for several days at the School will continue and will include:

- ensuring that staff and students who are ill stay home from school
- reducing activities in large groups and crowds (thus the cancellation of extra-curricular activities)
- instructing students on proper soap-and-warm water handwashing technique, and ensuring that hands are washed regularly, especially before eating times
- instructing students on proper cough/sneeze protocol (into their upper sleeve or elbow), and to avoid touching their face, nose and mouth
- instructing students to not hold hands for activities or at recess play times, and

- having parents pick up a child who has become sick at school as immediately as possible, to take them home
- sanitizing high contact surfaces on a frequent basis
- increasing desk distance between students as much as our classrooms will allow

Please discuss and reinforce these prevention measures with your child/ren. *It is important to speak with your child/ren in a manner which describes the pandemic concern and these prevention measures in an age-appropriate way which does not create fear or panic.*

If your child is going to be staying home from school during any of these in-school class dates, please advise us if your child is away due to “illness” or “other”; this information help us provide accurate data to public health authorities as requested.

Manitoba Health is recommending that all people with symptoms of a respiratory illness, even if mild, should stay home until all symptoms are gone. Symptoms of the coronavirus disease range from mild (fever, cough, runny nose, sore throat) to severe (shortness of breath and breathing difficulties). Older people and those living with chronic health conditions appear to be more vulnerable to becoming severely ill. If you have questions, please contact your healthcare provider or call Health Links 204-788-8200. A Manitoba government press release issued this morning indicates that “Technical improvements were made to Health Links–Info Santé on Friday, allowing the service to handle more than 100 callers simultaneously, which is nearly triple its usual capacity. Further technical enhancements are being worked on and staffing numbers continue to be increased. The public is asked to continue to contact Health Links–Info Santé at 204-788-8200 or 1-888-315-9257 (toll-free) for COVID-19 and other health concerns including international travellers who have developed cold- or flu-like symptoms within the past 14 days of returning to Canada.”

March 23-27 and April 6 to 9:

For the two-week time period when in-person classes are suspended, teachers will provide assignments, activities, projects, etc. and will conduct remote learning via email, the Internet, or other platforms when possible. Older students and parents/guardians will be provided with course instruction information as it becomes available from teachers, who have already begun preparing to shift the educational programming to an online format for the duration of the school suspension. Students will work from home on lessons and assignments as remotely directed by their teacher(s). More information to parents and students will be shared in the coming week about the means by which alternative instruction will be provided during the period when classroom teaching is suspended.

The School offices will continue to be open from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm on March 23-27 and April 6-9. The school will be closed for all business on Good Friday, April 6 and Easter Monday, April 13, 2020. The school offices will re-open at 8:00 am on Tuesday, April 14, which is the date anticipated for the return of students to their regular in-school classes. Keep a watch on the news media and your email inbox for any announcement from the Provincial Government and the School if the school suspension should need to be extended.

Should parents wish to contact their child’s teachers, a complete faculty list with email addresses is found on our website at <https://www.stmaurice.mb.ca/teacher-contacts-k-6> for K-6 and at <https://www.stmaurice.mb.ca/teacher-contacts-7-12> for 7-12. All teachers of 7-12 and

some teachers in K-6 maintain a website which is also linked from the staff pages on the school website. I am requesting that parents and students not email teachers about remote learning programming until after they have received information from their teacher(s) about how this will work in their courses.

We are mindful that students are processing this pandemic in varying ways and some are feeling more stress than others. This is a time to extend extra kindness to others and ourselves. Our student support team members (counselor, resource team, campus ministry team and administration) are available to provide extra support, even if remotely, to our students as needed.

Thank you for your cooperation. The health and safety of our students and staff is of paramount importance and we value the measures our Government has put into place to help flatten the curve of the coronavirus pandemic.

Please watch your email inbox for additional information from the School Administration as the pandemic situation continues to evolve. Updates will also be posted to the homepage of the school website at www.stmaurice.mb.ca

Prayers for everyone in our school community and in the whole world in these challenging times.

May God bless you with a Lenten season which brings you ever closer to Him,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'B. Doiron', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mr. Bryan Doiron
Principal