



Traditional Learning Academy

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Welcome back to school!

September 6 (email) & 7 (hard copy), 2021
St. Donatian & St. Clodoald

Dear TLA Parents and Families,

We extend a warm welcome to students and families new and old as we begin the academic year. It is our sincerest hope that the summer holidays have been a time of rest and relaxation for everyone. To ensure a smooth transition back to school, we have outlined below a few important items for your consideration.

This message is being sent as an email fan out on Labour Day and as a hard copy to all families on the first day of school. Those of you new to the school or who have changed your email contacts recently, please send an email message with this information and your family name to the office (tlaooffice@traditionallearning.com), subject Line: EMAIL CONTACT FOR NEWSLETTERS. We want everyone to get news in a timely manner!

Our annual Back to School BBQ will not take place this year, as it is considered a social activity. This event has always been joined to the Meet the Teacher Night which this year we will offer online. There will be no continued, *Temporary Transition Plan* for students to be supported in their education at home should their parents be unwilling for them to return to class. These students may be enrolled in home schooling or in Distributed Learning programs instead.

High school students in grades 9 through 12 will be receiving a letter from the school on the first day regarding instructions for their enrolment in French 9, and Career Education 10 & 12. These must be read and acted upon immediately by parents of those students.

Any students who do not have complete school uniforms are required to wear comparable items until the official school uniforms arrive; please send a note for the home room teacher with the student indicating when the missing items will be in place.

British Columbia schools have very recently been instructed to replace their former Covid-19 Safety Plans with Communicable Disease Prevention Plans to help prevent the spread of diseases such as influenza, Norovirus, and, of course, Covid-19. This new plan is less restrictive than the former but does retain elements of the previous plan and includes some practical, common-sense procedures and practices aimed at keeping everyone healthy. *As with the other schools in the Catholic Independent Schools of Vancouver Archdiocese, we are not permitted to ask or inquire into the vaccination status of members of our school community as this is a private medical matter.*

We are in the process of finalizing this TLA Communicable Disease Prevention Plan, and want to introduce you to the various components which will be included in it. These are based on instructions and procedures provided by the provincial health authorities and the Catholic Schools of Vancouver

Archdiocese, and will be published shortly in more detail. Our Communicable Disease Prevention Plan will include the following:

Ventilation of Interior Spaces will be improved at the school using various means, including open windows, fans, and High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filters in classrooms and other interior spaces. This equipment is in the process of being assembled and will be in place shortly.

Daily Individual Self Health Checks by staff and by parents of students to discern any concerning symptoms should continue take place every day. When any evident symptoms present themselves, individuals are asked to stay home. Teachers will support students at home in these situations by providing work to help them to keep up with their studies. Daily health checks last year appear to have resulted in a significant reduction of illnesses in general at school. It is rather a paradox that during the pandemic, students and staff at our school experienced remarkably good health and excellent attendance. This likely has been due to the vigilance of parents and staff in this area.

Frequent hand washing & sanitizing, as well as respiratory etiquette will be part of our regular routine here at school.

Daily Frequent Contact Surface Cleaning will take place at school by teachers, students, and Parent Participation Personnel.

Masks will be worn indoors by staff, parents, and visitors to the school, as well as students in grades four to twelve when physical barriers are not present, with the same conditions and exceptions outlined by our Covid-19 Safety Plan.

Student Physical Spacing – Although student cohorts and strict physical distancing are no longer mandated, indoor physical activity will be such that students will be separated as much as possible. During intense physical activity masks will not be required. PE classes will be held outside whenever possible.

The school administration will keep abreast of provincial updates to the Communicable Disease protocols and during periods of elevated risk, the medical health officer or the provincial health officer will provide information and guidance about the risk and how to reduce it. These, and other in-house modifications to the CDP Plan, will be announced to parents via the email fan out list, and the school website.

Parents and drivers dropping off students at the school will continue to do so at the front, and the east side of the property. Students will be responsible for carrying their personal belongings onto the property and into the school itself unaided by parents. Parents and others who need to visit the school office will be requested to do so through the front doors, and limit their visit to the front entrance and to the office. Parents and visitors will still need to sign in and provide information for contact tracing purposes.

NOTE: *Parents of students in Kindergarten have particular exceptions to these regulations during the gradual entry program for Kindergarten students during their first week. Parents of Grade 1 students may, if necessary, assist their children to take their belongings to class on the first day. Other than that, parents are requested to drop off such items in the office.*

Protocols in response to students or staff exhibiting Covid-19 symptoms at school, as well as the response by the school to any cases and possible exposures remain the same as found in our previous Covid-19 Health and Safety Plan. Cases and potential exposure responses will be managed under the direct instructions of the Fraser Health Authority.

Please stay tuned for more updates which will be forwarded to you this coming week! I look forward to the beginning of school with all of our new and existing families and students.

Yours sincerely, Martin Dale, Principal