



St. Gabriel School

REGINA ROMAN CATHOLIC SEPARATE SCHOOL DIVISION NO. 81

Mr. Paul Van Betuw
Principal

Mrs. Lindsay Morhart
Vice-Principal

August 12, 2020

Hello St. Gabriel Families!

Wow, what a beautiful school. In the last eight weeks, Mrs. Morhart and Mr. Van Betuw have been busy meeting staff, identifying the facility, looking through resources and learning about the gold and black of the Guardians. We recognize that everyone is anxious to learn about our new team, our plans for the return to school, and how our community will provide a quality education that you expect and welcome. Over the next three weeks, we hope the communication from the school and our families will have us ready for a staggered return to school on September 8 - 11.

As the newly appointed administrators of St. Gabriel, we are committed to guiding our teachers and students back to an enthusiastic school that fosters student learning that results in student excellence. Together we will work out the details of this return based on the guidelines of Regina Catholic Schools, our 35 years of combined administrative experience, and the advice of our teaching staff who know the school. We recognize that returning this fall will be different, yet we are confident that a clear vision, common expectations, trusting relationships, opportunities for student leadership, and a passion for excellence have always been and will continue to be key to our guardians driving school success. Mrs. Morhart provides enthusiastic instructional leadership and Mr. Van Betuw has a reputation for leading schools where students, and teachers, demonstrate their excellence as individuals, teammates, and children of God. We have several new teachers who will join our very proud professionals who remain to serve your children. We all look forward to meeting each, and every, Guardian very soon.

So much has happened since we left school March 20. Our Guardians have missed their friends and activities of school, families have grown closer as they met the challenges of COVID-19, and many of you are distraught by traumatic events in your own families. A return to school will provide our community a place to reunite and provide spiritual, emotional, social, and academic support. Learning from home, while necessary, did not meet all of our needs. We recognize that strong academic progress is very important to our learners yet ensuring that our students connect back with their teachers, have face to face conversations with friends, and enjoy activities filled with laughter are essential. Students at most schools will return to school September 8. We are all hearing what they will or will not do over the news, social media and at the park. Please recognize that the implementation of Regina Catholic Schools plans for return will be school specific. **We will send biweekly updates including details of our St. Gabriel plan through this messaging system. These will appear on the St. Gabriel web page @ www.rcsd.ca.**

Thank you for welcoming us to your school and parish community. We know you are also making plans for a return to learning. Here are a few informational items that you may be of interest and be helpful in getting ready. Thank you for your patience and for staying informed through these messages.

1. Mr. Van Betuw is available any time through e-mail, p.vanbetuw@rcsd.ca or phone, (306)530-8578.
2. If you know someone who wants to register for school, please direct them to this [On Line Registration](#).
3. We have purchased each student two St. Gabriel items that will be presented on the first day of school.
 - a. A Neck Gaiter, which students and staff may choose to wear as their **requirement to wear a mask**. RCSD has also purchased a mask for each student in Grades 4 – 12.
 - b. A **personalized water bottle**, for use at school as the bottle filler station is the only option at the fountain.
4. We are reviewing **class lists** as new families have registered and class sizes have changed. Please recognize that social and academic grouping, opportunities for growth, friendships, and classroom support were all considered when creating class lists in June. Changes will be minimal. E-mail Mr. Van Betuw if you have a question or concern with your child's placement. All placements will be firm on September 3.
5. Mr. Van Betuw is available for a physically distant visit at the school from 10:00 – 5:00 PM starting August 17.

Thanks Guardians, Take Care.