

October 15, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope everyone had a restful and blessed Thanksgiving long weekend. Here are a few important updates:

### **Optional Diploma Exams**

On Tuesday, Alberta Education announced the decision to make diploma exams optional for students in high schools on the quarter system (November exam period only). This decision was made after reviewing parent and educational partners' concerns and suggestions. Although this is a great step, our Board of Trustees will continue to advocate for similar decisions related to the January, April and June diploma examination periods. We will know more in the future months.

### **Diploma Preparation Refunds**

If a student has registered for a diploma preparation course and has decided to no longer write the diploma exam in November, they can initiate a refund by emailing the following information to [academicservices@cssd.ab.ca](mailto:academicservices@cssd.ab.ca): (i) their first and last names and (ii) the course(s) to unregister from. Please note, diploma preparation courses may be cancelled or combined with another location if minimum registration numbers are not met. Refunds will be issued if a course is cancelled.

### **Investigating Cases of Racism**

Each reported case of racism within the Calgary Catholic School District is taken very seriously. If you have a situation to report, please contact your school principal. Moving forward with racial justice is not going to be easy and it will take time for changes to occur. Please know that there are two sides to every story you hear in the media. However, due to privacy matters the other side cannot always be shared. Let me assure you that each matter is investigated and dealt with appropriately. With God at our side, we will improve.

### **Cases of COVID-19 in Our Schools**

Currently, we have 20 schools with active cases of COVID-19. Currently, there are 35 positive cases of COVID-19 in CCSD, resulting in 935 students and 88 staff members in self-isolation for 14 days. This is a significant increase from last week. Please stay faithful to our five health measures of morning health checks, handwashing, sanitizing, wearing masks and physical distancing where possible. Most importantly, stay home if you have any symptoms of illness. We will continue to work closely with Alberta Health Services and Alberta Education as new cases emerge.

### **Process For Parent Inquiries**

We welcome all parent inquiries and appreciate all the messages we have been receiving since the start of this school year. We would like to remind parents to please direct all inquiries to your school principal regarding district information. Your principal will be able to answer/forward your inquiries in a timely manner as they are updated regularly on district and provincial matters.

Thank you for choosing Catholic education and for having faith in us as we *Create Calgary Catholic together.*

Blessings,

Dr. Bryan Szumlas  
Chief Superintendent  
Calgary Catholic School District