** Restricted Level (Orange) at St. Alphonsus School**

Manitoba Public Health and Manitoba Education have raised the COVID-19 Response Level in schools in the Winnipeg Region to the Restricted Level (Orange). Public Health has indicated that while very little transmission is occurring in schools at this point, these additional public health measures are needed to allow schools to respond to the current risks with rising infections and community transmission. This shift will require additional physical distancing and some other health and safety measures at the school.

**Increasing Physical Distancing**

We are very fortunate indeed to have additional spaces that can be re-purposed to allow **all** learners to remain in school at the increased physical distancing. In order to move to 2 metres of distancing, classes will shift locations. Desk shields will continue to be used. From K-6, groups will have two rooms each, situated as close as possible to each other. An Educational Assistant has been assigned to each of these groups on a full-time basis. The Teacher and EA can move back and forth between the two spaces assigned to support teaching and learning, with one in each classroom and switching as needed. Teachers will be streaming lessons between the classrooms and, at times, with remote learners. We have obtained additional IT support to help with all that is required to set up the additional rooms and streaming.

* **Grade 7 and 8** will move to the Gym, one facing the East wall, one facing the West wall. **Grade 6** will use the Resource Room and the Science Lab.
* **Grade 5** will use the Grade 5 & 6 classrooms.
* **Grade 4** will use the Music Room and the Library.
* **Grade 3** will use the Grade 7 & 8 classrooms.
* **Grade 2** will use the Grade 2 and 3 classrooms.
* **Grade 1** will use the Grade 1 and 4 classrooms.
* **Kindergarten** will use the K and the French Room.
* **Nursery** will continue to operate in the same way.
* **The teachers will determine how to split their classes into smaller groups.**

**Grades will be back together for Physical Education, Music and Recess time.**

**Specialist Programming**

Our specialist programming (French, Music and Physical Education) is an important part of our students’ school experience and we know that students and families value these programs. Our plan allows for these subjects to continue with some adjustments.

* **Physical Education** will take place outside, weather permitting. It will be very important as winter approaches for all students to be prepared to be outside for classes (40 minutes in length) as well as recess and the Before and After School Program. We will follow guidelines from Environment Canada regarding weather in determining when students should stay inside.
* **Music** will shift to the Parish Hall.
* **French** will continue as it has during the Yellow level, with Madame Curwain moving to classrooms.

**Before and After School Program**

Childcare is a critical service for many of our families. Our Circle of Friends, before and after school program will continue operating. The program will shift out of the gym and into smaller groupings upstairs when they are inside.

**School Entrances and Exits**

The school entrances and exits used by your children will remain the same for the Restricted Level (Orange).

**Temporary Remote Learning**

Our school staff has worked tirelessly both in preparation for this school year and through the past weeks of school to ensure that we are keeping students as safe as possible. These additional measures will further our efforts in that regard. In-person learning is important for children’s academic growth and mental health. We will continue to prioritize in-person learning as long as Manitoba Public Health considers schools to be a safe place for students and staff.

We understand that some families may feel more nervous with the rising case levels or may have family health concerns. As a result, we are prepared to offer temporary remote learning during the Restricted Level (Orange). Remote learning will place an additional strain on our resources as it will be challenging for teachers to be attentive to students both at school and at home. Therefore this option is only open for families who have an adult at home who can support their child in learning. We will use a concurrent classroom model where students will join into classes that are happening at school via Zoom or Microsoft Teams, as well as packages of learning materials that families will pick-up.

There are a few important things to note:

1. The expectations for remote learning will be much higher than in the spring. Students must attend online classes and appointments with school staff. Students will also be expected to attend school in person for assessment appointments as arranged by their teachers.

The provincial minimum standards are:

**Real-time online instruction**

Grades 1–4: Five to six hours of instruction (synchronous, meaning in real time and interacting with an instructor) per week.

Grades 5–8: Seven to eight hours of instruction (synchronous) per week

**Independent work:** Student assignments will reflect the learning outcomes of the Manitoba curriculum. Some parent/caregiver support will be required. Students will be expected to participate for the following minimum amounts of time (independent work):

Grades 1–4: Two and a half hours per day

Grades 5–8: Three hours per day

 This independent work is in addition to the real time hours of learning.

**Kindergarten:** Students will engage in one to two hours per day of play-based learning. Mrs. Mattis will provide work packages for students and some suggestions for play-based learning for families. Families will have to arrange for pick-up and drop-off of assignments, as well as sourcing some materials for play based learning. She will connect with the student, along with parents/caregivers once per week to facilitate connection and provide support and play-based learning ideas

1. Families will be sent Zoom or Teams links to join into classes at the teacher’s discretion. Students will not be online with their class for the entire school day. Teachers will create a schedule for families.
2. Attendance is mandatory and will be recorded. Students may be required to attend school (or an alternate setting) for assessment and discussions with teacher, as needed and requested.
3. Families cannotopt into remote learning on a part time basis (i.e. 2 days/week, week on week off etc.). Once your family has made the commitment to remote learning you will be able to switch back to in-school learning at logical re-entry points determined by school staff.
4. The Learning Priority for remote learners will be core subject areas: ELA, Math, Science and Social Studies. Optional supplementary programming will not be offered.
5. This option is temporary. If the province shifts schools back into the Yellow Level, all students will be expected to be in attendance in person unless they are ill.
6. Until remote learning is available, students are expected to attend in-person classes. Remote learning will not be available immediately on Monday, October 26th but parents should advise the school if they wish to move to remote learning when it does become available.

Thank you for your continued patience and trust as we navigate these new situations to provide the best and safest learning environment for our students.