

Parent Update - September 2025

Happy new school year! It was wonderful to welcome back all the Holy Family School students and families. This year, our district theme is '**Anchored in Faith: Guided by Grace, Uplifted by Hope and Transformed by Love**' with a primary focus on being '**Guided by Grace**.' We are all about creating a culture of understanding and kindness so that everyone feels supported. Our plan is to model and teach a spirit of grace throughout the year, so we can all show more patience, offer forgiveness easily, and treat each other with respect. Let's make this a year where grace is practiced together in community.

Here are some key information items to get us started this year:

Reporting / Communication

- Based on parental and staff feedback, our district is **no longer mandating Schoology** as the platform for assessment tracking and reporting. We are well aware that significant challenges have existed in using this program. Over the past few years we have taken extensive measures to use Schoology as effectively and efficiently as possible, but have decided that we are going to shift to a new platform. Teachers will be using PowerTeacher which is a program associated with PowerSchool. When the time comes, you will be able to access student progress through PowerSchool. There are some considerations as we make this transition:
 - Student Progress Reporting - We ask for your patience as we make this change. Teachers will not be able to enter assessments/assignments until we have been fully trained in the new program. The Sep. 19 PD day will be a critical day for learning PowerTeacher. Our expectation is that grades will be updated and accessible soon after that. Information will be provided to assist you in accessing this information when everything is ready.
 - Communication - Weekly/Monthly newsletters and day-to-day communication are important for working collaboratively with our families. Teachers will be contacting you to inform you as to what program(s) they will utilize for communicating vital classroom information throughout the year. Please be reminded that the main office is the primary center for parent communication about their child. Updates about your child or family should be channeled through our Administrative Assistants who will ensure that messaging is distributed efficiently while also allowing teachers to remain focused on their classes during the school day. Specific questions or concerns regarding your child's learning/progress would be directed to the teacher with everything else going through the school office.

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Student Drop Off/Pickup

- Outside supervision starts at 8:10. The first morning bell rings at 8:20.
 - Students being dropped off are to remain with their parent(s)/guardian(s) until supervision begins. Please do not leave your child unattended at the school.
- The first dismissal bell rings at 2:56 with outside supervision until 3:10. Students are to go directly to their parents, to the bus or straight home when dismissed. They are not to go to the playground unless their parent/guardian is with them to supervise.
- If you are picking your child(ren) up early, will be late picking up, or have someone different (Ex. grandma/pa) transporting them, please let the office know.
- Please familiarize yourself with the [Drop & Go Guidelines](#)

School Fees / Rycor

- As was announced last year, we are implementing a fee of \$30/student for School Council that will be used to fund field trips. All **payments and permission forms** will be processed through the Rycor system. The office is ready to assist you in using this system.

Student Update

- Our overall enrollment is a little bit lower than we anticipated to begin the year. We have 364 students registered at this time.
- We have incorporated blended classes in Gr. 1-4 this year to assist us in delivering quality educational programming and maximizing student support.

Counselling

- A reminder that our district has adjusted the counselling services that were previously offered. There will be no Family School Counsellor available. Mrs. Madison Boersma (aka Miss Madi) is here to support the students. She will be including various communications with parents throughout the year.
 - If your family requires support, please see the link below for information to access necessary services in Red Deer that are available.
 - [Red Deer Community Access Guide](#)

Guided by grace, welcome back! May this year be a time of great learning and growth, and may we find joy in serving one another with a spirit of patience and forgiveness.

Yours in Christ,



Jeff Tuchscherer
Principal - Holy Family School