



Dear Parents and Guardians,

St. Mary's Academy's pandemic planning team continues to monitor and adapt to recent developments with the coronavirus pandemic. **On Friday, March 13, Premier Brian Pallister announced that Manitoba schools will suspend classes one week before spring break and one week after.** This measure is being implemented to help stop the spread of the coronavirus disease.

From Monday, March 16 until Friday, March 20, students will attend regularly scheduled classes at SMA. Teachers will conduct classes as well as help prepare students for remote learning which will take place from March 23 to 27 and April 6 to 10.

Week of March 16 to 20:

- Students, teachers and staff will practice social distancing (minimize close contact between individuals, ideally keeping a two arms' length distance).
- Students, teachers and staff will continue to be vigilant about personal hygiene, particularly washing hands often for a minimum of 20 seconds, and covering coughs with inside of arm or tissue (then disposing of tissue into garbage).
- SMA will increase desk distance in classrooms as much as possible.
- SMA will continue with our intensified cleaning and sanitizing processes throughout the school.
- If your daughter is sick, please keep her home from school and seek medical attention if necessary. When reporting student absences, please advise if your daughter is away due to 'Illness' or 'other'. This will help us provide accurate information to public health authorities as requested.
- If a student becomes ill while at school, she is asked to report to the office and parents will be called to pick her up.

Weeks of March 23 to 27 and April 6 to 10:

For the two-week time period when in-person classes are suspended, teachers will provide assignments, activities, projects, etc. and will conduct remote learning when possible.

- The Teams Application in Office 365 has been activated for all classes and each section has a designated team site where remote learning can occur. This will supplement existing online structures, such as Moodle, Yammer and Class Notebook that are already functioning well in some sections.



Weeks of March 23 to 27 and April 6 to 10 continued:

- Families are asked to check that their daughter can access her Office 365 from home. Office 365 and the apps available therein will be the primary method of communication between students and teachers. As always, should students need to email their teachers, it should be via their Office 365 account. Students who may not have access to Office 365 from home are asked to speak directly to their teacher early next week and assignments will be provided.
- Teachers will be in their classrooms at SMA during this time period.
- Should parents wish to contact teachers, a complete faculty list with email addresses and phone extensions is found on our website at the following location www.smamb.ca/contact.

Synopsis of the next few weeks:

Time Frame	Status of Classes	Measures in Place
Monday, March 16 to Friday, March 20	Classes held at SMA	Practice social distancing and good personal hygiene. Intensified cleaning and sanitizing processes in place at SMA.
Monday, March 23 to Friday, March 27	No classes held at SMA	Teachers at SMA conducting remote learning when possible. Students working from home on assignments and activities as shared by their teachers.
Monday, March 30 to Friday, April 3	Spring Break	
Monday, April 6 to Friday, April 10	No classes held at SMA	Teachers at SMA conducting remote learning when possible. Students working from home on assignments and activities as shared by their teachers.



Recent cancellations:

- Drivers Ed: all Driver Z classes and in-car sessions are suspended until April 5. Students are to continue with the online portion of the Driver Z course.
- Cancellations/postponements will be updated as necessary on the homepage of www.smamb.ca.

The health and safety of our students and staff is of paramount importance and we value the measures our Government has put in place to help flatten the curve of the coronavirus pandemic. During the two-week period with no in-person classes our teachers will be focussed on supporting your daughter to achieve learning outcomes remotely. We are mindful that students are processing this pandemic in varying degrees and some are feeling more stress than others. This is a time to extend extra kindness to others and ourselves. Our student support team members (counselors, resource team, campus ministry team and administration) are available to provide extra support to our students as needed.

The homepage of our website, www.smamb.ca, contains a section with pandemic news and updates. We endeavour to keep this section as up-to-date as possible with relevant information as this pandemic evolves. All important updates will be emailed to parents, guardians and students as well as placed on our website. If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to us at 204-477-0244 or by email.

May God continue to watch over our community and the global community.

Regards,

Mrs. Connie Yunyk (Scerbo '77), President, cyunyk@smamb.ca

Mrs. Michelle Klus, Senior School Principal, mklus@smamb.ca

Mrs. Carol-Ann Swayzie (van Es '80), Junior School Principal, caswayzie@smamb.ca