

From Mrs. Tilleman's Desk

Dear SPT Families,

Welcome Back, St. Patrick School!

Welcome back, St. Patrick School families! We are so excited to welcome everyone back to school tomorrow for the first day of a brand-new school year. The beginning of a school year is always such an exciting time as we reconnect with familiar faces, welcome new students and families, and begin another year of learning, growing, and building our school community together. We hope that everyone had a wonderful summer filled with time to rest, enjoy the sunshine, and spend time with family and friends. We cannot wait to see our hallways filled with students once again!

This year, we are beginning Year 2 of our Division Faith Plan, Open Wide the Doors: Sent to Share Christ's Love. Our focus this year is "Love God." In this year, we seek to love God, who is kindness and mercy. We will contemplate the Sacred Heart of Jesus as we open our own hearts to Christ. A particular focus this year will be learning more about the Mass and asking ourselves the important question, "How do I encounter Christ in the Mass?" This will lead us into a deeper understanding of the Liturgy of the Eucharist and what it means to encounter Jesus through the celebration of the Mass. We will also focus on the Diocesan renewal calls to practice our faith, welcome families to a sacramental life, and lead with Christian mercy and compassion. We look forward to growing together in our faith and finding ways to live out God's love through our words, actions, kindness, and service to others.

As we begin the school year, we would also like to remind families that St. Patrick School is a nut-free school. Please ensure that all lunches and snacks brought to school are free from nuts and nut products. We also want to remind families that students do not have access to microwaves at school. This helps ensure that students have plenty of time to eat and enjoy their lunch before heading outside.

We are also excited to begin our Breakfast Program this week! The front doors will be open by 8:00 a.m., and students arriving before 8:10 a.m. are asked to wait in the front bootroom area. At 8:10 a.m., students may head into the gathering space for breakfast. Students will remain in the gathering space until the first bell at 8:20 a.m. At that time, students who have finished eating may head outside to play, as outdoor supervision begins at 8:20 a.m., while students who are still eating may remain in the Gathering Space to finish their breakfast until the 8:26 bell.

For morning drop-off, parents are asked to drop students off at either the front doors or the side doors. We appreciate everyone's help in keeping our morning arrival routine safe and organized for all of our students.

Throughout the year, we also ask families to use your child's agenda to communicate any pick-up plans or changes to your child's regular dismissal routine. We will also be using SPACES as an important communication and reporting tool throughout the school year. Please watch for an email inviting you to sign up for your child's class in SPACES. We ask that all families complete this registration so that you are able to receive important classroom and school communications and access reporting information.

Finally, as we begin this new year together, we want to remind families that our teachers are always happy to connect with you. If you need to speak with your child's teacher, please arrange a meeting with them before or after school so that they can give you their full attention and ensure that instructional time is protected for our students.

We are incredibly excited for the year ahead and feel so blessed to have the opportunity to work alongside our students and families. Thank you for your continued support of St. Patrick School. We look forward to a year filled with faith, friendship, learning, laughter, and many wonderful memories together.

Welcome back, St. Patrick School! We can't wait to see everyone tomorrow!

Warm regards,

Mrs. Mary Tilleman

Principal, St. Patrick Elementary School

"Learning to Love & Loving to Learn"





September 2026

Saturday

	NO SCHOOL	1  BREAKFAST PROGRAM STARTS	2	3	4	5
6	7 NO SCHOOL - LABOR DAY	8 FIRST DAY OF ELP & ECS	9	10 OPENING MASS @ 11:15 SCHOOL COUNCIL AGM & 1ST MEETING 3:30 WELCOME BACK BBQ 5-7	11 WEAR GREEN/SPT SWAG - SPIRIT ASSEMBLY	12
13	14	15 SCHOOL PICTURES	16 SCHOOL PICTURES	17	18 TERRY FOX RUN 10:45-12:00	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29 ORANGE SHIRT DAY	30 NO SCHOOL - NATIONAL TRUTH & RECONCILATION DAY	1 9 AM MASS FOR 4/5G, 2/3W & 1W	2	3



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Our Moto : Learning to Love and Loving to Learn

Important Reminders

First Day of School

- We are excited to welcome our Grade 1–5 students back on Tuesday, September 1st!
- Doors open at 8:20 AM – families are welcome to walk their children to the classroom and help them settle in on the first day.
- Students may choose to stay in the classroom or head outside to play until the bell.
- Classes begin at 8:28 AM, so please ensure your child is ready to start their day by then
- If you'd like to come a little earlier, feel free to wait in the gathering space until it's time to head to class.
- Kindergarten and ELP classes begin on Tuesday, September 8th.

End of Day & Bussing

To keep everyone safe, we ask that all parents **wait outside** at the end of the school day.

- Bus students begin boarding at 3:10 PM, with a target departure of 3:15 PM, which is also our official school dismissal time.
- Teachers will be outside during dismissal if you'd like a quick check-in.
- Please keep the **bus loop (south end of the school)** clear of traffic. Community parking is available in front of the school and in the south parking lot.



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Communication

We'll continue using the following channels to keep families informed:

- **SPACES**
- **Student Agendas**
- **Phone calls to our office**

For any **transportation changes**, such as pickup instead of taking the bus, please write a note in your child's agenda. This ensures the message gets through even if there are technical issues with SPACES.

New SafeArrival System

We are excited to introduce our **new SafeArrival system**, which allows parents and guardians to report student absences **24/7** through the SchoolMessenger Home app, website, or toll-free phone line.

This new system will help us track attendance more efficiently and respond quickly to unexpected absences.

Visit our website for instructions and more information. [Safe Arrival](#)

Visiting the School During the Day

- All **side doors remain locked** during the day for safety.
- The **front doors will stay open**, and you can check in at the office for any assistance.
- Our staff will help call down your child or guide you as needed.



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Cell Phones & Smartwatches

Our device policy remains in place:

- Devices must be off or in airplane mode and kept in backpacks or lockers during the school day.
- Students who need to contact home must do so through the office.
- Devices used inappropriately will be taken to the office, and parents will be contacted to retrieve them.

Students are responsible for securing their devices. The school is not responsible for any lost or stolen personal electronics.

Toys & Sports Equipment

Please remember that toys and sports equipment should stay at home unless your child's teacher has planned a special day where they are invited to bring something in. This helps keep our school environment safe, organized, and focused on learning. Thank you for your cooperation!



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Important Reminders

Breakfast Program – Begins September 1st

We are pleased to share that our breakfast program returns on Tuesday, September 1st, led by Mrs. Tammy Baynham.

- Breakfast is available for all students starting at **8:10 AM**. Please do not arrive before this time. At **8:10**, students are welcome to go to the gathering space to enjoy breakfast.
- Students are asked to remain in the **gathering space** until the supervision bell at **8:20 AM**.
- Once supervision begins, they may continue eating or head outside to play.

Allergies – Nut Free School

A reminder that **St. Patrick School is a NUT Free zone**, including **all tree nuts**.

We appreciate your efforts to help us maintain a safe environment for students with allergies.



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Important Reminders

Late or Absent Students

Please use the SafeArrival App to report your child's absence. If you are unable to use the app, please call the school office by 8:30 a.m. to let us know your child will be late or absent.

☎ School Office: 403-223-3352.

Agenda Notes

The agenda is an important communication tool between home and the school. If there are any changes in your child's schedule, a change in bus/kidzone schedule, or a change in who is picking up your child, please make note in your child's agenda. If the change occurs during the day, give our school office a call and we will pass on the message to the classroom.

Picking up Students During School Hours

Parents, if you are picking up your child during school hours, please check-in at our office to sign out your child. While signing out, the office will contact your child's homeroom teacher to have your child sent down to the office. Thank you in advance for your cooperation by helping us to continue to create a safe and supportive learning environment for all of our students.

Medical Notes/ Medication

If your child needs to take medication at school, please see Mrs. Mankow in the office to fill out the required paperwork. Additionally, please keep us updated on any allergies or medical changes the school should be aware of.

Microwave Use at Nutrition Times

We have two 15-minute Nutrition Breaks for our students to eat and the entire school eats at the same time. Due to the limited time please send your child with lunches that do not require a microwave. This will ensure that all students will have ample time to eat their lunch. More time will be provided in class for those students who require it.

Milk and Juice Program

Milk Juice Program – We are excited to be offering our chocolate milk and juice program again this year. The program will be run by our Grade 5 students with the help of Ms. Gross, Mr. Utke and Mrs. Unrau. Chocolate milk and juice will be available for purchase during the 1st Nutrition Break. Milk/juice cards can be purchased at the office or on SchoolCashOnline.

We have two types of cards available:

1) \$10 punch card valid for 8 individual milk/juice purchases

2) \$20 punch card valid for 16 individual milk/juice purchases.

If you don't want to purchase a punch card, students are also able to purchase milk or juice individually. Each drink is \$1.25

***Proceeds support school activities, programs, SPT leadership, and our Grade 5 Farewell.. ***

Stay Connected

Check out our school website:

spt.holyspirit.ab.ca School Calendar:

spt.holyspirit.ab.ca/school/calendars

Follow us on Social Media:



St. Patrick School – Taber



@spttaber



@SPTtaber

Board Briefs:

Each month, the School Division Trustees publish a summary of their meetings:

https://www.holyspirit.ab.ca/board_administration/board_of_trustees/board_meetings