

From Mrs. Tilleman's Desk- Welcome Back Newsletter

Dear St. Patrick School Families,

I hope this letter finds you well and filled with the joy and peace that comes with the start of a new school year. It is with great excitement and anticipation that I welcome you back to St. Patrick School for the 2025-2026 academic year!

I am especially happy to share that I am returning to St. Patrick School this year. It is truly a blessing to continue walking alongside this wonderful community of staff, students, and families. I look forward to another year of learning, growing, and celebrating our faith together.

We are blessed this year to welcome back familiar faces to our team who bring continued warmth and dedication to our school community.

This year, we are introducing a new Division 3-Year Faith Plan: Open Wide the Doors! Sent to Share Christ's Love. This journey will guide and deepen our community's relationship with God.

We begin with Year 1: Know God. Walk Humbly with God. As we conclude our pilgrimage focus, we now continue walking humbly with God, seeking to truly know Him. Through the parables in the Gospel of Luke, we will reflect on our personal connection with Christ and ask: "Where do I fit in these stories?" This ties closely to the Liturgy of the Word and invites us to grow spiritually by listening deeply, engaging meaningfully with families and youth, and joyfully inviting others to know Christ. We look forward to sharing this journey with our whole school community.

Staffing Updates

We are happy to welcome back CST. Chris Nguyen as our School Resource Officer.

We also welcome back Mrs. Knipe, who will be teaching in the 2/3 classroom until Mrs. Gutfriend returns. Mrs. Knipe has subbed within our building many times throughout the last year, and we are excited to have both her and CST. Nguyen join us here at St. Patrick School!

As we begin this new school year, let us keep Christ at the center of all that we do. Together, we will continue to build a strong, faith-filled community where our children grow in wisdom and grace.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in Catholic education. Please keep our staff, students, and families in your prayers as we begin this new journey together.

As always, my door is open. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out.

May God bless you and your families abundantly this year.

Warm regards,

Mrs. Mary Tilleman

Principal, St. Patrick Elementary School

"Learning to Love & Loving to Learn"

Contact Us :



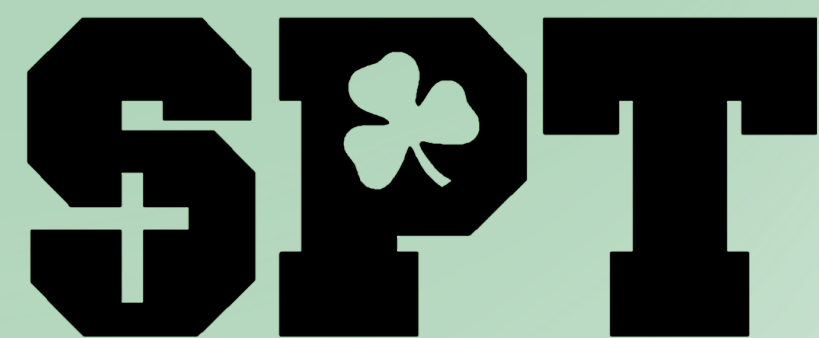
403-223-3352



5302 - 48 Street, Taber, AB T1G 1H3



<https://spt.holyspirit.ab.ca/>



2025

September



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Labour Day No school	2 First day back for Grades 1-5	3	4	5	6
7	8 First day back for Pre K & Kindergarten	9	10	11 Opening Mass @ SPT @ 11:15	12	13
14	15	16 School Pictures Pre K, ECS(Tues/Thurs) Grade 1s & Grade 4/5s	17 School Pictures Pre K, ECS(MON/Wed) Grade 2/3s	18 • Welcome Back BBQ 5-7 PM • Parent Council Meeting @7:15	19 Terry Fox Fun Run @ 10:45	20
21	22	23	24	25	26 Orange Shirt Day Prayer Service @ 9	27
28	29 Division PD Day No School for Students	30 National Day of Truth & Reconciliation No school	Oct. 1	Oct. 2 Mass for 4/5F, 2/3D & 1V @ St. Augustine @ 9	Oct. 3	Oct. 4



Important Reminders

First Day of School

- We are excited to welcome our **Grade 1–5 students** back on **Tuesday, September 2nd!**
- **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 **Monday, 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.



Important Reminders

Breakfast Program – Begins September 8th

We are pleased to share that our **breakfast program** returns on **Monday, September 8th**, 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.

Hello! My name is Tammy Baynham, and I am excited to join the school as the new Breakfast Program Coordinator. Years ago, I was a student here myself, so it feels very special to now return in this role. I'm passionate about helping kids start their day with a healthy, balanced meal, and I look forward to getting to know both the children and the parents. Outside of school, I enjoy spending time with my family, and one of my favorite things to do is sing karaoke with my two daughters. I'm looking forward to a fun year ahead with you all!



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.



Important Reminders

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.

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.

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.

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Important Reminders

Late or Absent Students

Please **call** our school office **by 9:00 AM** if your **child will be late or absent** from school! Our phone number is 403-223-3352.

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 need it

Important Upcoming Dates

- September 2 – First day of school (Grades 1–5)
- September 8 – First day for Kindergarten and ELP
- September 8 – Breakfast Program begins
- September 18 – Welcome Back BBQ from 5:00–7:00 PM
- September 18 – 1st Parent Council Meeting 7:15
- September 19 – Terry Fox Run at 10:45 AM



Fair Notice Letter

Dear Parents / Guardians,

The Holy Spirit Catholic School Division is committed to providing safe learning environments for all students, staff, school visitors and community members. When a student behaves inappropriately, principals use progressive discipline to help a student take responsibility for their actions, change their behavior and learn from their mistakes.

When students' behaviors pose a potential threat to safety or serious harm, the Southwest Alberta Regional Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) Protocol assists administrators in taking the necessary steps to protect the well-being of students and staff. This protocol ensures that schools can respond promptly to worrisome behaviors or threatening incidents, such as possession of a weapon or replica, bomb threats or plans, verbal, written, or electronic (internet, text) threats to harm oneself or others, as well as other acts of violence, including fire-setting.

The protocol requires trained division staff and community partners to work together as a team to complete an Assessment of Risk to Others (ARTO) whenever a student threatens to harm others. The ARTO process leverages the team's knowledge, skills, and experience to assess the level of concern and identify appropriate interventions to protect individuals from harm and ensure a safe environment in both the school and the community. A multi-disciplinary approach is used to address these concerns. Please be advised that the school team will take positive and proactive measures to address all known threats or high-risk behaviors. If you are invited to a meeting to discuss safety concerns about your child, please be assured that our protocol is being followed and that our primary goal is ensuring safety.

The Southwest Alberta Regional VTRA Protocol outlines how a school should respond immediately to threatening behavior. Principals may first assemble a School Threat Assessment Team, ideally comprising the principal or associate principal, a school-based counselor or jurisdictional lead, and local police. If the situation is serious, the principal may also consult the Superintendent of Schools and involve members of the Community Threat Assessment Team. This team may include representatives from local police, children's mental health organizations, or Child and Family Services, among other community agencies that collaborate with us to enhance school safety. Parents/guardians will be notified as soon as possible during the Stage I - VTRA Process. If parents/guardians cannot be reached, but a safety concern persists, the threat assessment may proceed. Personal information shared during this process will respect and balance each individual's right to privacy with the need to ensure everyone's safety.

This letter complies with procedure 2 of *Administrative Procedure 322: Violence Threat / Risk Assessment (V-TRA) Protocol*, which states that parents/ guardians will be provided with "fair notice" that each threat will be taken seriously. Should you wish to further review this Administrative Procedure, please visit our website at www.holyspirit.ab.ca.

If you have any questions regarding the Holy Spirit Catholic School Division's use of the Southwest Alberta Regional V- TRA Protocol, please contact the Director of Support Services at the St. Basil Catholic Education Centre. We appreciate your support in ensuring our schools are safe environments for our students, staff and community partners.

Sincerely,

Chantel Axani, Superintendent of Schools

Updated August 2025



NOTICE TO PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF RELIGIOUS PERMEATION

Section 58.1 of the *Education Act* requires a school board to give notice to a parent or guardian when courses of study, education programs, institutional materials, instruction or exercises include subject matter that deals primarily and explicitly with religion. All of the schools in this division are Catholic Separate Schools, the essential purpose of which is to fully permeate Catholic theology, philosophy, practices and beliefs, the principles of the Gospel and teachings of the Catholic Church, in all aspects of school life, including in the curriculum of every subject taught, both in and outside of formal religion classes, celebrations and exercises. Every course of study and educational program, all institutional materials, instruction and exercises will at all times include subject matter that deals primarily and explicitly with religion.



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