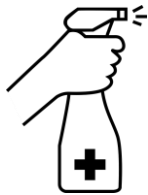


The Sacred Heart School of Montreal  
**BACK TO SCHOOL PLAN 2020-2021 “Forward as One Heart”**  
**Frequently Asked Questions**

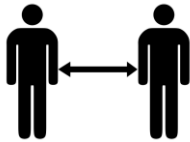
*Our Senior Administrative Team working alongside a Faculty Committee has been working diligently throughout the summer to prepare for the community’s safe return to school on September 1, 2020.*

*We understand that families, faculty and staff have questions and concerns.*

## **What will the Return to School Look Like?**



Increased **cleaning and disinfecting** of all school facilities



Adhering to **physical distancing (2m)**



Daily **Temperature checks** for all students, faculty and staff



Frequent **hand-washing** and an increase in hand sanitizing stations throughout the school



**Face coverings** must be worn by all students, faculty and staff at all times



Daily **questionnaire** regarding current health for all faculty and staff. Students will do self-checks at home.

## Frequently Asked Questions?

### SCHEDULE

#### **Will Sacred Heart be abiding by the school calendar for the 2020-21 school year?**

Our current plans are to abide by the published school calendar found on the website. New Student Orientation is scheduled for August 31 with the new parent orientation taking place virtually. The first day of school is September 1. We have decided to stagger the first day of school with Sec. I-III students attending from 8:30 am to 11:30 am and Sec. IV-V students from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

#### **Will Sacred Heart be in person this fall for the new academic year?**

Yes, as per the Ministry of Education, we will be physically back in school this fall in a way that adheres to all city and provincial health and safety protocols including physical distancing and PPE guidelines. While these plans are continuously evolving, our current plan is to have all students in school every day. We will simultaneously be ready to implement a hybrid model of teaching and learning with some students while others learn at home if the government limits the number of students in school. Should the government decide to close schools due to another outbreak, we will be ready to offer our Sacred Heart Educational Experience program for full days online.

#### **Will Sacred Heart continue with the regular daily school schedule?**

Yes, all students will be returning to a regular daily school schedule. However, in order to limit traffic, Sec. I & V students will enter through the Doctor Penfield doors and use the yellow staircase and Sec. II, III & IV students will enter via the Portry and use the pink-main staircase. Upon entering, all grades will go directly to their homerooms.

## **SAFETY PROTOCOLS**

### **Will my daughter have to wear a mask?**

Yes. Everyone on campus will be required to wear a mask in common areas, hallways, and classrooms while maintaining physical distancing. We strongly encourage families to ensure their daughter(s) have at least five freshly-cleaned reusable masks--at least one for each school day. It is advisable for each student to have an extra mask at school/in their backpacks as they will become soiled. Students may wear face coverings of their choice that are appropriate and not offensive.

### **What is the school doing to ensure the health and safety of students and staff?**

We have strict cleaning, disinfection, hygiene, and safety protocols in place. There will be continuous cleaning and disinfecting throughout the day. Guidelines will be enforced knowing who is in the building and who is encountering whom should we need to implement contact tracing for known diagnoses of COVID-19. Additionally, in order to keep our community as healthy as possible, we will be asking students, faculty, and staff to limit their movements and reduce the number of people with whom they come into contact during the school day. Directional indicators will be placed throughout the school to promote safe distancing. Faculty and staff will also complete a health questionnaire before arriving at school and complete daily temperature checks.

### **Will my daughter have to have a daily temperature check?**

Yes, everyone at school will have a mandated daily temperature check. Additionally, parents will be asked to do a daily home screening questionnaire for their daughter prior to coming to school. Students riding the bus will adhere to bus company protocols.

### **How is the school preparing the campus for the safe return of students, faculty, and staff?**

- Assigning maximum people limits to each common area in school and setting new traffic flow patterns for hallways
- Implementing new personal hygiene practices and providing training for all students, faculty, and staff (examples include requiring handwashing and desk/surface cleaning sessions throughout the school day, limiting the number of people in bathrooms, and increasing the cleaning frequency for high-traffic surfaces such as doorknobs, etc.)
- Modifying how and where students will eat lunch (students will eat in their classrooms or outdoors, weather permitting)
- Minimizing the number of classroom transitions for students
- Installing physical structures such as acrylic shields in main entrances and implementing stricter visitor restrictions

- Ordering personal protective equipment

### **What happens if someone in school shows signs of COVID-19?**

There will be a room designated for any student who is showing signs of COVID-19. After contacting parents, and if necessary, appropriate medical professionals, we will assist in arranging for the student to be transported to the appropriate place as advised. We will isolate all who were in close contact with the symptomatic person and communicate with public health authorities and a student's parents or emergency contacts. The public health authority will assist in determining the next steps, and if it is a confirmed case of COVID-19, contact tracing will commence.

### **What happens if a Sacred Heart community member tests positive for COVID-19?**

The response varies if a person is suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19. Guidance from the public health authority will help us to determine our protocols, and it will depend on the circumstances. Among the questions to be asked include:

- When was the person last in school?
- Who else is in the person's class? On the person's working team? Has the entire school been exposed?
- Were all of the Safety Plan hygiene protocols followed? Was the person using PPE?
- Which areas of the school need to be thoroughly cleaned first?

The public health authority will help to determine if some or part of the school will need to be isolated, and whether these measures will be for deep cleaning purposes only, or as a way to prevent spreading of the virus. Public Health officials will also assist in determining if or for whom a 10-day quarantine period is required.

### **Will parents and the general public be allowed in school?**

To maintain the safety of our community, only students, faculty, and staff will be allowed into the school while students are present. Arrangements will be made for deliveries and emergency building maintenance as required. All meetings with parents will be conducted online or over the phone whenever possible.

### **How will Sacred Heart accommodate larger gatherings and social events when school resumes?**

We will follow the guidelines of city and provincial authorities. In order to mitigate risk of exposure to COVID-19, assemblies, chapel services, and other events are being reinvisioned. It is anticipated that all meetings will be held via Zoom or Google Meets until deemed safe to gather in person.

### **Are students and families allowed to travel internationally?**

Families are discouraged from international travel. In specific cases involving travel, students will be required to quarantine for 14 days prior to returning to campus.

### **What happens if Montreal experiences a second wave of the virus?**

If Montreal experiences another wave of COVID-19 and the Minister of Education closes schools, we will comply and move to online learning immediately. We are prepared for this. All students will be provided the necessary technology to learn remotely, our learning plans will all move online, and our teachers will be equipped with proper technology and resources to deliver a Sacred Heart education remotely.

## **EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE**

### **Will classrooms look different?**

Yes. Following the government guidelines, students will be placed in homerooms. The school will be divided into sections with each grade level having their own specific classroom, washrooms, and stairways.

Students in homerooms will not have to maintain physical distance; however there will be a designated space for the teacher so that the students are able to remain 2 metres away. Outdoor spaces will be used as much as possible.

### **Will you be offering electives?**

Yes! All but Robotics as this activity is difficult to run under the current health guidelines. We have made sure that all other electives will run safely.

### **Will there be Online Learning, *Forward as One Heart* at Home, in 2020-21?**

We are preparing for in school classes and doing so with the practical and prudent understanding that consequences of this ongoing pandemic could require teachers and students to teach and learn from home at some point. Safety is our number one priority, and to achieve this, online learning may be required. Thanks to valuable parent feedback from the 2019-20 year, we will be improving the distance education experience for use during the upcoming year. Faculty participated in several required professional development opportunities during the summer, and we are acquiring additional technological equipment.

### **What will the Arts and Music programs look like?**

Art, Music, and Drama are essential to our students' education, and part of our whole-child approach. We will continue to ensure the artistic development of our students. Studio and graphic arts are running. In addition, music will be dedicated to musical

theory, history, reading music, and instruments will be practiced at home. The health authorities have recommended the suspension of choral singing and the use of wind instruments. Drama will utilize our beautiful new auditorium as well as outdoor spaces whenever possible.

**Will students be allowed outside for classes, gym and recess?**

We are working to utilize the outdoors for teaching and recreation as much as possible and have created a sign up for designated outdoor spaces so as to limit traffic.

**May I elect to have my child participate in solely remote learning until there is a vaccine?**

As we value relational learning and the benefits of learning in person with a teacher and classmates, our desire and the government directive is for students to return to school. If your child has a medical reason that he/she should not join us in school, please notify Ms. Maloni and we will make appropriate arrangements for online learning.

**STUDENT LIFE**

**Will Sacred Heart continue West Island and Laval bus service?**

Yes, students will be expected to wear masks on the bus and may be required to have a temperature check prior to boarding. The student will be expected to sit in the same seat with the same person, daily

**Will there be lunch service?**

Yes, Quality Catering will offer a hot/cold box lunch alternative that will be delivered to the students' homeroom. According to a designated schedule while following health guidelines, students will eat in their homeroom, outside or in the cafeteria. Of course, you are also welcome to bring your own lunch. Remember, we are a nut-free school.

**Will there be athletics in 2020-21?**

Our Athletic Director is working to arrange appropriate sport activities abiding by all health and safety regulations and directives from the Greater Montreal Athletic Association. Recognizing that physical activity is a key element of student well-being, we will have safe and engaging activities in our Physical Education classes to keep our students physically active and socially connected. Keeping our students healthy and fit is our priority.

### **Will there be extra-curricular activities in 2020-2021?**

As health and safety is our number one priority, we are recommending that students not remain in school past the end of the school day unless they are taking the school bus, are waiting to be picked up, or are scheduled for a specific activity. The Athletics department is working on a reduced/modified athletics program, adhering to new government regulations, that will start the week of September 21st. The Athletics and extra-curricular schedule will be shared with everyone in weekly Highlights. Many clubs and extracurricular activities will either take place outside-weather permitting or online.

## **ENROLMENT**

### **Will tuition rates decrease?**

No. In non-pandemic times, our tuition covers 80% of our expenses and we fundraise for the other 20%. During the pandemic, our expenses will not decrease, but will actually be greater.

We are committed to offering the very best Sacred Heart Educational Experience; we have the very best faculty and staff (our greatest operational expense is salaries) who are working harder than ever - retaining our faculty is a strategic decision. We have purchased new technology, invested in new resources and training, hired more cleaning staff, and purchased additional cleaning supplies and personal protective equipment.

### **Can the tuition payment plan be extended?**

We have several tuition plans from a single payment to monthly payments over 10 months. Our Business Office will work with families to understand needs and determine the solution that best suits your family.

### **Is your Admissions Office open and accepting new students?**

Absolutely. Our Admissions Office has been and will remain open and ready to help with applications or to answer questions. We have virtual capabilities for every step of the process. We welcome new families and encourage you to contact our Enrolment Management Coordinator, Stephanie Broadhurst at [sbroadhurst@sacredheart.qc.ca](mailto:sbroadhurst@sacredheart.qc.ca)