



— *From the desk of* —
Mr. Bekkering



Parent Information Update: Fall School Re-Entry August 19, 2020

Important Dates/Calendar

Monday, August 31 - Grade 6 Tours/Orientation (Small Groups)

- More information on signing up for this event will be sent soon

Tuesday, September 1 - First Day of School for Middle School

Wednesday, September 2 - First Day of School for High School

[CLICK HERE](#) to access the 2020-2021 ICSS School Calendar

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Timetables/Bell Schedules

We have adapted our traditional four (4) class semester for high school (9-12) and our eight (8) class semester for middle school and extended them over two weeks instead of one week. What this means is that high school classes will have two classes a day and middle school will have four classes a day. The purpose of these changes, in adhering to health measures directed by Alberta Education and Alberta Health, are concerted attempts to:

- a) Cohort students and limit interactions between cohorts
- b) Limit transitions of students between classes
- c) Cut down on sanitization requirements associated with transitions.
- d) Not drastically alter the original timetable to maintain course offerings and teacher coverage

Bell Schedules have been altered to stagger break and lunch times so that contact between cohorts is limited. Middle School lunches will be taken in classrooms. We will be encouraging students outside during breaks to enjoy a break from the building.

School Supplies/Lockers

Our updated School Supplies Lists are now on our school website, found under **Quick Links**. One addition to the list will be personal masks. Although the province is committed to providing 2 masks per student, we do not know when these will be arriving. Hence, we recommend that students provide their own masks.

Due to no communal supplies this year, you may send your child's supplies (pencils, etc.) as they are needed, rather than sending all supplies for the first day of school. Labeling your child's supplies would be very helpful.

Lockers will not be available for student use to start the year as we are reducing potential communal touch

points and areas of student congregation. We ask that students are “self-contained” and keep all personal items with them in their backpacks which will be permitted in class. A general principle of “pack-in/pack-out” will be adopted.

Masking

Following the Alberta Education mandate, all students in grades 6-12 are required to wear masks during the school day in common areas, hallways, bathrooms, busses and other situations where physical distancing cannot be maintained. At the start of the year, teachers of students will ask that masks are worn in classrooms. This will be reviewed as students and teachers establish routines, and as further information becomes available. In all situations, we will be reasonable as staff when mask use is required. We appreciate your support in encouraging your child to adhere to this mandate.

School/Course Registration

PowerSchool has been rolled over to the 2020-2021 School year and we are in the process of finalizing our course timetable, class lists and inputting students into classes.

If you have not completed school registration or high school course selection please contact Krystal at our Front Office: icss@lethsd.ab.ca. She will help you through that process.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the 2020-2021 High School Course Selection Form

[CLICK HERE](#) for the ICSS Course Registration Guide

Band/Choir/Athletics/Extra-curricular

Due to health protocols, our band and choir program will be modified significantly. Middle School will have no band or choir classes offered for semester one. We will reevaluate at a later date for semester two. A general music class will be included into middle school programming which all students will receive.

High School band and choir is still be discussed among division schools in regards to the feasibility of offering these courses at this time. We will update parents and students once we have more information to share.

Superintendent Dr.Gilmore has submitted a statement on extra-curricular programs and clubs:

QUESTION: Will schools still be running extra-curricular programs and clubs?

ANSWER: Unfortunately, not at this time. Lethbridge School Division is following its Pandemic Plan and will monitor the reopening of schools first. The goal is to reduce contacts for students and staff during the reopening. We want our students and staff to feel comfortable before any of these activities resume. Schools will be required to have all students and personnel out of the buildings by 5 p.m. so that appropriate cleaning protocols and sanitization can occur. Should the Division move to providing limited extra-curricular activities/ athletics, it will be following a review of the Division’s Pandemic Plan, the requirements set out by Alberta Health Services, and for high school athletics, directions as laid out by the Alberta Schools’ Athletic Association.

Staffing Update

The message below is from Mrs. Anne Konyonenbelt (Grade 8 Math/Science & High School Math)

Dear Immanuel Christian School Community:

It is with very mixed emotions that I am writing to inform you that I will no longer be teaching as of this school year. Immanuel has been such a big part of my life (as a student, a parent and a teacher); and I have enjoyed every part of it. However, we now have two granddaughters and our three children and their spouses living quite far away from us. With quarantine travel laws I find myself needing more time to visit them and then quarantine. Also, we have family members here with whom I would like to spend more time. This has been one of the hardest decisions I have had to make, but after much prayer and deliberation I believe it is right. I would like to thank you for all the kindness and support you have shown me as students and parents! It has been tremendous! Teaching your covenant children has been a true blessing and privilege to me. I will miss them!

Thank you!

- Anne

In response to this announcement of resignation, a new teacher will be hired very soon to start the new school year. Join us in prayer that a teacher of quality Christian character and professionalism will be available to serve our school community.

As we get closer to the start of the school year, we will continue to update you on new information that will hopefully bring clarity to the questions you may have. Thank-you for your support and prayers we continue to adapt to a new school reality for the fall. Do not hesitate to contact our office with questions you may have.

In Christ,

Matthew Bekkering and Laura Witten