

Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education



Monsignor McCoy High School 2020-2021 School Re-Entry Plan

Message from the Principal of Monsignor McCoy High School - Mr. Paul Bauche

As we move closer to the start of the 2020-2021 school year, I would like to share with you important information on Monsignor McCoy High School's return to school plan. We recognize that this year's return to school will be different for our families and staff. The realities of the COVID-19 pandemic have made it essential for measures to be put in place to make sure that we are doing all that we can to ensure student and staff well-being, as this remains our top priority. As we prepare for the upcoming school year, we have been diligently working on a re-entry strategy to minimize risk and help keep everyone as safe as possible.

It is important to note that our surroundings are changing, and we all have a responsibility to ensure the safety of ourselves, and others. To this end, Monsignor McCoy High School will

approach all of the safety measures from the perspective of helping students learn new behaviours and strategies to stay healthy in a world where COVID-19 continues to be a threat. Monsignor McCoy High School will be implementing a variety of safety measures to ensure the health and safety of our schools:

- Daily health checks prior to entering the school
- Limited access to classrooms by parents and volunteers
- Stay at home protocols for those that are not well
- Enhanced cleaning and sanitizing practices
- Staggered entry strategies to reduce student contact during high traffic periods including the start of the day
- Physical distancing (when and where possible)
- Implementation of a cohort model (when and where possible)
- Mandatory mask wearing by all staff, students, parents/guardians, volunteers and visitors while in the school (with some exceptions)
- An infirmary room provided on-site in the event of illness during school hours
- Supporting AHS with contact tracing through record keeping (e.g. seating plans, visitor logs)

Timetable

Another important change that is being made at Monsignor McCoy High School is to our timetable. In order to reduce student transitions and increase opportunities for classrooms to be sanitized, the timetable for the 2020-2021 school year will have two instructional periods each day that are 165 minutes in length. Each class will have a scheduled break that is staggered with other classrooms.

The following schedule will be used for the 2020-2021 school year:

TIME	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8:15-11:00	Day 1 Period 1	Day 1 Period 3	Day 2 Period 1	Day 2 Period 2	Day 2 Period 4
11:00-11:50	L	U	N	C	H
11:55-2:40	Day 1 Period 2	Day 1 Period 4	Day 1 Period 5	Day 2 Period 3	Day 2 Period 5

This timetable has many important advantages. It does not change the 2020-2021 requested courses in which students had registered in the spring. It still provides a 5-month semester (not a quarter system) for students to acquire the skills and knowledge to be able to be highly successful in each of their courses. There will be at least one day between the instructional period of each course, allowing time for students to study, prepare, and complete assigned work. If students miss school for any reason, they will have more time to get caught up on

course work. These timetables not only maintain the integrity of teaching and learning excellence at McCoy, but also minimize contact for students/staff, provide more time for sanitization of classrooms, and reduce transitions between classes.

Lockers/Backpacks:

Lockers will not be assigned to students this year as per back-to-school guidelines released by Alberta Education. Students will be required to bring a backpack to school for the two classes they might have each day. Backpacks are available to families in need. Please contact the school if you require a backpack or supplies.

Parents/Guardians/Guests:

Monsignor McCoy High School is restricting all non-essential visitations:

- Parents/guardians can attend the school if they are required. All meetings must be scheduled in advance
- Service providers must schedule meetings or check into the office if scheduling in advance was not feasible
- When a visitor enters the school (including delivery drivers) they are to use the self screening tool before they enter the school.
- A record of all visitors will be kept

Technology:

Students are encouraged to bring personal devices such as laptops and tablets to school in order to reduce the need for students to share these types of devices. School technology will still be available, but will need to be sanitized after each use, reducing its availability to students.

Recorded Lessons:

Some teachers may be recording their lessons in order to better support students. Students will not be recorded in this process. Please contact the school if you have any concerns with this information.

Transportation and Student Parking:

Busses will be parking in two locations this year to support staggered entry into the school. Students who are driving to school can not park along 8th Street and 2nd Avenue (new this year) directly along the school where signs are posted and where buses park.

School Start Up Process (August 31/September 1)

Monday, August 31:

Grade 11 and 12 students will not be attending school this day.

Grade 10 students will arrive at school for the start of the school day (8:10 am). Grade 10 students will have the opportunity to experience the school, find their classrooms, learn about the school's opportunities and safety protocols that will allow them to have a successful year. Students will also receive their school resources and begin their classes. Regular bus times will be followed for this day.

Tuesday, September 1:

Grade 10 students will not be attending school this day.

Grade 11 students will arrive at school at 8:10 am. They will register in classrooms and receive school resources. They will begin shortened classes and be dismissed at 11:10 am. Regular morning bus times will be followed for grade 11 students and they will be picked up at school at 11:10 am to be taken home.

Grade 12 students will arrive at school at 11:40 am. They will register in classrooms and receive school resources. They will begin shortened classes and be dismissed at 2:40 pm. Bus times to transport grade 12 students to school this day will be exactly 3.5 hours after the regular morning times so they arrive shortly before the 11:45 am start time. Grade 12 students will be transported home at the regular 2:40 pm bus time.

Extracurricular Activities:

The Alberta Schools' Athletic Association (ASAA) released *The Safe Return to High School Athletics*, stating the provincial organization is not supporting any interschool athletic interaction while the province remains in Stage 2 of its relaunch strategy. The Government of Alberta does not have a timeline for when it will move into Stage 3, and there has been no direction on what sports will look like in Stage 3. In the meantime, the ASAA says member schools are allowed to run in-school practices provided they comply with the province's restrictions regarding cohorts. This means that a student can only be a member of one cohort at one time and if they are a member of another cohort (community or school) they would need to sit out the mandatory 14 day period before joining another cohort. Scrimmages or competition between schools is not permitted. For more specific information please click on the below link:

https://www.asaa.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/news/attachments/guide_asaa_safe_return_to_high_school_athletics_2020_aug_19_1.pdf

Fine and Performing Arts:

Fine and Performing Arts programming will continue in schools. During Stage 2 of the government relaunch strategy, Fine and Performing Arts productions will be adapted for online performances or live performances where physical distancing requirements are met. Learning involving unprotected (without a mask or physical barrier) in-person singing or playing wind instruments are postponed at this time. Alternatives are encouraged such as:

- Recording or live-streaming individual performers in separate locations
- Lessons focused on music appreciation or music theory
- Choose to play instruments that are lower risk (e.g., percussion or string instruments over wind instruments)

Baseball Academy:

The Baseball Academy program will continue to operate this school year. Like Phys. Ed., students and staff will social distance during the class, and all equipment will be sanitized at the end of each class.

Career and Technology Programs (CTS):

All CTS Programming will continue to operate. Social distancing and heightened measures of sanitizing equipment will be incorporated to maintain a safe working space for students and staff.

Field Trips:

No field trips are allowed at this time.

Masks:

All students will be receiving two cloth reusable masks on the first day of school. They will receive one as they enter the school, and the other will be with their school resources on their desk where they will go for registration and school orientation. Students are required to wear their masks in hallways and gathering areas, and the learning commons. In classrooms, students will be required to wear masks when they are engaged in activities where they will be facing each other. When students are sitting in rows facing the same direction, students will be allowed to remove the masks, sanitizing their hands before and after doing so.

Water Fountains:

Students are encouraged to bring a water bottle to school that they can use throughout the day. The school has two automatic bottle-filling water fountains that can be used to fill water bottles without coming into contact with fountains. Please note that students will be receiving a school water bottle from the school.

Food Services:

A food service will continue to be provided to students and staff through the school food server and will follow the Alberta Health restaurant guidance. The menu is updated throughout the year and can be found on the school website. Microwaves that are typically placed throughout the school for student use have been removed in order to reduce transmission surfaces. This should be considered when planning school lunches. Classes that teach food preparation will still occur, but students can not share the food they prepare with other students or staff. No food service deliveries, such as Skip the Dishes, will be allowed at the school.

Student/Staff Movement:

In order to reduce face-to-face interactions, students and staff will walk on the right side of the hallway, while wearing their masks. There will be high visibility signs posted and marked to assist with safe movement. We have removed and restaged seating in gathering areas to encourage social distancing and allow the movement of students.

Spares/Spaces to Work:

Grade 10 students have timetables with at least 40 credits during the 2020-2021 school year. They also have Centred On Learning Time (COLT) for two 165 minute periods each week. COLT time will take place in the Learning Commons where students can complete assigned school work and study.

Grade 11 students have timetables with at least 35 credits, and grade 12 students have all of the necessary courses and credits on their timetable in order to receive their Alberta High School Diploma, and prepare for post-secondary programming. These students will have access to St. Isidore Hall, the Learning Commons, and other areas of the school in order to study and complete assigned work. They are also allowed to leave the school when not scheduled to be in class.

Transportation:

- Masks are required for all students while being transported on the school bus.
- Cleaning and disinfection of high-touch surfaces, such as door handles, window areas, rails, steering wheel, mobile devices, and GPS prior to each run.
- Buses will be cleaned and disinfected nightly. Drivers will carry sanitizing wipes to routinely wipe down high-touch areas between routes.
- Assigned seating and seating plans on every route.
- Physical distancing while loading/unloading, including seating students from the back seats to the front seats of the bus and vice-versa
- Barring inclement weather, windows are to be left partially open, where feasible, to support incremental airflow. Please visit Southlands Transportation website for more information: <http://www.southland.ca/medicinehat/>

Supporting Mental Health and Wellness:

Monsignor McCoy wants all students to be successful in their learning, and we recognize that positive mental health enables students to fully participate in their learning. Monsignor McCoy staff understands returning to school may be exciting for many students, but others may have heightened levels of stress. A sense of community is a key part of our return, the classroom is the first line of universal support provided to students. Supporting mental health and well-being takes a multi-tiered approach that includes students, families, church, community supports and school staff. The following is a list of supports that may assist you and your family during this unprecedented time.

- Professional development for staff will be provided to assist in understanding the signs of mental health challenges with their students.
- Students will be informed of the various supports to ensure that their mental health needs are addressed in a timely manner.
- Lessons for students on mental health, well-being and resilience will be delivered in school.
- **Tuesday, August 24, 2020 & Thursday, August 27, 2020 from 9:30- 12:30-** Students and families can meet with our school therapist, Deni Watson, to have supportive conversations to help with the challenges you may be facing. Please call (403) 527-8161 to schedule an appointment.
- **Thursday, August 27, 2020 at 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM** - Join Monsignor McCoy Staff and Community Coming Together (CCT) Staff for an afternoon of fun. Students will have a chance to find their way around the school, while solving puzzles & racing against the clock! The day will be set up Amazing Race style with snacks, prizes and a chance to ask any questions you may have. Register at www.Gr10McCoy2020.eventbrite.ca
- **Tuesday, August 25- Thursday, August 27, 2020-** Appointments can be scheduled to have individualized tours to help reduce anxiety and increase the comfort level of the student. Please contact the school to book an appointment.