



September 15, 2021

STAR Catholic Board of Trustees implements mask guidelines for schools

Leduc — During its regular meeting on Wednesday, September 15, the STAR Catholic Board of Trustees passed a motion to implement masking measures in schools effective Monday, September 20, 2021.

Beginning next Monday, masks will be mandatory for all students in Kindergarten through Grade 12 and staff while in common areas, as well as in classrooms when not seated at their desks.

Students with medical exemptions will not be required to wear masks. Students will also not be required to wear masks while playing sports or participating in physical education class. Visitors to the school will be required to wear masks at all times.

In making its decision, the Board considered a variety of background information presented during a committee of the whole meeting, including a review of political context and public health measures applied across the province, consideration of parent communication, case and vaccination rates by community, and hospitalization rates in school aged children.

“After deliberation, the Board has taken the approach that, as masks are now required in all public areas in the province, the same health measures should be applied to our school buildings. The Board felt it was necessary to take these steps to protect students, staff, and school communities,” says Chair Michelle Lamer.

“We understand that there are arguments on both sides of this issue, as well as a variety of opinions on how to best approach it. We thank families for their support and understanding and ask that we all treat each other with respect during what is a very difficult time for all.”

Based in central Alberta, Saint Thomas Aquinas Roman (STAR) Catholic School Division represents 12 schools that serve the communities of Beaumont, Drayton Valley, Lacombe, Leduc, Ponoka, and Wetaskiwin. The STAR Catholic Schools team of teachers and support staff are committed to giving more than 4000 students across our division every opportunity to achieve their potential in a caring, safe and Christ-centred environment.

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