



December 31, 2021

Re: Provincially mandated extended winter break

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As you are likely aware, in anticipation of potential school staff shortages and other complications due to rising cases of COVID-19, the Government of Alberta has [announced a mandatory extension of winter break](#) for all students province-wide.

All students — from Pre-K to Grade 12 without exception — will now return to school on Monday, January 10. To accommodate this mandatory extension and disruption to learning, the Grade 12 diploma exams scheduled for early January have been cancelled.

When school resumes, there will be no changes to the masking guidance currently in place. **Masks continue to be required for all students in Grades 4-12 and are strongly recommended for students in Kindergarten through Grade 3. Masks are mandatory for all K-12 students while on the bus.**

The Province will be distributing medical masks and rapid testing kits for all students and staff in the Division with an anticipated delivery date during the week of January 10.

In order to help maintain the health and safety of our school communities, it's crucial that families continue to complete the [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#) every day before going to school or getting on the bus. **If a student is showing symptoms, they should not go to school.**

Please ensure you are referencing the most up-to-date symptom checklist. You can access the checklist, as well as the full provincial COVID-19 guidance for schools, on the [Government of Alberta's website](#).

As always, STAR Catholic School Division is grateful for the support and patience of our families as we face these challenges and work to ensure the safest learning environments possible for our students and staff.

Thank you,

STAR Catholic Schools