

MEDIA RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OUR VISION

Catholic Education † Future Ready

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Catholic Education Centre
420 Creek Street
Wallaceburg, ON N8A 4C4
Telephone: 519-627-6762
Facsimile: 519-627-8230
Website: www.st-clair.net

*For further information regarding
this release, please contact:*

Director of Education
Deb Crawford
519-627-6762, ext. 10241
Email: media@st-clair.net

Chair of the Board
John Van Heck
519-627-5746

**Supervisor –
Communications and
Community Relations**
Todd Lozon
519-627-6762 Ext. 10243
Email: todd.lozon@st-clair.net

ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC RELEASES SEPTEMBER READY 'RETURN TO SCHOOL' PLAN

The St. Clair Catholic District School Board has released its *Return to School Plan* for September 2020. The plan is the work of a team of professionals with expertise in emergency management, school programming and school administration.

“We understand that the return to school in September will be different than any other year,” says Deb Crawford, Director of Education. “We are living in the midst of a global pandemic. Our first priority is the health and safety of our students and staff. Our plan has been informed and advised by the Ministry of Education, Public Health Ontario and our local Medical Officers of Health.”

The comprehensive plans outlines in detail the enhanced health and safety measures that will be in place when students return to school in September. The *Return to School* plan is a living document that will be revised and updated as new information becomes available.

Highlights include:

- Elementary and secondary school models for students returning to school
- Voluntary ‘Learn at Home’ model for parents/guardians and students who have opted to choose online learning at home
- Enhanced health and safety measures that will be in place in all elementary and secondary schools – including arrival and dismissal protocols, physical distancing, hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, masking, enhanced cleaning and screening and monitoring systems
- Programing considerations for Physical Education, Music, Visual Arts and French as a Second Language
- Supports for Students with Special Needs
- Mental Health supports for all students

St. Clair Catholic students from JK to Grade 12 will return to school according to a Staggered Reopening schedule, which will be finalized and communicated to parents next week.

“When we began our work back in June, we made a commitment that we would put the health and safety of our students and staff first,” says Deb Crawford, Director of Education. “We believe our *Return to School* plan meets that commitment.”

The *Return to School Plan* can be viewed or downloaded at:

<https://newsdesk.st-clair.net/2020/08/21/st-clair-catholic-district-boards-return-to-school-plan/>

All stakeholders are encouraged to visit the website regularly for updates.