

Welcome back to all our students, staff and families. It was wonderful to see all the smiling faces of our students as they made their way back from a restful summer. As we look to finalize some of our school events and opportunities for September, please be sure to read our week-at-a-glance (WAAG) that is emailed to you every Friday. In the coming weeks, important dates such as opening mass, picture day and volleyball tryouts will all be communicated through those WAAG's. We will also be working hard to update our social media platforms to provide you with a snapshot of events and activities happening throughout the school.



Important Information

- To continue ensuring students have an optimal learning environment, please read our cell phone expectations letter found below.
- We are transitioning to a new reporting platform for your child's grades and communication. We ask for grace as we learn this new system, knowing that assessments will not be entered until the end of September. Teachers will continue to communicate via email or phone until that time. A Schoology letter will be sent home on Friday Sept 8th. If you have any questions, please connect with Mrs. Miller kristin.miller@rdcrs.ca.
- There have been some exciting modifications to our Exploratory Courses that will begin on Tuesday September 5th. For more information and the why behind the changes, please read the explanation letter found below.
- As we continue with the warm weather, please ensure our dress code is being adhered to. All students at École Mother Teresa School, both grade 5 and middle school, are expected to dress modestly and in a manner that reflects that we are learning in a Catholic School. Clothing is to be modest and respectful of a Catholic school. The following guidelines apply:
 - Clothing should have limited midriff showing and clothing & accessories should have no slogans that are deemed inappropriate for a Catholic school.
 - Caps, hats, and hoods are not allowed in school or at school functions. Caps/hats/hoods should be removed once inside the building.
 - Shirts or tops should have a modest neckline and the back is not to be exposed. Spaghetti straps are not permitted.
 - Shorts and skirts, there are no "short shorts" or mini skirts. The majority of the thigh and the full bottom needs to be covered.
 - Students should not have any undergarments visible at any time; top or bottom.
 - Students that do not comply with this dress code will be asked to change or call their parents to bring appropriate clothing.

Important Dates:

- **September 5th**- Feast Day of Mother Teresa - school wide liturgy in classrooms
- **September 8th**- Schoology letter will be sent home with students
- **September 11th-15th week**- volleyball tryouts- if you are interested in coaching, please contact Mrs. Porterfield at the school or by email at stefanie.porterfield@rdcrs.ca
- **September 15th**- opening mass and potential picture day (stay tuned as one may need to switch)
- **September 22nd**- PD day for staff- NO SCHOOL for students
- **September 26th**- Parent Council Meeting at EMTS at 6:00 p.m. - all are welcome, we would love to see and hear from you.
- **September 30th**- National Truth and Reconciliation Day

A gentle reminder that school fees are updated on Rycor. Please login to see your balance. If you have any questions, please contact Dawn Rutherford in the front office. We will begin to make phone calls or send emails in the near future to help you out with these.

We want to thank you again for all your support and conversations over the past few days. As always, please do not hesitate to ask questions or reach out. Our school office is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for phone calls and inquiries.

Yours in Christ,



Mme Erika Pottage



79 Old Boomer Road
 Sylvan Lake, Alberta T4S 1Z4
 Phone: 403-887-6371
 Fax: 403-887-6373
 www.ecolemotherteresa.ca

École Mother Teresa School
Grade 6/7 and 8/9 Exploratory Courses

Dear Grades 6-9 Parents/Guardians;

Welcome back and we hope you have had a restful summer. In Grades 6-9, students have the opportunity to engage in Exploratory Courses based on career and life skills. These courses are designed to develop abilities that students can apply in their daily lives when preparing for entry into the workplace or for further learning opportunities.

For the 2023-2024 school year, our middle school team has shifted the 6/7 exploratory courses and 8/9 exploratory B courses to run in 6 week cycles, allowing for skill development in a variety of areas. Several factors have led to this decision including teacher feedback, timetabling and the intentions of exploratory courses at the Middle School level.

Students in grade 6 and 7 will have the opportunity to engage in ALL of the options available. In grade 8/9, students will choose their 12 week option A, but will engage in all of the options available in section B. Below are the courses offered in grades 6/7 and 8/9.

<u>Grade 6/7 (students will explore all of the 6 week courses below)</u>	<u>Grade 8/9 Option A (students will choose/explore 3 of the following 12 week courses)</u>	<u>Grade 8/9 Option B (students will explore all of the 6 week courses below)</u>
Foods (baking and cooking) Printmaking (Art) Music Rec Ed Drama Maker Space Technology 101 Visual Arts A Better Version of Me Sewing (Hand and Machine)	Photography Foods Construction (skateboard design) Visual arts Leadership/Caring for community Musical Theatre (term 1 and 2)	Rec Ed Outdoor Ed Indigenous Arts, Culture and Games Tourism Music (drumming, ukulele..)

We are also looking forward to offering our musical production of Aladdin that will occur in the Spring, as well as our Band program. Students will also have the opportunity to sign up and be a part of these opportunities, while still being able to choose options.

We are looking forward to the variety of skills our teachers will be sharing with your child to help prepare them for possible career and future endeavors. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email Mme Pottage or Mrs. Miller, using the emails found below.

Merci et bonne journée!

Mme Erika Pottage
Principal
erika.pottage@rdcrs.ca

Mrs Kristin Miller
Vice-Principal
kristin.miller@rdcrs.ca



79 Old Boomer Road
Sylvan Lake, Alberta T4S 1Z4
Phone: 403-887-6371
Fax: 403-887-6373
www.ecolemotherteresa.ca

September 5th, 2023

Dear Parents,

We are writing to you today to remind you and your child about the expectations for student cell phones at school. As you are already aware, Ecole Mother Teresa school has had an established “no cell phone” policy during the academic portions of the day for the past few years. As a teaching community, we feel that the distractions that cell phones play in an optimal learning experience is significant and the decision to eliminate them was not made lightly.

Therefore we are asking for your support in reminding your child that the only times they can have their cell phones out is before school, at lunchtime or after school. We will continue to have the expectation that all students should have their cell phones in their locked lockers rather than on them, during teaching and learning time. Teachers have all agreed to use other electronic devices other than cell phones to support academic learning during class time. Grade 5 students will continue with a no phone policy at all times during the day.

We will continue the conversations with our Middle School students about the policy during the coming days and weeks. However, from this point forward, any student who accesses their cell phones outside of the designated times, will be required to hand in their phone to the office. On their first and second offense, students will have to retrieve their phone at the office at the end of the day. Should there be a third offense, a phone call will be made to a parent and the cell phone will remain at the office until a parent is able to retrieve it. As stated previously, students are still able to use their phones prior to school, at lunch, and after school. We would appreciate it, should the need arise, that you contact our school office as urgent messages will be accepted and relayed by the office staff during break times.

As always, we make every effort to create an optimal learning environment which is conducive to teaching and eliminating distractions for teachers and students alike. We thank you in advance for your support and for reiterating the importance of following these expectations with your child when you can. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours in Catholic Education,

Erika Pottage
erika.pottage@rdcrs.ca

*Inspired by Christ on a Journey to Encounter, Nurture, and Serve
Inspiré par Dieu dans une aventure à découvrir, grandir, et servir.*