

# St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Catholic School

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## Kindergarten Update

August 28, 2020

Dear Parents,

As we prepare to begin the new school year, we wanted to provide an update with a few more details about how Kindergarten will begin and operate this year.

Currently, the plan is for Senior Kindergarten students with last names A-L to come to school on Thursday, September 3 and students with last names M-Z to come on Friday, September 4. All SK students will come on Tuesday, September 8 and will be at school every day after that.

Junior Kindergarten students will be split into 3 groups, and will come for one day (Wednesday September 9, Thursday September 10, OR Friday September 11).

All students will be at school on Monday, September 14.

The kindergarten classes currently have 27-29 students registered in each class. While we will be following public health guidelines as much as possible, distancing of students at all times will not be possible due to the large number of students and limited seating at tables in the classroom.

Kindergarten will look a little different this year. All 'soft surfaces' like carpets, stuffed animals, and fabric furniture have been removed from classrooms. Sharing of toys is not permitted at this time, so there will be no large wooden blocks, dramatic play centre, or sand/water tables. Each student will have a bin with individual writing supplies (some of which we have already asked parents to provide), journals, white boards, and books to read. We will also provide each child with a bin of toys to use for the week or for several days. After a student has used a bin, it will be left untouched for 3 days before being 'rotated' to another student. Books will also be switched weekly.

Children will not be permitted to bring toys from home to school (health and safety regulations). We do ask that each child leaves a Ziploc bag with a complete change of clothes at school in case of spills or accidents. All other personal items will be stored in backpacks.

We will be offering Junior Kindergarten students an opportunity to come to the school for a 15-minute visit on Wednesday, September 2. One adult may come with each student. For students who are unable to come on that day, we will send home a short 'virtual classroom tour' so that students can see what the classroom and teachers will look like. As per public health guidelines, parents are not permitted to come into the school after the visit date.

Please know that we look forward to meeting your children and hope that we can make connections with them as we get to know them. While we realize that much of the Kindergarten program will look different this year, we will continue to encourage positive relationships between children and to create exciting learning environments where all students feel happy, welcome and safe.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

The Kindergarten Teams