

## **End of Our 2018-2019 School Year**

It is hard to believe we are approaching the end of another school year. I use the word “we” because the educational journey is certainly a partnership between students, parents, school staff and the parish. Our specific journey of Catholic education is designed to encourage students to achieve to the best of their ability with a support network of parents, staff and a relationship with Christ. Our evaluation of students at the end of the school year is not limited to passing grades but also to their maturity and growth as a person.

I want to thank parents for their commitment to SPACHS and to their child’s education. We appreciate the parents who take the time to check “Connect-Ed” to review their child’s grades and attendance. We appreciate the parents who took time to attend Parent-Teacher conferences this year and who communicated with their teachers to “support” their child’s education by phone or email. And we thank the parents who supported their child’s education by attending their sporting event, art/design show, band and choir concerts, drama productions, school masses, dance recitals, social justice projects and Model UN debates. It has been a busy year at SPACHS.

Finally, I want to thank three teachers who are retiring from SPACHS after long successful careers. Mr. Plante, Ms. Rehmann and Mr. Wilson are saying good-bye after 30+ years. To my three colleagues and to my graduating grade 12 students, I remind you that “once a SPARTAN, always a SPARTAN.

Please see below the information letter for returning SPACHS students regarding the new 2019-2020 school year. There are very important dates, timetable information and requirements (including B.Y.O.D) for a successful start to the new school year. This letter will also appear on our “re-vamped” website.

Sincerely,

Ray Renaud  
Principal

June 2019

**Dear Students and Parents:**

*St. Peter the Apostle Catholic High School*  
*Upon This Rock, We Build...*

**FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL**

We are staggering the entry date for grades to allow an easier first day transition for all students. The first day of school for the **grade 9 and 12 students only** is **Tuesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019**. School begins at 8:30 a.m., so students are to proceed directly to the gym for an assembly.

**All grades** are in school **Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019**. Regular classes for all grades will occur on both days so students should come prepared for a full day. School pictures will be taken for ID cards and picture packages for all students on Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup>. Picture forms will be handed out to students on the first day of school.

The school calendar for next year is on our school and division website. The calendar indicates school days, Fall Break, Christmas Break, Spring Break, and other days when there is no school.

We are providing this calendar so that parents can make every attempt to book family vacations during regularly scheduled school breaks.

**STUDENT TIMETABLES**

Each timetable has been reviewed to ensure academic courses and elective courses are balanced. Options listed are the *best-case scenario* – options you selected that fit around your academic courses. If you are satisfied with over 80% of your courses, that is a good timetable! You may see an option you did not choose - you were placed in that option to ensure you have a full timetable.

All grade 9 and 10 students have a full timetable (spares are not possible in grade 9 and 10). Elective courses you have chosen may be offered in time blocks where you have a higher priority class scheduled, therefore the timetable change you desire may not be possible. Timetables are tentative as there may be adjustments required between now and September. Timetables can be viewed on “connect-ed” after August 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Grade 9s** – No changes will be made to core classes. The classes are balanced in number. Some option changes may be considered if there is availability.

**Grade 10s** –The classes are balanced in number. Only necessary academic changes will be considered by counsellors.

### **TIMETABLE CHANGES (Grade 10-12 students).**

Mr. Ash, Mrs. Plaizier and Mrs. Psalios will be available for grade 10-12 students to discuss timetables on **August 21<sup>st</sup> and August 22<sup>nd</sup>**. Please use the following link to sign-up for an appointment. These timetable discussions are based on academic reasons.

<https://signup.com/go/fdzteDK>

### **SCHOOL SUPPLIES**

All students are expected to have **writing materials, binders, and loose-leaf paper** for all courses. A **dictionary and thesaurus** are used regularly in Language Arts 9 and English courses. A change of clothes (**gym strip, running shoes**) is needed for PE classes. The teacher may request additional supplies specific to an elective or academic course. As all students are required to have their own electronic device, please note the details regarding “Bring Your Own Device” on page 3.

### **CALCULATORS**

**High School students are required to purchase their own calculator.** The Mathematics department recommends the Texas Instrument Calculator **TI-83 Plus/TI-84/Plus** for all high school math courses. Gr. 9 students **should not** purchase a graphing calculator at this time as they are not allowed in Gr. 9. Gr. 9 students require a scientific calculator for Mathematics 9.

### **TRANSPORTATION**

Evergreen Catholic Schools has a transportation agreement with the Parkland School Division to provide bussing for our students. Parkland Transportation has been communicating with bussing families since early March as they are implementing a new transportation system. Parents may contact Parkland School Division's Transportation Services Department at 780-963-8452 or via email [transportation@psd70.ab.ca](mailto:transportation@psd70.ab.ca) if they require further information.

### **LOCKS AND LOCKERS**

Locks and locker numbers will be provided on the first day of school. You **must** use a school issued combination lock.

### **REGISTRATION AND FEES /Office Open**

The office will be open full days beginning on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. The office will be closed all day on August 29<sup>th</sup> for our District Faith Development Day. The school office will re-open on the Friday, August 30<sup>th</sup>. Unpaid fees may be paid in person with cash, cheque, debit machine or online at [www.spachs.ca](http://www.spachs.ca).

### **CLASS TIMES**

We operate on a two-day timetable (day1 and day 2).

Mon. Wed. Fri.

<u>Block 1</u>	8:35- 9:57	<i>Lunch 11:25-12:05</i>	<u>Block 3</u>	12:10-1:32
<u>Block 2</u>	10:03-11:25		<u>Block 4</u>	1:38- 3:00

Tues. & Thurs. (Flex Schedule)

<u>Block 1</u>	8:35-9:47	<i>Lunch 11:45 – 12:25</i>	<u>Block 3</u>	12:30- 1:42
Flex Block	9:47 – 10:27		<u>Block 4</u>	1:48 – 3:00
<u>Block 2</u>	10:33- 11:45			

## **“Bring Your Own Device” 2019-2020 School Year**

SPACHS implemented BYOD for the 2018-2019 school year. For the most part the new program was successful. We want to remind students and parents that we are expecting students to have their own device for the 2019-2020 school year. Teachers are excited to integrate more aspects of technology into their daily instruction, but it does require students to have their own laptop/device. The basic requirements are listed below. In many cases parents found devices for under \$400.00 and it met all the requirements for the classroom. These devices will meet student needs for their entire SPACHS high school experience.

### **Device Guidelines**

Although different devices are permitted in the classroom to be used for educational purposes, the primary device students should use is a laptop. The laptop should meet the following requirements:

- Battery life of 6 hours or longer
- Have [Google Chrome](#) Browser installed on the device
- Must be able to access and navigate the internet via WiFi using 802.11n or 802.11ac standards.
- Have a minimum 10” screen.
- Have a built in, USB or Bluetooth keyboard/touchpad/mouse
- Have a 3.5mm audio jack or Bluetooth audio capability
- Have a minimum storage capacity of:
  - Chromebook - 32GB
  - Windows - 64GB
  - MacBook - 128GB

**Note:** We did retain some laptops in each classroom that students can access but they must be returned each class and are not to be brought home by students. We strongly encourage families to make the investment to purchase their own device.

### **Cell Phone Policy at SPACHS**

Coinciding with the implementation of the **“Bring Your Own Device”** program for the 2018-2019 school year was a new cell phone policy for SPACHS. We made the decision to prohibit the use of cell phones during class time. There were concerns regarding students being distracted by their phones and losing valuable instructional time as they spent time on social media and texting during class. The cell phone policy change proved to be successful and the policy will remain in effect for the 2019-2020 school year. Should a student be caught with a cellphone during class time, it will be confiscated and given to administration. Students will be able to pick up their phones at the end of the school day. There has been some very beneficial classroom uses of cell phone technology over the past years, but the reality is that at times it has also been a distraction for many students using social media and texting. With the implementation of the **“Bring Your Own Device”** program, we saw the benefits of readily accessible powerful technology without the cell phone distractions.