

February 12, 2021

RE: Full school shift at St. Thomas Aquinas School to at-home online learning until March 1, 2021

Dear Parents,

Thank you for your patience and support as we continue to navigate the challenges of COVID-19 and what is best for our students. St. Thomas of Aquinas School has been deemed an outbreak by Alberta Health Services (*Outbreak number 2021-EI-1214*). The cases this past week have continued to have an impact on our entire school community.

Therefore we will be shifting all grades temporarily to online learning beginning tomorrow, February 12 - February 26, 2021. In collaboration with Alberta Health Services and Alberta Education, we will reassess whether we will move to in person or continue online learning the weekend prior to March 1, 2021. Please note that the week of February 15 to February 19, 2021 is our Winter Break and there is no school for that week.

All classes will be offered online following a detailed schedule so that students can work directly with their teachers throughout the day. This will ensure that we will be able to keep moving forward with curriculum and continue the strong learning that is happening within classes. The specific details of this class schedule will be communicated to your child in a live Google meet on Friday, February 12th at 1:00 p.m. with their homeroom teacher. Students are asked to check their homeroom Google Classroom for the meeting link.

Please complete the following link if your child requires a chromebook: <https://forms.gle/14cMkypYHsKAJ68i8> Once your request is processed, you will be contacted with pick up details. We ask that technology is picked up at the school prior to 3:30 p.m. on Friday, February 12.

Please know that this decision was not made lightly and as we continue to realize the strains that COVID-19 places on us we need to be flexible with our decision making and put our students and their learning at the center of all conversations.

As always, do not hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher, school counsellors, and school administrators for additional support or clarification. While this is a challenging time, we continue to trust in the Lord with all our heart, leaning on each other for support and companionship. Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

God bless,



Kathleen Finnigan, Superintendent of Schools
Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools