

August 26, 2024

Dear St. Mark Families:

We hope that this letter finds you well and enjoying the last of the summer. In preparation for the upcoming 2024-2025 school year, we want to update and remind you of some information prior to our first days of school.

- **Grade 7 students:**

- We invite the immediate family members of our Grade 7 students to join us for coffee and muffins from 8:15-8:45 on Tuesday 3 September 2024. This will be an informal opportunity to meet St. Mark staff and see some of the school.
- Grade 7 school orientation is on Tuesday 3 September 2024. Students will attend the full day (8:25-3:03).
- Grade 7 students will attend the full day Wednesday 4 September 2024.

- **Grade 8 and 9 students:**

- **No classes/no school** for Grade 8 and 9 students on Tuesday 3 September 2024. Enjoy your extra day of summer!
- Grade 8 and 9 student orientation and school set-up will be Wednesday 4 September 2024. Doors open at 8:15 am. We will meet in the school gym to begin.
- Dismissal on full days of school is 3:03 for this school year.

- **Grade 7, 8 and 9 students:**

- Students will continue their orientation on Thursday 5 September 2024. Dismissal on Thursdays is 11:55 am.
- All students will follow their class timetable on Friday 6 September 2024.

- **Generations 7, 8 and 9 students:**

- Students who are **new to St. Mark** this year are invited to attend on Tuesday 3 September 2024 for their orientation.
- All Generations students will attend school on Wednesday 4 September 2024.

Our class schedule for the 2024-2025 school year is:

Grades 7, 8 and 9	Generations
<i>Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays</i>	<i>Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays</i>
8:15: Doors open to students	8:22: Warning bell
8:22: Warning bell	8:25: Morning class begins
8:25: Morning classes begin (blocks 1-4)	11:45: Lunch and wellness break/recess

11:50: Lunch and wellness break/recess 12:35: Afternoon classes begin (blocks 5-7) 3:03: Dismissal	12:25: Afternoon class begins 2:45: Dismissal
<i>Thursdays</i>	<i>Thursdays</i>
8:15: Doors open to students 8:22: Warning bell 8:25: Morning classes begin (blocks 1-4) 11:55: Early Dismissal	8:22: Warning bell 8:25: Morning class begins 11:46: Early Dismissal

We know there are likely many questions from especially our new family members. Further is some information that may help:

- **Bus Passes**

- Except for Generations, students requiring transportation use Edmonton Transit Services (ETS).
- ECSD is no longer offering bus passes for hardship cases. If you require financial assistance for your child's bus pass, you are asked to apply to the ETS [Ride Transit Program](https://www.edmonton.ca/ets/subsidized-transit) (<https://www.edmonton.ca/ets/subsidized-transit>).

- **School Fees**

- General School Fees and all Recreational Academy Fees will be ready for payment starting 15 September 2024 on [PowerSchool](#).
- Option fees will be determined and added to your child's PowerSchool account near the end of the first month of options. This will allow us to settle students in the option classes as changes are inevitable in the first few weeks of school.
- **General school fees and option fees can be paid in monthly installments. Please contact the office to arrange this.**
- Recreation fees are due at their prescribed time as per the contract families signed. Missed payments may mean the student is removed from the program until fees are paid.

- **Locks and Lockers**

- All students will be provided with a locker and a lock by the school.
- **Personal locks will be removed** and replaced by a school lock. This is for school security purposes.

- **School Supply List**

- Please see our [website](#) for a list of supplies for the first day of school. St. Mark does support the reuse of older school supplies that are in good working condition.
- A school agenda is part of the students' fees and will be provided the first day of school.

- Once options have been finalized, students may require additional materials. This will be communicated by the individual teachers later.
- **St. Mark Student Cellphone Policy**
 - Please see the attached letter from the Minister of Education regarding the use of cellphones in Alberta Schools.
 - **St. Mark does NOT allow students to use their cell phones at *any time during the school day (8:15-3:03)*.** Students have access to a school phone to make calls during the day. Our school policy will be shared with students during orientation and families during our Meet the Teacher Evening.

We are in the process of updating our school website. Please check back to these two sites for information as it becomes available:

- [St. Mark's ECSD Website \(https://stmark.ecsd.net/\)](https://stmark.ecsd.net/)
- [Parent PowerSchool Portal \(https://powerschool.ecsd.net/public/\)](https://powerschool.ecsd.net/public/)

The school is open this week for in-person support should you require it. Our hours this week are 9:00 am-3:00 pm. It is advisable to call first as we do have appointments with new families.

Please note that the office will be closed the following times:

- Thursday 29 August 2024 – all day.
- Friday 30 August – 9:00-12:00.

We have had a few questions regarding teachers and homeroom placements. Please note that these decisions are very complex as we meet learning needs, gender balancing, etc. Classroom placement may also change as our student enrollment is confirmed. Therefore, **we will not be accepting any requests for classroom changes prior to 15 September 2024**. Thank you for your patience in this matter.

We look forward to seeing many of you back and we look forward to meeting our new family members. Until then, enjoy the last days of the summer break!

Sincerely,

J. Hertlein and A. Stabile
St. Mark Administration