

REGIOPOLIS-NOTRE DAME CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Visit our website: www.reginotredame.ca



September 2020 Newsletter

Newsletter is issued at the beginning of each month

Principal's Address

As much as the transition between August and September is a difficult one, I am always so revitalized by the energy and enthusiasm of the students and staff as they return to our community. And this year the transition really is between March and September – extraordinary times! This energy is muted by caution (and by masks!) this year as we learn together about ways to ensure our school community is safe during this pandemic. To that end, you will find some reminders attached to this email, about covid-19 self-screening as well as safe return to learn protocols.

Please be aware that we began distributing textbooks in advance of collecting the textbook deposit cheque this year, as access time was not available prior to start-up. We will also collect student activity fees and hope that most disbursements will continue as usual. We are still hoping for some return to normal in the latter half of the year!

Staffing is nearing conclusion with hopefully only a few classes left to fill in the upcoming octomester blocks. New to staff (or returning) faces include: Ms. Fanning, Mr. Akbari, Ms. Whitley, Ms. McIsaac, Mrs. Marshall-Pryor, Ms. Chapman, and Mr. Laird. Our newest staff members are strong, passionate and dedicated educators and support staff. We wish Ms. Grekul, Mr. Murphy, Ms. Kelly, Mrs. Maheral, Mr. Moeys and Mme Tremblay all the best in their retirement.

Parking continues to be a concern at RND. Only permit (staff) parking is allowed in the Cowdy lots and no one should be parked along the round. *We have two access buses that pick students up at day's end at the Cowdy Street doors. If parents are picking*

up their sons or daughters on Cowdy Street, please keep your car moving and allow room for the school bus to park near the ramp and depart from there as well. Your help is appreciated in this busy, shared space. Together, we ensure the safety of all of our young people.

I am so excited about this school year. Our mission statement reflects back on our common call for support and prayer, by our patron saint. We rely on her example, her high standards, and her support. I encourage everyone to get involved in the school. We are a school in a school board that welcomes everyone. This re-opening of schools gives us a chance to be together again and

our hope is to sustain this re-opening in a safe, healthy and fun manner. I know making the decision to attend school online or in-person was a difficult one for many families.

Good luck to all of the students who have stepped forward and are running for Student Council executive positions or have indicated interest in Cabinet. Together, we will find ways to bring that RND community spirit alive.

We start tomorrow (**Friday, September 18th**) with a Non-Uniform Day fundraiser, asking students to wear purple, keeping Caleb Knox and Will Mullen in our thoughts and prayers. These young men are battling hard to regain health after an accident on Wolfe Island. Purple is the colour of Caleb's family ball team. We will contribute two dollars per student from your student activity fee but any extra donations are welcome.

Please check the school website and our social media accounts on a regular basis to see if there is important information for you.

Terri Daniel

Pastoral Services

St. Marguerite Bourgeoys...Pray for us!

April 2020 marked the 400th Birthday of our patron Saint. We thank God for St. Marguerite and every person created in God's image, including our students and staff. St. Marguerite said: "Let us begin and pursue all our actions in union with the Blessed Virgin; with her protection we have nothing to fear!"

Our board theme this year is "**All Are Welcome in This Place**". We will be reflecting on this theme in our liturgies over the next few days. This theme calls us to welcome every person who we encounter in our school community and beyond. Before we can accomplish any other goal, we must ensure that everyone in our community feels welcomed, feels safe, and feels a genuine sense of belonging.

Prayer:

Lord, You make all things new. As we begin a new school year with many questions and many uncertainties, we place our trust in you. Bring hope alive in our hearts and sustain us along our journey. Help us to sustain a community of belonging, welcoming everyone in our midst. We ask this in your name. Amen.

2020 – 2021 STUDENT FEES

Please note that Student Fees must be paid online. Unfortunately due to the Covid pandemic, lockers, RND T-shirt, Students' Council sponsored extra-curricular activities and charitable non-uniform days will be delayed. It is our expectation that we will be able to return to a normal school routine in the near future.

Grade 9 Student Fees (\$80 with yearbook, \$55 without yearbook)

This fee for grade 9 students includes a student activity card, RND t-shirt, a school approved combination lock, face mask and a yearbook. The Student Activity Card is necessary for participation in Students' Council sponsored extra-curricular activities and also covers four non-uniform days. The card also entitles students to discounts from various local merchants. The Grade 9 Student Fee without yearbook is \$55.

Grade 10 Student Fees (\$60 with yearbook, \$35 without yearbook)

This fee for grade 10 students includes a student activity card, face mask and a yearbook. The Student Activity Card is necessary for participation in Students' Council sponsored extra-curricular activities and also covers four non-uniform days. The card also entitles students to discounts from various local merchants. The Grade 10 Student Fee without yearbook is \$35.

Grade 12 Student Fees (\$95 with yearbook, \$70 without yearbook)

This fee for grade 12 students includes a Student Activity Card, face mask, 2021 graduation fee and a yearbook. The Student Activity Card is necessary for participation in Students' Council sponsored extra-curricular activities and also covers four non-uniform days. The card also entitles students to discounts from various local merchants. The Class of 2021 graduation fee covers the grad gown rental and a Class of 2021 grad photo. The Grade 12 Student Fee without yearbook is \$70.

Textbook Deposit

Families should forward a cheque for \$100.00 postdated to March 1, 2021, that we will hold on file to ensure proper distribution and return of textbooks. Families may also opt to leave a deposit of \$100 for textbooks at School Cash Online, which can be held and returned when your son or daughter moves on to another school. The choice is yours.

Safety Protocols During Covid

Thanks to all students, families and staff as we navigate these unknown waters. To be clear: health and safety is our number one priority right now. (Well-being and learning follow closely thereafter but of course all are linked, and include spiritual well-being as well.)

So, we are encouraging students to arrive on or after eight a.m. (unless an earlier arrival is absolutely necessary) and are to use the door nearest their classroom as an entry point.

There is hand sanitizer at entrances and in each learning space. Hallways have directional arrows, but in general keep to the right when travelling in the building.

Classroom doors will be open by 8:15 a.m. and students are to head directly to their classrooms. **Masks must be worn when in the building, on the bus, and when outside if in close proximity to others.**

Students have a staggered morning and an afternoon body break where we are encouraging all to be outside, physically distanced, so that they can remove their masks for a few minutes.

We also have three lunches now (Gr 9, Gr 10 and Gr 11/12) in an attempt to minimize group size. **Students who travel to school in cars are reminded that congregating in cars is not allowed.**

In inclement weather, students will be eating in classrooms at their assigned seat. Eating and drinking are the only times masks are to be removed.

Frequent handwashing (or using sanitizer), mask wearing and maintaining physical distance will be our best means of staying healthy.

Students and staff must self-assess daily. If one does not pass the screening, they must stay home and consult a doctor, get tested or self-isolate for fourteen days. See the protocol for this.

We know this is taxing for families – for students and staff. Together, we will follow the best guidance available to us.

Buses

Please be aware that there are no bus passes this year (in order to maintain seating plans and safety protocols). It is likely that some bus routes may be canceled from time to time if bus drivers are ill or self-isolating. Please see the protocol for this on the

board website. Log in to your class virtually if you are “stuck” at home.

Student Services

Timetable Changes for Semester Start

Students must check their timetables on Maplewood on the first day of school as changes happen on a daily basis – to balance classes and to meet the needs of all students. All students will remain in the classes assigned on their timetable, even if the student thinks that there is a course on it not chosen by them.

Priority to meet with Guidance goes to students with incomplete timetables:

- a) grade 9 to 11 students with fewer than 8 courses
- b) grade 12 students with fewer than 3 courses in either semester

It is imperative that students with incomplete timetables address these concerns.

Grade Nines

On **Thursday, September 3rd** classroom teachers will be notified to send any students missing courses and/or needing other timetable changes to the Student Common or other designated Student Services triage location. At that time, students will have the opportunity to meet with a guidance counsellor who will work to resolve the timetable issue.

Grade Tens

On **Friday, September 4th** grade 10 classroom teachers will be notified to send any students with timetable concerns (as noted under Grade Nines) to meet with guidance counsellors at the designated triage location.

There will be no changes in electives for grade 9 and 10 students.

There may be a few students who are aware that they are ineligible for a class because they do not have the correct prerequisite (for example – a student is scheduled in grade 10 academic math but did not pass the grade 9 academic math). They should notify their guidance counsellor via email to resolve the issue before the first day of school.

Grade Elevens and Twelves

Changes to grade 11 and 12 schedules based on pathways for graduation requirements and/or post secondary education are permitted at this time. Students can only take courses for which they have the appropriate prerequisite or that fulfill the requirements of their educational pathway.

Online Booking for Guidance Appointments

Student Services will use online booking for student guidance appointments; this is a most efficient process and allows the

office to maintain a record of student visits. The Appointment icon is located in students' Virtual Common. It is important for students to check their board email @alcdsb.on.ca to receive confirmation of appointment date and time from their guidance counsellor. Online booking will be available to students beginning **Thursday, September 10th**. If you need to see your guidance counsellor immediately, please speak with our Student Services secretary, **Mrs. Warren**, or ask your classroom teacher to notify the appropriate counsellor for you.

If parents need to contact a guidance counsellor, please call **Mrs. Warren** at extension 2503. Please do not email the guidance counsellor. Guidance counsellors will contact you as soon as possible. If it is an emergency, please indicate this to **Mrs. Warren**. Guidance counsellors will not have access to phones during the triage phase of timetabling. Once back in Student Services, guidance counsellors will not answer phones when they are working with students. Due to the volume of communications received in August and September, counsellors will prioritize and address each message as soon as possible. They appreciate your patience.

Face-to-face visits with parent(s)/guardian(s) and counsellors will not take place until further notice.

Co-op Students – Grade 11 and 12

Semester 1 Co-op placements will be virtual until KFLA Public Health gives approves in-person placements. Students with co-op in Octomester 1 will participate in preplacement classes at RND in a location TBD, unless a student is learning remotely during this time. During this timeframe, students will work collaboratively with **Mr. Farrell** and **Ms. Lott** to secure job placements for co-op. Families are encouraged to reach out to contacts in the community, with Public Health protocol in mind, to assist in this process.

Dual Credit

Regi students have a unique opportunity this fall with respect to the Dual Credit courses that are available. All Dual credit courses are online so for this September. Students have access to courses at the three St. Lawrence campuses...Kingston, Brockville and Cornwall. Welding and electrical are on-site at the Kingston campus. For more information, contact **Ms. Lott** at lott@alcdsb.on.ca.

Students enrolled in Dual Credit courses for semester 1 should have received an email from their Instructors at SLC. Orientation sessions begin the first week of September.

Elearning

Students will study Elearning courses in the octomester to which they are assigned in their timetable (e.g. period 1 Elearning time means the course spans octomester 1. Students can complete their eLearning courses at home. If a student intends to complete their eLearning course at school, they must report to the Library.

Peer Tutors

Students who have Peer Tutoring as a course this school year will receive an email shortly to confirm the course and/or teacher placement. If you already have spoken with a teacher, please email your guidance counsellor or **Ms. Ramsay** (ramsalan@alcdsb.on.ca) to confirm your plan. **Ms. Ramsay** will contact all peer tutors prior to the octomester in which their GPP3O1P sits to discuss course expectations.

Regi Guidance on D2L

Once again, students can access information from Student Services on the Regi Guidance page in their Virtual Commons. Students will find information relevant to their grade. They can also find information on volunteer opportunities, scholarships, bursaries, SHSMs, employment opportunities, and many useful website links.

Grade 9 Students – Meeting your Guidance Counsellor

Beginning **Tuesday, September 15th**, Guidance Counsellors will meet with Grade 9 students. The schedule and format of these visits is TBD. Guidance counsellors will outline the services and supports available for students to use throughout their time at RND.

Grade 12 Students – Post Secondary Planning

Grade 12 students should be checking with post-secondary schools and their websites to ensure they have met all the requirements for their desired post-secondary program. If students are unsure of the requirements or need to make changes to their timetable, they should make an appointment with either **Ms. Gaudet** or **Mrs. Glancey Cox** ASAP.

All Ontario university programs and degree programs at Ontario colleges require applicants to have a total of 6 grade 12 university (4U) and mixed (4M) courses to be considered.

Some courses fill up quickly and/or are only available during one semester. Reaching your post-secondary goal requires YOU to plan, to respect deadlines, to work hard, and to make realistic choices.

To further your understanding of what Ontario Colleges have to offer, check out ontariocolleges.ca.

To do the same for Ontario Universities, head to ontariouniversitiesinfo.ca.

Visits from College and University Recruitment

College and university visits to RND will be virtual until further notice. Dates for all scheduled visits are posted on the RND School Calendar via reginotredame.ca. Further direction about student access for the visits is TBD. Student Services will make every attempt to provide access for students who are learning remotely.

Specialist High Skills Major

RND offers SHSM in Arts and Culture Sector, SHSM in Non-Profit Sector, and SHSM in Sports Sector. SHSMs are for grade 11 and 12 students who are interested in customizing their secondary school experience to suit their interests and skills.

SHSM students have the opportunity to:

- bundle Grade 11 and 12 credits related to the sector to connect their learning to the sector
- earn valuable industry certifications including First Aid, CPR and WHMIS, at no cost
- participate in experiential learning and career exploration activities (ex. conferences, worksite tours, and workshops)
- tour colleges and universities and workplaces in the sector
- take dual credit courses at the college

For more information contact Student Services. Applications are available on the RND Guidance Page in the students' d2L. Deadline to apply is early October.

Important Dates for September

Friday, September 11th

Last day to change classes

Grade 12 Post Secondary Information Session – *date and format TBD*

Post Secondary Information Session for Parents – *date and format TBD*

The Ontario Universities' Fair (OUF) is cancelled for 2020/21.

The College Information Program (CIP) is cancelled for 2020/21.

The University Information Program (UIP) is cancelled for 2020/21.

International Baccalaureate Updates

All students enrolled in the IB Programme: full Diploma students, Certificate students, and students in Pre IB, are asked to pay their IB Fees using the School Cash Online service located on the RND website. The fee for DP, Certificate Courses and Pre IB courses is \$310.00. **Please pay by September 15th.**

Welcome and orientation grade meetings will take place in early September. Students who have individual questions about the programme are asked to come see **Mr. David** in the **IB Office**, located in the school library.

All IB students are reminded to check regularly the **Regi IB D2L page**. This site contains information about the programme, key dates and reminders, as well as critical documents.

All IB students (and parents) are to be assured that the IB Programme at RND will continue to deliver the full IB curriculum in each subject area without disruption or impairment. The IBO (International Baccalaureate Organization) recognizes the challenges facing students and faculty and as such, they have instituted some measures to address these hardships. The RND IB Programme will be making use of some of these measures where circumstances require. IB Exams will proceed as scheduled beginning **May 1st, 2021**.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact **Jim David**, IB Coordinator at david@alcdsb.on.ca

Co-op Students – Grade 11 and 12

For the first week of the semester, all students who are enrolled in cooperative education will be in preplacement classes at RND. Students will report to the cafeteria at the time coop appears in their timetable. During this timeframe, students will work collaboratively with the **Mr. Farrell** and **Ms. Lott** to secure job placements for co-op. Families are encouraged to reach out to contacts in the community to assist in this process. In-person community placements will be arranged in alignment with the direction and recommendations of the local health unit, the direction of the school board, and with the safety and curriculum requirements of the Cooperative Education curriculum.

Athletics

Regiopolis-Notre Dame Catholic school is a member of KASSAA (Kingston Area Secondary School Athletic Association). The following message was announced concerning all Fall athletics:

The Kingston Area Secondary School Athletic Association (KASSAA) serves the students of four local School Boards, and works in concert with the School Boards in order to provide extra-curricular leagues for students of our member schools. The coming school year will look different, at least to begin, and our School Boards have made the prudent decision to prioritize the safe return of students and staff to academic programming.

The introduction of inter-school athletics at this time would not support the School Boards' efforts to minimize student contacts. As a result, our member Boards have announced that there will be no interschool extracurricular athletics for the fall in their schools. Furthermore, OFSAA, the provincial governing body of high school sport, has cancelled their fall championships and festivals.

Regiopolis-Notre Dame will continue to work with KASSAA to explore all athletic participation options throughout the school

year. Information pertaining to high school athletics can be found on the KASSAA website at <http://www.kassaa.ca/>.

Student Council

Hi everyone, and welcome back! As you know, we do not currently have a student council for the 2020-2021 school year. Please monitor announcements when you get back to school, as **Ms. Emmerson/Rizzi** will be holding a meeting for any who are interested in running for student council or cabinet. Can't wait to see you all!