



FAQ for PCS Parents and Students

PCS is a Christian School Society committed to “Educational Excellence to the Glory of God.” That has not changed in the midst of the Covid 19 journey. The staff team is committed to mentoring and guiding your children as best as possible during this time. They will continue to partner with you as we collectively seek to raise children who are “faithful citizens in God’s world.”

This Q and A sheet is designed to help us all over the next weeks – and will evolve over time. For more information and past communications, please refer to www.myPCS.ca/covid19

Blessings on the journey ahead!

Is school happening?

- School continues to operate and serve all of our students, but in-person classes are suspended until further notice.
- The leadership team has been meeting (virtually!) throughout spring break to develop plans to support our educators in moving to remote learning. When teachers and EAs return to work on Monday, March 30, we will continue to collaborate to develop our plan for continued learning.

What are the school’s priorities during this time of remote learning?

- Our priorities remain the same, as reflected in our mission *to nurture students in Christ-like living, critical thinking, and joyful service to be faithful citizen’s in God’s world.* We are committed to keeping this central in our time of remote learning.
- We know how special the PCS sense of community is to staff, students, and parents alike. We are seeking ways to maintain and deepen connections amongst all members of our community in this time of physical distancing.

What does next week look like for PCS students?

- As educational staff return to work March 30, we will be taking time to thoughtfully develop our remote learning framework. This is a big transition for staff, and we want to work through it with care and consideration for student and family needs.
- We’ve been learning from schools in other jurisdictions who have already launched their programs. They cautioned us to plan an approach that would not overwhelm families.
- Students will be accessing their learning materials and instructions through Google Sites and Classroom. To maintain student and teacher connections, and to build community while we can’t be physically together, we will be creating a Google Classroom for each class.

- We do not expect whole classes to be able to meet online at the same time, as families have limited access to technology. Teachers will plan for delivery of learning that students can access when they are able. Virtual meetings may be scheduled with individual students or small groups.
- We plan to spend Monday – Wednesday next week (March 30 – April 1) working with staff to build their Google Classroom spaces. You will receive information about how to access the Google Classrooms by Thursday next week.
- Teachers will be connecting with students and families on Thursday and Friday to check in and say hi!

What will remote learning include?

- Students will continue to develop curricular and core competencies in literacy, numeracy and secondary subject-specific courses starting April 6th. In addition, we will be focusing on discipleship, family, well-being and connection.
- We will not try to replicate everything that occurs in our classrooms, but through this new way of being PCS, we are excited to see the unexpected things our students will undoubtedly learn and the creative ways by which they will demonstrate their learning.

How will my children be supported in their learning?

- Your child’s classroom teacher will be supporting their learning, with the possibility of additional support from one of our educational assistants.
- There will be opportunity for direct conversation between students and teachers, as well as between parents and teachers. This will take place through an online video platform or via a phone call.
- As always, your child’s learning success is our priority. We are fully committed to supporting the learning needs of your child(ren) during this time.

What about students with an Individual Education Plan?

- We will continue to provide services and support for all our diverse learners.
- Students whose learning is informed by an IEP can expect to maintain their relationship with our Student Support Services department.

Are the counselors available to students?

- Yes, we know that this is a stressful time and students may want to check in with one of our counselors– and some have already done so even over the break.
- As counselors return to work next week, more information will be provided about how to set up a meeting with them.

What if we don't have technology for our children to use?

- We sent out a family survey on March 26. This included questions about family access to technology. If borrowing one of our school Chromebooks would be helpful for your family, we will make arrangements for that. Once we know family needs, we will communicate about the borrowing process.
- We will advise teachers that families may not have printing capability so that they can plan learning activities with that in mind.
- If your family does not have internet access, please contact the school principal so that we can make plans for alternative learning support.

What safety protocols are being put in place?

- In our effort to support public health measures, we are encouraging staff who are able to work from home to do so.
- In our buildings, we will increase frequency of cleaning in any common-access areas (such as washrooms) and will ensure cleaning follows prescribed protocols.
- We require social distancing for anyone in the building.

Can we come to the school building? How can I collect my child's materials?

- To protect the health of all members of our community, we ask that students and parents not drop in at the school building.
- We will develop a plan for pick-up of student materials from classrooms and lockers, according to guidelines provided by the Provincial Health Officer.
- If you require access outside of the times that we will communicate, please contact the campus principal.

I am an Essential Services Worker; will PCS provide care for my children?

- Yes, one of the ways in which schools have been asked to help our communities is to plan for care of children (aged 5-12) whose caregivers are essential services workers.
- We will be gathering information about the level of need for this in our community.
- Plans for care will be made according to best-practices for maintaining health and safety, including social distancing.
- We will share more information as we gauge our community needs.

What about our Grad celebrations?

- Our Class of 2020 is very much on our mind. We know how much students and families look forward to Grad activities and celebrations.
- As we monitor the measures to suppress Covid-19 spread, we will consider alternative times or approaches for celebrating the graduation milestone.
- No decisions have been made yet, but we are thinking of you!

Are the playgrounds open?

- No. Our playgrounds are closed because we want to do our part to ensure the safety of our school and local community.

What about staffing?

- As we continue to develop our plans for educational continuance, we commit to make staffing decisions that prioritize supporting our families within a changed context. We remain focused on our mission *to nurture students in Christ-like living, critical thinking, and joyful service to be faithful citizen's in God's world.*