

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are writing to inform you that the Board of Trustees passed a motion yesterday evening to permanently close St. Gabriel Online School effective August 15 after summer school is completed.

Going forward, online courses will be delivered through École Secondaire Notre Dame High School and St. Joseph High School in Red Deer, and St. Dominic Catholic High School in Rocky Mountain House. Your child's education is important to us. Even though a fully online school is no longer a viable option due to Alberta's new education funding model, we will continue to serve students by providing comprehensive online course offerings through our high schools.

In total there will be 18 teachers supporting online learning at the high school level: four online learning specialists supporting students in the core subject areas (English, Math, Social and the Sciences) in addition to 14 teachers offering online non-core courses (Religion, CALM, CTS and physical education programs).

Registration Process: Online High School Students

There are two methods of registration for current RDCRS students interested in online learning at the high schools: the course registration process in the spring and the beginning of each semester. This process is consistent with current practices in our high schools. Students are encouraged to talk to their school administrator and school counsellors regarding online programming if they have questions and would like to register for online classes.

Registering for St. John Paul II Outreach School

St. John Paul II Outreach School will not be closing. St. John Paul II will continue to be the hub for outreach programming and new students looking for flexible learning opportunities. St. John Paul II Outreach School is located within St. Benedict the Moor Centre (on 39th Street between Maryview and St. Thomas Aquinas Middle School). Students attending St. John Paul II Outreach School will have access to the outreach program teachers, as well as the online teaching team.

Outreach teachers will be able to create flexible programming for students that can include online delivery, face-to-face teaching, as well as facilitating opportunities for students to take specialized courses, such as welding, cosmetology and mechanics at one of our high schools. Students interested in pursuing outreach programming can contact St. John Paul II Outreach School at 403-314-9382.

Our high schools have had a rich history of supporting students who wish to take online courses to supplement their high school journey. All three high schools are well equipped to continue this rich legacy of online delivery.

We have a strong commitment to providing equity of access and opportunity for all students and we look forward to continuing that tradition of excellence in our new facilities. We are excited to see you in the months to come.

If you have questions please contact the following administrators:

Mrs. Rose McQuay, École Secondaire Notre Dame High School
Mr. Graeme Daniel, St. Joseph High School
Mr. Pat Hughes, St. Dominic Catholic High School
Mr. Ryan Sawula, St. John Paul II Outreach School

God bless,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Finnigan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'F' and a trailing 'n'.

Kathleen Finnigan
Interim Superintendent of Schools