

Affirm Refine Aspire

HS Learning Services Newsletter - September 8, 2020

Happy New Year!

Pauline Duchan, a long-serving Administrative Assistant in Holy Spirit used to welcome all of the staff, students and parents back to St. Paul School every September with that warm greeting, "Happy New Year!" I know many of us are really looking forward to ushering out 2020, but we really do need to recognize the gift that is this 'new year' for everyone involved in education. Our students have been out of the classroom for almost six months, and I know the life they are all breathing back into our schools is exhilarating.



This new year no doubt has its challenges -- we have never put so much thought into how students enter and exit our buildings, which direction they will travel down the hallways, how many can use the washrooms at one time, and on and on -- but this fresh start also comes to us as a gift by being able to return to routine, and provide some semblance of normalcy for all of us. There is no doubt that we will all be challenged on a daily basis to continue to offer high quality, engaging learning experiences for our students given some of our physical barriers and restrictions, but I know all of our students are in the very best hands.

Learning Services is once again excited to help support all of our teachers (whether they find themselves in the classroom, teaching at-home learners -- or a bit of both) to enhance professional practice and ultimately improve student learning. There are many great plans on the horizon, and we are looking forward to journeying through the 2020/21 school year with all of you.

Carmen Larsen
Director of Learning



Professional Learning

The **Affirm, Refine, Aspire** newsletter will be emailed to you on the first Tuesday of each month. Check your Spam folder if you don't find it in your inbox.

A **NEW Ministerial Order on Student Learning** was released this summer. It maintains a strong focus on literacy and numeracy as the means to develop lifelong learners who are able to think critically, problem-solve, and become active, engaged citizens. Creativity, problem solving, collaboration, communication, critical thinking, resilience and personal health and well-being are strongly emphasized through a focus on knowledge, character development and community engagement. There are many connections to our faith as we work to foster compassion and empathy in all of our students. Find the new Ministerial Order on Student Learning [here](#).

Digital Subscriptions: An email will be sent to those teachers with approved digital subscription requests (submitted last June). [Here](#) are the dates of the mandatory webinars, that

Professional Growth

Creating Cultures of Thinking

Our [Divisional Professional Development Day](#) will be held on Tuesday, October 13. While we will miss the opportunity to gather in one space on this important day, we will join together virtually that morning to learn from Ron Ritchhart about how to create cultures of thinking in our schools and classrooms.

Keeping current with Literacy & Numeracy:
[K-6 Comprehensive Literacy Guides](#)
[Elementary Mathematics Professional Learning Essential Learning Outcomes](#)
[National Council of Teachers of Mathematics](#) (NCTM)
[National Council of Teachers of English](#) (NCTE)

St. Basil Catholic Education Centre Lending Library continues to be available in resources & space!

We have many kits, books and resources available for teachers! Feel free to click [here](#) to access the library online or feel free to book the space to have a look - [contact us](#)

Professional Collaboration

Holy Spirit Catholic School Division [Board Priorities](#) are as follows:

- 1) Staff and students will grow in their faith and experience the richness of Catholic Education.
- 2) High quality instruction rooted in sound research and effective assessment practices to support growth for all learners.
- 3) First Nations, Metis and Inuit education for all.
- 4) Foster a culture of wellness that is foundational to support learning.

Working together to improve student learning:

- Cohorts
 - Google Meets
 - Facebook Groups
 - Southern Alberta Professional Development Consortium
- Click [here](#) for more information!

Assessments: It will be important to gain insight to learner needs this year. Teachers may place a greater focus on pre-assessing students' prior knowledge before addressing an outcome. Pre-assessments not only inform instruction, but benefit students by activating

you will need to confirm registration for once the email is sent to you.

Tech Tips:

[Managing Gmail - Top 5 \(15 minutes\)](#)

[Organizing your Google Drive](#)

Personal & Professional

Growth: We will be working together more then ever this year! In that, remember to keep your personal wellness top of mind.

How Teachers Can Practice Self-Care for Long-Term

Health & Wellness tips [here](#).

Be sure to check out [ASEPB](#) for information and Community Links [here](#).

thinking and focusing attention on key understandings. Read about the link between pre-assessment and differentiation [here](#).

In addition to these classroom assessment practices, F&P Benchmarks and the Common Math Assessment will be used to provide diagnostic information. Click [here](#).

The Learning Services Team



Holy Spirit Catholic School Division

The Learning Services Team

[Carmen Larsen](#) - Director of Learning

[Dianne Brodie](#) - Learning Coach

[Louise Knodel](#) - Learning Coach

[Tia Wever](#) - Administrative Assistant

[Learning Services Help Desk](#)

Working together to improve student learning.

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