



September 2026 Newsletter

Administrators' Message

September 9, 2026

Dear St. Richard Families,

It is with great joy and gratitude that we welcome all families—new and returning—back to another exciting school year at St. Richard. The halls are once again filled with the laughter and energy of our students, and we are so thankful to be together again as a faith-filled learning community.

We are pleased to introduce a new Division theme this year, *Rooted in Joy*. Referencing Galatians 5:22 *The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness...* Joy is not simply happiness or ease, but a deep confidence that God is present in our work, our relationships, and our daily acts of service. When we remain rooted in Christ, the fruits of the Spirit begin to grow within us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. We cannot wait to see how joy will take root in our school this year.

On Friday, September 11 we will come together for our first assembly. New and returning staff will be introduced to the students and we will share our school theme book for the year *The Little Book of Joy* by His holiness the Dalai Lama. The story is a reminder that no matter the challenges we face joy has the power to bring light to our world.

Our school opening liturgy will take place on Friday, September 19 at 9:15 am in the gymnasium. Father Jake from St. Theresa Parish will be leading our liturgy, and we invite all families to join us if they are able.

As a STEM academy, we remain committed to providing innovative, hands-on learning experiences that foster curiosity, creativity, and critical thinking. Our staff is eager to guide students through meaningful projects that connect science, technology, engineering, and mathematics with real-world applications—all grounded in our Catholic values. We look forward to harvesting our potatoes that were planted in the spring as part of our STEM gardening.

Thank you for your continued partnership and trust. We are excited for the year ahead and all the joyful experiences it will bring.

Blessings to you all!

Alannah Muirhead Nicole Lamoureux

Principal Assistant Principal

Staff List for 2025 –2026

A. Muirhead - Principal	N. Lamoureux- Assistant Principal, Instructional Coach STEM Lead	L. Alvrde Mora– Admin Assistant	J. Weiss – Kindergarten
L. Mendoza – Grade 1	E. Foy – Grade 2	C.Wasylycia (T. Rehman) – Grade 3	D. Verdonk. – Grade 4
M. Sadoway - Grade 5 and Music	E. Kapeluck- Grade 5	B. Palavecino- Grade4/5	C. Ramler – Grade 6
A. Aleas – EA Kindergarten	K. Sharma – EA Grade 1	J. Ma – EA Grade 2	P. Bunge – EA Grade 3
E. Derus – EA Grade 4 and Library	G. Slusarczyk – EA Grade 5	O. Vasliuk– EA Grade 4/5	A. Kaur -EA Grade 6
N. Abdillahi – TA-BT	K. Dane- EBS	E. Hamilton -TASL	D. Marasinghe- FSLW
C. Rampersaud – Head Custodian			

Meet the Staff

Thank you to all the families who were able to join us for our “Meet the Staff” event that was held on August 31. We received positive feedback from families that hosting our event before the official first day of school was beneficial in taking away the “Night before school jitters”. If you were unable to join us, you would have received or will be receiving an introductory email from your child’s teacher. Additionally,



please feel free to reach out to your child's teacher or the office if you have any questions or need clarification. We are always happy to help!

Office Hours

Should you wish to contact a staff member or report a student absence via telephone, our office hours are:

- Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 7:45am – 3:30 pm
- Thursday – 7:45 -2:30

If you are calling outside these hours, please leave a message and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Hours of Operation for 2026 -2027

Our school hours for the 2026 - 2027school year are as follows:

Kindergarten

- Monday - Wednesday & Friday - 8:04 am -11: 10 am
- No school on Thursday

Grades 1-6

- Monday - Wednesday & Friday 8:04 AM -2:46 PM
- Thursday – 8:04 AM 11:40 AM
- Morning Recess - 10:03 AM -10:18 AM
- Lunch Recess - 11:47 M -12:07 PM
- Lunch – 12:07 PM – 12:27 PM



New Logos

We are excited to share that the St. Richard logo has been updated and redesigned. It has been over 10 years since our logo has been refreshed. We also now have a sports team logo, the St. Richard Ravens! The redesign process included feedback from staff and Parent Council with final approval from the Chief Superintendent. Work will be done over the course of the year to update the school with our new images.

Here are the images of our new designs:



Attendance

Regular and consistent attendance is integral to school success. We understand that occasional absences are sometimes unavoidable. However, we encourage families to prioritize attendance whenever possible and to reach out if your child is facing challenges that affect their ability to attend. Together, we can ensure that every student has the opportunity to succeed.

Please note that if students are away for extended vacations during regular instructional days, homework will not be provided. Students can access their google classroom account to see assignments.

If your child is late, please ensure they stop by the office to check in, receive a welcome slip and have their attendance updated. Accurate attendance of students is important so we know who is in the building and we can account for all students and staff in the event of an emergency.



Communication

We love hearing from our families! Please reach out to school staff via email or by calling the office. A reminder to please follow the protocol of first contact. Should a challenge arise please contact your child's teacher first. If you feel the issue requires further discussion, after first discussing the challenge with the teacher then please contact school administration.

A monthly newsletter will be sent home at the beginning of each month and will contain all the news and information about upcoming activities and events at the school.

Supervision Before and After School

A reminder that morning supervision starts at 7:50 AM. Students should not be arriving prior to 7:50 AM as there is no supervision. Supervision after school ends approximately 10 minutes after the dismissal bell rings.

While we continue to enjoy the warm weather before the coolness of fall sets in, students may want to linger at the playground after school. Please note that if you allow your child to stay after school to play at the park, please note there is no supervision past approximately 2:55 PM. It is recommended that all students go straight home from school and check in with their families first and get parental permission to return and play at the park.

Attendance

Regular and consistent attendance is integral to school success. We understand that occasional absences are sometimes unavoidable. However, we encourage families to prioritize attendance whenever possible and to reach out if your child is facing challenges that affect their ability to attend. Together, we can ensure that every student has the opportunity to succeed.

Please note that if students are away for extended vacations during regular instructional days, homework will not be provided. Students can access their google classroom account to see assignments.

If your child is late, please ensure they stop by the office to check in, receive a welcome slip and have their attendance updated. Accurate attendance of students is important so we know who is in the building and we can account for all students and staff in the event of an emergency.



Parent Council

Calling all parents/guardians! Our Parent Council needs you! A robust and vibrant parent council is vital in supporting the learning and opportunities provided to your children. Our meetings take place once a month in the library. The date of our first parent council for 2026 - 2027 is being determined. We will pass along the information once the date and time are finalized.

We also want to offer our thanks to our council for the generous support of the various initiatives we can offer our students.

Parking and Drop Off

A reminder the staff parking lot is for staff parking only and should not be used for student drop-offs, the exception being families who require the handicap space. Street parking is available, and we ask that you use the sidewalks to walk around the perimeter of the school. Also, please observe all posted signs for bus parking and use marked crosswalks for crossing the street. The safety of all our students and families is paramount.

Parent Volunteers

We are grateful for the help and assistance our parents and community provide for our school. This is a reminder that per Division administrative procedures all volunteers must complete a Volunteer Registration form. This includes activities such as, fields trips and working with small groups. If you would like to volunteer, please contact the office and we will provide you with the Volunteer Registration form.

Faith Formation

The gift of publicly funded Catholic Education allows us to celebrate, permeate and live out our faith daily. We will have our school opening liturgy on Friday, September 18 at 9:15 am in the gym. Father Jake from St. Theresa Parish is scheduled to preside. Families are invited to join us in our opening liturgy.

Once again, we continue our relationship with St. Theresa Parish. We will have weekly visits from the parish team of Father Varghese, Father Jake and Sister Marife. As well we will visit St. Theresa Parish a few times throughout the year to attend mass.

The parish is currently accepting registrations for families wishing to have their children receive the sacrament of First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Here is the link for the [Confirmation Brochure](#)



The registration deadline for Confirmation is October 8, 2026.

Here is the link for the [First Eucharist Brochure](#)

The First Eucharist Parent Meeting is Sunday, October 4 at 2:00 PM at St. Theresa Parish.

Here is the link for [St. Theresa Parish](#) where you can access further information

Student Verification

In the coming weeks, you will be asked to log into your Parent Power School account and complete the student verification document. It's important to ensure all information is correct, so we have the most current information for your child. If you've moved or have got a new phone number, please ensure you make those adjustments. Thank you in advance!

School Fees

School Fees will be posted to Parent Power School accounts in the upcoming weeks. Fee payments can be made online. If you are experiencing financial hardship, please contact the office to speak with Mrs. Muirhead to discuss how we can support you.

Transportation

For families who are using the yellow school bus you are reminded to download the Bus Planner App for up-to-date information.

Please note that all items regarding bussing are handled centrally and must be addressed directly with the Division's transportation department at 780-441-6078.

Terry Fox Run

St. Richard will be participating in the annual Terry Fox Run campaign. We have set aside time on Monday, September 28 to run in support of cancer research. We are asking students to bring in a Toonie for Terry between September 21 – 29.

Social Media

Did you know we are on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#)? Please like and follow us. Our social media accounts are a great way to see the latest happenings of the school.



Professional Learning Days

The staff of St. Richard will participate in two school-based professional learning days this year. There will be no classes for St. Richard students on the following days:

- Thursday, November 26
- Friday, February 12

Mark Your Calendars September Events

- September 18 – Opening School Liturgy
- September 28 – Terry Fox Run
- September 29 – Orange Shirt Day
- September 30 – National Truth and Reconciliation Day – No School

Year at a Glance

Please mark your calendars for the following special events at St. Richard this year. The dates and activities listed below are specific for St. Richard, all Division holidays/PD dates can be accessed on the [ECSD Calendar](#). Specific times and information will be sent out closer to each event. Please note other dates and events may be added throughout the year and we will do our best to keep you updated.

- October 5 – Parent Literacy Evening
- October 5 – 9 – Non-Fiction Reading Residency for students
- October 6 - Picture Day
- November 3 – Family Math Night
- November 24 -27 Book Fair
- November 25 – Demo of Learning
- November 26 – School PD Day – No classes for students
- November 30 – December 11 – Hip Hop Dance Residency for Students
- December 15 – Christmas Concert
- January 11 – 15 – Non – Fiction Writing Residency
- February 12 - School PD Day – No classes for students
- March 10 – Demo of Learning and Open House



