

OPEN HOUSE Parent Information 2024

**Parents, please fill out “Getting to Know Your Child”; return to school with Comfort Kits.

SCHOOL-WIDE PROCEDURES:

Theme: “Living, Celebrating, and Proclaiming Our Faith”.

- Continued focus on St. Helen’s Be-Attitudes: Be Safe, Be Responsible, Be Respectful – Be Like Jesus.

Curriculum Goals: Implementation of the BC Ministry of Education

- [Redesigned Curriculum](#) within a Catholic Worldview.
- Christ-like Respect, Consistency, Academic Excellence = Sustainability.
- Learning Update- communicating evidence of student learning

Uniforms: Uniforms must be purchased from Neat Uniform

Girls: St. Helen's tunic (K-3) & kilt (4-7), navy blue knee socks or tights

Navy blue cotton twill pants (optional)

Navy blue skort, navy blue (above ankle) socks, (optional summer uniform).

Boys: Navy blue cotton twill pants

Navy blue walking shorts, navy blue (above ankle) socks, (Optional Summer uniform).

Girls & Boys:

Light yellow polo shirt

Navy blue St. Helen's sweater

Black or navy dress-type shoes or runners, preferably soft-soled (no stripes, logo's etc.)

P.E. Uniform:

St. Helen's gym uniform consists of St. Helen's shorts and T-shirts and running shoes

Sweatsuit is an optional P.E. uniform and can be worn for school events like track and field, etc.

Grades K-7 are allowed to wear their P.E gym strip all day on P.E days (sweat pants and hoodies) except on school Mass days where full formal uniform is required.

Hair:

Girls: No extreme haircuts, styles, coloring and/ or bleaching of hair, no extreme accessories, no makeup, maximum one earring/ earlobe - studs or sleepers only, no other body piercing or tattoos, no nail polish, skirts to be a modest length, shoe heel height not to exceed 1 - 1/ 2” or 3 centimeters.

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Boys: No extreme haircuts, styles, colouring and/ or bleaching of hair, no extreme accessories, no earrings, body piercing or tattoos.

School Hours: 8:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

- School starts at 8:55 a.m. every day. We ask that parents say goodbye to their children from the car and not enter the building as teachers and students begin their morning routine.

Outdoor/ Indoor Supervision: Supervision in the morning, recess and lunchtime, during nice weather, will be outside.

- Before school supervision will be in their playground zones starting at 8:00 am. Afterschool supervision will be on the lower playground until 3:30 pm.

Comfort Kits / Safety:

- Return Comfort Kit information a.s.a.p.
- Parking: Be aware of all parking regulations and drop-off zone procedures
 - See updated zone map
- Parents are to wait outside to pick up children. Please do not enter school buildings. If you need to be in the school, you must obtain a visitor's pass from the office.
- Security Cameras & Locked Doors.

Personal Electronic Devices:

- Cell phones and other electronic equipment are not allowed during school hours, unless under the supervision of a teacher.
- School Phone is to be used only in case of emergency with permission.
- Internet Procedures: Students are allowed to use the Internet during school hours under the supervision of the teaching staff. With regards to improper usage or social networking at home, parents will be informed and resources will be provided to both the student and parent.
 - Cyberbullying is defined as bullying and harassment by the use of electronic devices through means of email, instant messaging, text messages, blogs, mobile phones, pagers and websites. Cyber-bullying is strictly prohibited and consequences are outlined in our discipline policy.

Lunch Nutrition: Provide a nutritious lunch and send necessary utensils; *remember that we are a nut-aware school, so do not send peanut products to school. Please do not bring “fast food” items to school. Students will bring home all containers, wraps and unfinished food as part of our recycling program. Anyone going home at lunch must have a note from the parents.

- Play First: A reminder that we use the “play first” lunch model. Primary students will be dismissed at 12:00 for playtime and return to the classroom at 12:30 to eat their lunch. Intermediates will be dismissed at 12:30 for playtime and return to classrooms at 1:00 to eat their lunch.

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Birthdays: No invitations to be passed out at school. Also, no food items are to be brought to school due to risk management issues.

Communication:

- Refer to the “Updated Calendar” on school website
- Download the St. Helen’s APP for updates, social media, teacher contacts and late and absentee notes.
- Staff will return phone calls within 24 hours and emails within 48 hours with the exception of the weekend. E-mails are not designed to solve conflicts, educational matters etc. Please make an appointment to discuss serious matters.
- Notes regarding tardiness and absences are needed for the Ministry. This includes sick days, holidays etc. By 9 am sharp. Use the APP to send notes.
- Vacations taken during the school session are highly discouraged and require principal approval. Teachers are not responsible for providing in advance work that will be missed while on vacation. It is the parent’s responsibility to check the homework website and ensure assignment completion upon their child’s return to school. Parents are responsible for making sure that their child makes up for their lost homework due to holidays. The teachers will provide resources.
- Permission notes and additional information for school events will be posted on the school calendar as attachments.
- Make appointments when you need to speak to a teacher about your child’s performance at school
- Report cards will be published three times during the year on MyEd BC.
- Parent Teacher Interviews (1st term) Student Led Presentations (2nd term).



Upcoming Fundraising Events:

- Walkathon Fundraiser – Fri/ October 4th (Lunch/ pizza provided by the school)
- Family Fun Night Fundraiser – Fri/ October 25th - More details to come
- Golf Tournament – (Date TBA)
- Ongoing Stream of Gratitude Wall
[http:// www.sthelensschool.ca/pdfs/ stream_of_gratitude_v2.pdf](http://www.sthelensschool.ca/pdfs/stream_of_gratitude_v2.pdf)
- Ongoing various fundraising events for Grad 2025

Classroom Procedures and Forms:

- Discipline Expectations Letter (Incident Report / see attached)
- Fieldtrips & Extracurricular activities:
 - Criminal Record Check: All volunteers are required to have a criminal record check prior to any field trips. CRCs are on file in the school office and are valid for a total of five years. Please apply online – see the information under the Parents tab on the school website.
[https:// justice.gov.bc.ca/ criminalrecordcheck](https://justice.gov.bc.ca/criminalrecordcheck)
Access code: 9J VUNZG7FM

Curriculum:

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Homework procedures & policies are available on the school website. We also have optional open-ended activities/ projects for students to complete and it's under the title "Home learning". This will be updated monthly by teachers. www.sthelensschool.ca and in student agenda books. The website will also provide you with information regarding class homework assignments and curricular overviews.

- French Program: variety of program depending on grades.
- Math Program: The IXL Math online program is also available for student use at home to reinforce basic skills in mathematics.
- Renaissance Home Connect: Parents can also follow their child's progress in Accelerated Reader from home. Logins and passwords will be provided by your child



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