



September 7, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As you are likely aware, the Government of Canada recently created a new federal statutory holiday, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30, as an opportunity to recognize the history of the residential school system in Canada. As a federal holiday, this is a designated paid day off for federally regulated employees; most provinces have indicated they will not observe the holiday as a day off at the provincial level.

Companies and organizations, including school divisions, may choose to close on optional holidays, and some divisions within the province have opted to observe National Day for Truth and Reconciliation as a non-operational day. In its discussions, the STAR Catholic Board of Trustees has determined our schools will be in session on September 30 of this year. This is due to a combination of factors, including previously approved school calendars and scheduling and transportation commitments with partner school divisions.

The Board of Trustees understands and greatly appreciates the importance of National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. In schools that day, as has been the case in previous years, students and staff will wear orange t-shirts in commemoration of Orange Shirt Day. Additionally, significant focus will be given to honouring the importance of truth and reconciliation through a variety of learning and reflection activities across the Division.

The Board has committed to revisiting this decision during the next school year when there will be sufficient time to plan and schedule accordingly. In the meantime, we thank families for their understanding in this regard.

Yours in Education,

Michelle Lamer  
Board Chair