



St. Mother Teresa High School
440 Longfields Drive
Nepean, Ontario K2J 4T1
Phone: 613-823-1663
Fax: 613-823-4365
Email: info@mths.ca

mths.ca

Dear SMT Community,

We would like to welcome back all of our families and are looking forward to meeting our new families. As we prepare for the new school year we are working diligently to plan and prepare a safe and smooth return for students and staff.

Understanding that this year will look different, we wanted to ensure everyone received the most up-to-date information from the Ottawa Catholic School Board. Please reference our [Return to School Plan](#), which includes detailed information for both in-class and virtual learning.

On August 13th, the Minister of Education indicated that Boards now had permission to begin the school year using a staggered start if that process allows more time to further enhance a safer return for students. Our staggered approach will be based on grade levels as follows:

- **Grade 7:** Tuesday, September 8
- **Grade 8:** Wednesday, September 9

- **Grades 9 to 12 (Cohort A - Last names A-K):** Monday, Sept. 14
- **Grades 9 to 12 (Cohort B - Last names L-Z):** Tuesday, Sept. 15

Prior to the first day, we will communicate revised schedules, cohort groupings (for high school) and review daily routines. If you are wondering what items to prepare for your child this year, click [here](#) to access a list of recommended items for all students (K-12).

Student Schedules

As we continue to prepare for the start of school, we will be activating various programs that assist in scheduling and balancing classes. Although students and parents may see class schedule information before the school start date, please understand that this information is not accurate and will likely change prior to the start of school. This unfortunately cannot be avoided due to the many changes accompanying the start of this school year. We kindly ask that parents not contact the school with schedule questions or requests for changes at this time.



Transportation update from OSTA

The Ottawa Transportation Authority (OSTA) has announced the yellow school bus service will begin on September 14. OSTA needs to coordinate the logistics for over 1300 vehicles and close to 5000 different combinations of daily routes. Student and driver safety remains everyone's number one priority. For more information, visit [return to school transportation information](#) (OSTA website).

Will all students have to wear a mask at school?

Yes, students in grades 4-12 are mandated by the Province to wear masks while in school. This has not changed. Please see the latest [update from Ottawa Public Health](#) related to questions about face masks.

Additional Public Health updates

[Ottawa Public Health](#) routinely updates its website regarding school-related topics. You can find detailed information on everything from ventilation to screening practices to how to contain community spread. Read Ottawa Public Health's [Responses to FAQ from Schools and School Boards](#).

A look inside an OCSB school

Since parents won't be allowed inside schools this year, we wanted to be able to show you the many ways we're working to keep your child safe this fall. This [short video](#) was posted on social media and shows how we're implementing Ottawa Public Health and the Ministry of Education's advice to develop safe, welcoming learning environments.

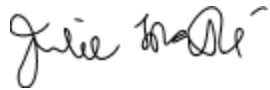
As new information becomes available, we will continue to communicate with you. If you did not receive this by email, please take a moment to sign-up for a [SchoolMessenger account](#). The Parent Portal allows parents to view their child's report card. Parents who have not yet registered for a Parent Portal account should go to <https://www.ocsb.ca/parentportal/> and follow the instructions for registering for an account.

We are in this together

We will be called on to seek innovative solutions to challenges we never imagined a year ago. This is a time to "Be Community" in words and actions. We need your continued patience and support as we develop our new school policies and practices to ensure the safety and success for all of our students and staff.

We know you may still have unanswered questions, but rest assured, we have staff working around the clock to get you answers. The OCSB [website](#) is continually being updated to include the most recent information, including: our [Back to School Frequently Asked Questions](#) and our [Revised Back to School Plan](#).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julie Mathé". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small flourish at the end.

Mme J. Mathé
Principal
[#TitanProud](#)