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Assistant Principal: Mrs. Francois

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Administrative Assistant: Mrs. Ward

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September 2025 Back to School Newsletter

Dear St. Mary Catholic School Families,

I hope you are enjoying a wonderful summer break! We are looking forward to welcoming everyone back to a new school year and to our partnership in creating an amazing learning community. It remains an honor and privilege to continue to serve as your principal and I look forward to seeing you again next week. Below are some reminders of the information we sent out at the end of June along with a few new items.

For Grade 1 to 6, the new school year begins on **Tuesday, September 2 at 8:15 AM.**

Kindergarten regular classes begin on Monday, September 8. Staggered entry for Kindergarten is on Tuesday, September 2, Wednesday, September 3 and Friday, September 5.

Please see the attached calendar for 2025-2026. The Calendar is also available on our school webpage <https://www.stmary.ecsd.net>.

STAY CONNECTED

Website: <https://www.stmary.ecsd.net>

Follow us on [INSTAGRAM](#) : @st_mary_elementary

2025-2026 INFORMATION

School Hours of Operation – 2025/2026

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday		Thursday	
First Bell	8:15	First Bell	8:15
Instructional Time	8:20- 10:12	Instructional Time	8:20 - 10:12
Outdoor Recess	10:12 - 10:30	Outdoor Recess	10:12 - 10:26
Instructional Time	10:30 - 11:54	Instructional Time	10:26 - 11:59
Outdoor Recess	11:54- 12:14	EARLY Dismissal	11:59
Lunch	12:14 - 12:32	Kindergarten - M,T,W and Friday AM 8:15 - 11:22 a.m. PM 11:53 - 3:00 p.m. No Class on Thursday	
Instructional Time (includes 5 min movement break —2:00 pm)	12:32- 2:59		
Dismissal	3:00		



FIRST DAY of SCHOOL - Full Day - Tuesday, September 2, 2025

- Supervision for students starts at 8:00 a.m. through the school year. For the safety of the children, please do not bring your child to school before 8:00 a.m.
- Student entry into the school, from the first day on, **is through their grade doors**, same as for the last school year. Teachers will meet students at their grade door on the first day of school to welcome them back to school and to help them with their school supplies.

A grade door map is attached for your information.

Drop Off & Pick Up

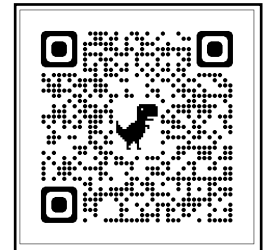
Please do not park in the bus lane at any time.

The church across the street allows parents to use their lot before and after school.

You are welcome to use the DROP & GO lane on the east side of the school (daycare doors) if you are stopping to let out students ONLY.

– this is not for parents who wish to get out of their vehicle.

Please follow the link <https://arcg.is/1H4ieS1> or use the QR code to view the map explaining which zones are for parking and which are for driving through only. Parking is available in the church lot during pick up and drop off.



SCHOOL FEES

Government approved school fees charged are used in student programming and/or services throughout the school year. Your child's school fees will be **available for payment on September 15, 2025** in the parent Powerschool Portal <https://powerschool.ecsd.net>.

Please make your fee payment by the end of September, 2024. Bus fees are available for payment now.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES - 2025-2026

Going into this school year, parents had the option of pre-ordering school supplies on-line through School Start School Supplies having them delivered to their homes. All grade supply lists are available on the St. Mary website www.stmary.ecsd.net. Ordering through School Start was optional, however all items on the supply list are required.

RECESS BEFORE EATING LUNCH

Lunch times will remain the same at last school year. Students will have outdoor recess from 11:54 am - 12:14 pm and will eat their lunch from 12:14 pm to 12:32 pm.

Class Configurations and Staffing 2025/2026

Grade	Teacher	Grade	Teacher
EC AM	Joane Amendola	4/5A	Dana Alty
EC PM	Joane Amendola	5A	Kathleen Eistetter
1A	Diane Ngu	6A	Kimberly Byker
1/2A	Jessica Kruse	6B	Sarah Grey
2A	Danielle Southwood		
3A	Tiffany Beaudry	Music	Kailee Hauger
4A	Amy Cook	Instructional Coach	Carla Barnfather
Admin Team		Support Staff	
Christine Vince Principal	Julie Francois Assistant Principal	Judy Ward - Administrative Assistant Cathy Cartmell - Educational Assistant Myrna Courtney - Educational Assistant Eva McQuaid - Educational Assistant Anupama Menon - Education Assistant Allison Dietz - TAOT Katie Wilkes - EBS Allyson Kothari- TABT	
Custodial			
Armando Marquicias	Yemson Fernandez		

An email was sent to families on August 26, 2025, from your child's teacher welcoming you and your child to their classroom community.

A great deal of time, effort and thought has gone into the process of student placements. Careful consideration was given to create classrooms that are balanced academically and socially. Our class lists are structured to provide equitable class sizes at each grade level. Moving students is difficult without causing imbalances and inequities.

Thank you so much for being positive with your child and helping him or her understand that it is impossible to place all students with a preferred best friend or teacher. All of our staff work hard to make school a positive experience for all students. The staff are eagerly looking forward to enriching your child's life. Thank you for understanding that it can take a few weeks for a child to acclimate to a new grade, peer group and teacher.

YMCA CHILD CARE at ST. MARY for 2025-2026 (Before & After, Kindercare & 4 Year Olds)

St. Mary continues to have YMCA Before and After School Child Care as well as Kindercare morning and afternoon programs for the upcoming school year. This year the YMCA will continue to run a Pre-Kinder program starting at St. Mary! This program welcomes 4-year-olds and runs from 7AM - 6PM (Monday - Friday). All children in this program need to be potty trained and have no naps during the day. If you would like to get more information about this program, you can visit <https://ymcanab.ca/programs/child-care>.

As the YMCA operates independently from the school, please contact Beth Pede at 587-710-7815 or by email at beth.pede@northernalberta.ymca.ca or northernalberta.ymca.ca for more information on child care available.

BUSSING 2025-2026



If your child will be **new** to taking the yellow bus, for service on the first day of school (September 2, 2025), the deadline for submitting your online 2025-2026 Transportation Application **was** May 30, 2025. **Applications submitted after this day are not guaranteed for first day service.** All NEW applications **must** be completed online through the following link <https://ecsd.mybusplanner.ca/>

Parents are asked to monitor their Powerschool Parent portal to obtain their child's route information prior to the first day of school as well as checking weekly for any changes to the schedule.

Bus pass fees Kindergarten through Grade 6 for 2025-26 have increased and are all **\$50.00 for Yellow bus** and \$60.00 ETS, with no additional family plan discount.

Bus Eligibility has changed for new riders for the 2025-2025 school year as per the Alberta Government funding. New riders will be eligible for bussing if they are **1.6 km** away from the school. However, if you live closer and your child already rides the bus, they will continue to be routed onto the bus route.

Bus Passes - There are no bus passes for students this school year. It is left to the drivers and school supervisors to do attendance for the children riding their bus.

Bus Pass Payments

This year bus pass payments are again being collected directly through our Transportation department. Bus fees have already been applied to student accounts based on applications received and payment can be made through the Powerschool parent portal either monthly or for the entire school year. Any questions may be directed to our Transportation department at 780-441-6078.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION - St. Thomas More Parish

Sacramental preparation is NOW open at St. Thomas More Parish. Please visit the St. Thomas More Parish website for more information <https://stm.caedm.ca/sacraments/>

SEPTEMBER - IMPORTANT CALENDAR DATES

September 2	First day of School for 2025-2026 School Term. Classes resume 8:15 am. - FULL DAY OF CLASS
September 2	Small group day for Kindergarten
September 3	Small group day for Kindergarten
September 5	Small group day for Kindergarten
September 8	Kindergarten program begins
September 17	Curriculum Information Night: - 5 - 6 p.m. Back to School BBQ - School Council Annual General Meeting - 6:00 P.M. - Curriculum Information Night 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
September 15	School Fees go live. Please pay by September 30
September 22	ECSD Cross Country Run - Rundle Park
September 29	Truth and Reconciliation Day recognition - Wear your Orange Shirts
September 30	NO CLASSES - Truth and Reconciliation Day

St. Mary Elementary Entry Zones 2025-2026

Entrances: Students will line up at entrances. Parents may pick up and drop off at these points while keeping space available for students to line up.

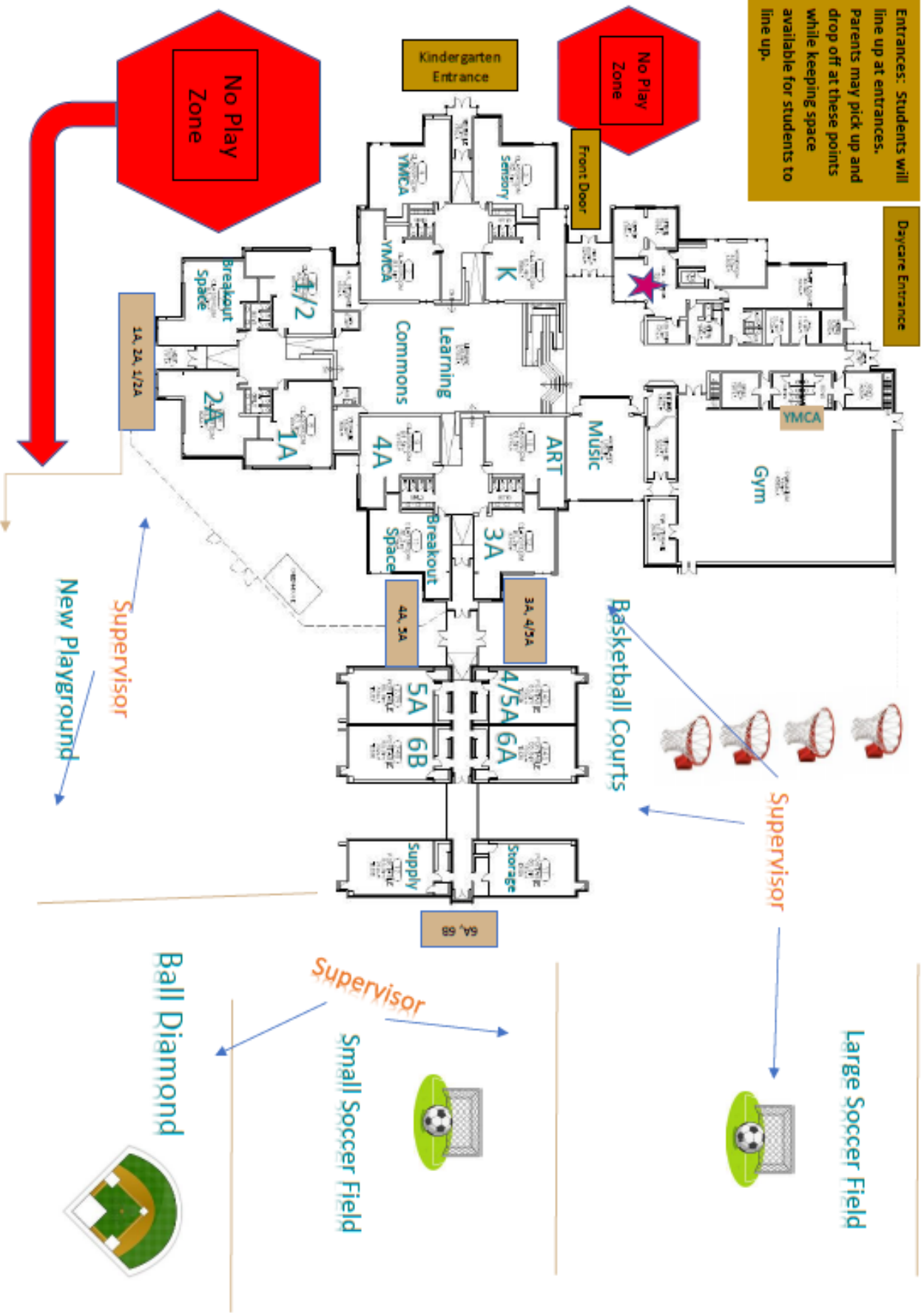
Daycare Entrance

No Play Zone

Front Door

Kindergarten Entrance

No Play Zone



ECSD SCHOOL CALENDAR 2025-2026



First Day of Operation
August 28, 2025

First Day of Instruction
September 2, 2025

Last Day of Instruction
June 23, 2026

Last Day of Operation
June 24, 2026

July 2025							August 2025							September 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5						1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30				
							31													
October 2025							November 2025							December 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4							1	1	2	3	4	5	6	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31			
							30													
January 2026							February 2026							March 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
25	26	27	28	29	30	31								29	30	31				
April 2026							May 2026							June 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4						1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30				
							31													

- Non-instructional day
- Non-operational day
- Cancellation of early dismissal
- Early dismissal
- Statutory Holiday - Office/School Closed
- Named Holiday - Office/School Closed

Labour Day	Sept 1
Truth & Reconciliation Day	Sept 30
Thanksgiving Day	Oct 13
Remembrance Day/Fall Brk	Nov 10-12
Christmas Vacation	Dec 22 to Jan 2
Family Day	Feb 16
Faith Development Day/PD	Feb 25
Teachers' Convention	Feb 26-27
Spring Break	Mar 30 to Apr 6
Good Friday	Apr 3
Easter Monday	Apr 6
Victoria Day Weekend	May 15-18

MONTH	Operational Days	Instructional Days
August	2	0
September	20	20
October	22	22
November	17	17
December	15	15
January	20	20
February	19	16
March	20	20
April	18	18
May	19	19
June	18	17
Total	190	184