

St. Gerard Elementary School

(Name)

(Grade)



A Place Where Students Come to Shine...

12415 – 85 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T5B 3H3

Telephone: 780-474-5208

Fax: 780-474-6257

www.stgerard.ecsd.net

Principal: **Mrs. G. Tarnawsky**

Assistant Principal: **Mrs. L. Cruickshank**

Admin Support: **Mrs. L. DeRose**

2026-2027

School Handbook



2026-2027 HOURS OF OPERATION

Supervision outside begins at 7:50 a.m.

School Office open - 7:45 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday		Thursday
First bell	8:05 a.m.	8:05 a.m.
Classes begin	8:10 a.m.	8:10 a.m.
Morning Recess	10:00 – 10:15 a.m.	10:00 – 10:15 a.m.
Lunch/Recess	11:35 a.m. – 12:10 p.m.	Dismissal at 11:50 a.m.
Afternoon Break	1:25 – 1:30 p.m.	
Dismissal	2:40 p.m.	

Important Exceptions to School Schedule for 2026-2027

December 17 – Thursday (Full Day)
December 18 – Friday (Half Day)

SCHOOL CALENDAR 2026-2027

First Day of Instruction

Tuesday, **September 2, 2026**

Last Day for Students

Monday, **June 28, 2027**

Holidays - School closed on ...	Report Cards and Demonstrations of Learning
Labour Day September 7	Meet the Staff September 16 4:00-5:30 pm
Truth and Reconciliation Day September 30	Demo. of Learning November 26 12:30-4:30, 5:30-7 pm
Thanksgiving Holiday October 12	Summary Reports on PowerSchool January 29
Provincial Referendum October 19	Demo of Learning March 18 12:30-4:30, 5:30-7 pm
Remembrance Day/Fall Break Nov. 11-13	Report Cards on PowerSchool June 28
Christmas Vacation Dec. 21 - Jan. 1	
School PD Day January 29	
Family Day February 15	
Faith Development Day February 24	
Teachers' Convention Feb. 25 & 26	
Division PD Day March 25	
Good Friday March 26	
Easter Monday March 29	
Spring Break March 30 to April 2	
Victoria Day Weekend May 20-24	

Kindergarten Supplemental Education Fee		
Item	Description of costs	Cost
Agenda	Agenda for home/school communication	\$6
Technology User Fee	Site Licenses: RAZ kids/Mathletics	\$5
	Electronic Device user fee	\$4
Whole School Activities	Whole school - Other presentations or activities	\$10
TOTAL Supplemental Education Fee		\$25

Grade 1 – 6 Supplemental Education Fee		
Item	Description of costs	Cost
Agenda	Agenda for home/school communication	\$6
Technology User Fee	Site Licenses: RAZ kids/Mathletics/Brain Pop/Imagine Learning	\$5
	Electronic Device user fee	\$4
Whole School Activities	Whole school - Other presentations or activities	\$10
TOTAL Supplemental Education Fee		\$25

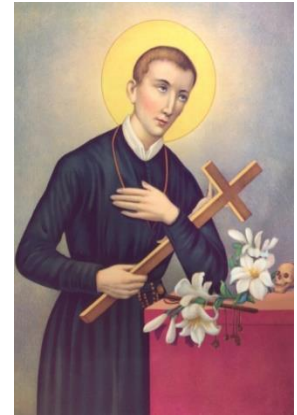
Our Beginning

St. Gerard Catholic School first opened its doors in September 1950. Today, St. Gerard School has more than 225 students from 100 Voices to Grade 6.

St. Gerard – Our Patron Saint

Gerard Majella was born in Muro, Italy, in 1726, the youngest of five children. As a young man, Gerard became a Redemptorist brother and worked as gardener, porter, and tailor; he helped in a hospital and at his community church. God seemed to have given him unique gifts of sensitivity and insight, and he was known to have healed many sick and suffering people. Because he helped pregnant women, he became known as the patron of expectant mothers. His great works of charity also earned him the title of "Father of the Poor." One of Gerard's greatest virtues was trust, and his favourite saying was, "God will provide."

Gerard died of tuberculosis on October 16, 1755, at the young age of twenty-nine. He kept a small note tacked to his door on which was written "The will of God is done here, as God wills it, and as long as God wills it." Brother Gerard was canonized by Pope Pius X on December 11, 1904. St. Gerard inspires us with his virtues of faith, trust, and love. He is a model for young people, encouraging them to be generous with their time and talents, in service to others.



Our Mission

Our mission at St. Gerard Catholic School is to provide a Catholic education that inspires all students to learn and experience academic growth in a safe, nurturing, and accepting environment based on Gospel values.

Our Vision

Inspired by Jesus, our students will learn, grow, and shine through service to others.

St. Gerard Catholic School Creed

We believe in Jesus and the Holy Spirit.
We believe that we are all God's children and loved by God.
Each person at St. Gerard Catholic School has a special place.
We treat each other with kindness and respect, as we are all made in the image and likeness of God.
We are asked to forgive all, even those who have hurt us.
We pray for those who need help and God's love.
We believe that we have a duty to do what we can to help others.
We believe that with the help of our Patron, St. Gerard, we can become the best person we can be.

Amen

St. Gerard, pray for us.



In the Spirit of Supporting Emotional and Behavioral Development

St. Gerard Student Code of Conduct Policy

The students, parents, and staff of St. Gerard work together to create safe, nurturing, and accepting learning environment. The Student Code of Conduct Policy is based on input from all stakeholders including students, parents, and school staff. It was developed in accordance with provincial legislation and district policies. The Code of Conduct is shared with all members of the school community every year. We invite families to review this policy, and sign below to join us in maintaining a positive school climate. The staff at St. Gerard implement the school conduct policy within the context of a Catholic School Environment and in harmony with the Core Values of Edmonton Catholic School, the teachings of Jesus Christ and of the Catholic Church.

We affirm that pursuant to the *Alberta Human Rights Act* and the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, students and staff members are protected from discrimination. More specifically, discrimination refers to any conduct that serves to deny or discriminate against any person or class of persons regarding any goods, services, accommodation or facilities that are customarily available to the public, and the denial or discrimination is based on race, religious beliefs, colour, gender, physical disability, mental disability, ancestry, place of origin, marital status, source of income, family status or sexual orientation.



EXPECTATIONS FOR APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR

Expectations of students and school rules are outlined at the beginning of the year and are regularly reviewed with students.

Section 31 of the Education Act sets out student responsibilities. A student, as a partner in education, has the responsibility to

- (a) attend school regularly and punctually
- (b) be ready to learn and actively engage in and diligently pursue the student's education
- (c) conduct yourself in ways that contribute to a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment of the school. Students will respect diversity and foster a sense of belonging of others in the school according to the Alberta Human Rights Act. Therefore, any act that serves to deny or discriminate against any person based on race, religious beliefs, color, gender, physical disability, mental disability, ancestry, place of origin, source of income, family status, or sexual orientation will be addressed.
- (d) respect the rights of others in the school
- (e) refrain from, report and not tolerate bullying or bullying behavior directed toward others in the school, whether it occurs within the school building, during the school day or by electronic means
- (f) comply with the rules of the school and the policies of the board
- (g) co-operate with everyone authorized by the board to provide education programs and other services,
- (h) be accountable to teachers and other school staff for the student's conduct
- (i) positively contribute to the student's school and community

Consequences for Misbehaviour

We focus on positive behaviour and attitudes; however, there are times when a student has difficulty recognizing their responsibility as a student. When this occurs, there will be natural and corrective consequences. **Intervention strategies, preventative procedures, and/or consequences will take into consideration unique student attributes such as age, maturity, and individual circumstances.**

Students will be held accountable for conduct that occurs within the school building and grounds, as well as outside of the school day. This includes electronic use (social media).

Parents will be informed of classroom misconduct. If classroom difficulties persist, the administration will speak with parents. We see discipline as a learning experience that is rooted in the Christian belief of forgiveness. Our goal in any situation is to teach our students to make appropriate behavioral choices. In doing this, we seek to teach children to accept responsibility for their actions, to right their wrongs, to reconcile with one another and to forgive. Any behaviours that create unsafe conditions or interfere with the learning of others or the school environment will be addressed.

A minor offence may include:

- *Impolite manners*
- *Disruptive behavior*
- *Incomplete homework*
- *Disrespectful conduct*
- *Unsafe/rough play*
- *Inappropriate dress (no beachwear, no offensive graphics/language)*

A major offence may include:

- *Bullying (within the school, during the day, or by electronic means)*
- *Vandalism*
- *Stealing*
- *Fighting*
- *Use of inappropriate language / gestures*
- *Habitual neglect of student responsibilities*
- *Willful major disobedience that endangers the safety and smooth operation of the school*

In such instances, the student will speak with an administrator and parents will be contacted. Major offences may result in an in-school or out-of-school suspension.

The principal may suspend a student if:

- (a) the student has failed to comply with Section 12 of the School Act, or
- (b) the student's conduct is injurious to the physical or mental well-being of others in the school.

Suspension could range from a one-hour period to a full-day in-school suspension or an out-of-school suspension ranging from one to five days. During the suspension, the student may lose recess and extracurricular privileges and will be

responsible for any work missed. In accordance with section 24 of the School Act, the administrator will determine the length and nature of the in-school or out-of-school suspension based on the severity and/or frequency of any breach of conduct.

Acts of bullying, harassment, or intimidation:

Section 1(1)(d) of the Education Act defines bullying as “repeated and hostile or demeaning behaviour by an individual in the school community where the behaviour is intended to cause harm, fear or distress to one or more other individuals in the school community, including psychological harm or harm to an individual’s reputation.”

Bullying can take different forms:

- Physical – repeated pushing, hitting and any unwanted physical contact.
- Verbal – repeated name calling, threats.
- Social – repeated exclusion, rumors
- Cyber – repeated use of technology to harass or threaten.

Students may report bullying by:

- telling an adult staff member at the school
- telling a parent/guardian
- calling the Kids’ Help Line at 1-800-668-6868

Acts of conflict:

Conflict is a disagreement or struggle over opposing beliefs, needs, feelings, or actions and is a normal part of life. Learning how to resolve conflicts peacefully and recognize the difference between conflict and bullying is an important skill for students as well as adults. Conflict can take different forms:

- Physical violence.
- Verbal abuse
- Slander
- Cyber – misuse of technology
- Retribution against any person in the school who has intervened to prevent or report bullying or any other incident or safety concern.
- Illegal activity such as possession, use or distribution of illegal or restricted substances, possession or use of weapons, theft, or damage to property.

In such cases, depending on the behaviours, we have outlined several different consequences for behavior.

- Problem solving, monitoring, or reviewing behaviour expectations.
- Talk through problems with teacher or administrator.
- Verbal/written response by student
- Walk with a supervisor at recess.
- Restriction of privileges and activities
- Phone call home to parents.
- Conference with parents, teacher, administrator
- Involvement with Emotional Behavioral Specialist/TABT
- Behaviour Contract
- Replacement or repair of damaged property
- Bus suspension for student’s misbehaviour while riding bus.
- In school suspension
- Out of school suspension in accordance with section 31 of the Education Act
- Expulsion/Referral to the Attendance Board
- Involvement of Police

A continuum of support may be provided to students who engage in inappropriate behavior as well as for students who are impacted by such behaviors. This may include:

- services provided by the school **Inclusive Support team** (emotional-behavioral specialist, therapeutic assistants, educational assistance, family-school liaison worker).
- services provided by the multi-disciplinary team
- services provided by Alberta Health Services (speech-language, occupational therapist, mental health therapist).

Parent Responsibilities

Section 32(d) of the Education Act states that parents also have a responsibility to contribute to a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment. Parents have a significant role to play whether they are in school regularly or not. Examples include:

- Consistently ensuring your child comes to school and is picked up punctually.
- Take an active role in the child's educational success, including assisting the child in complying with the school conduct policy.
- Notify the school if your family needs social support (food, clothing, shelter, transportation, and safety).
- Speaking and responding respectfully to and about school staff.
- Speaking positively about the school, staff, other students, and their families in front of your child. Voice concerns, first with the individual involved and then by contacting administrative staff.
- Have regular communication with the teacher or other school staff making appointments to ensure the person you want to speak with has sufficient time to have a focused conversation. Drop off and pick up times may not be ideal for you or for the teacher.
- Encourage, foster, and advance collaborative, positive, and respectful relationships with teachers, principals, other school staff and professionals providing support and services in the school.
- Engage in your child's school community.

At St. Gerard School, it is our aim to provide students, staff, and families a welcoming, caring, respectful, and safe Christ centered learning environment that honours diversity and fosters a sense of belonging.

We affirm that the rights set out in the *Alberta Human Rights Act* and the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* are afforded to all students and staff members within St. Gerard.

Absences/Lates

OFFICE HOURS: 7:45 A.M. TO 3:15 P.M. (MONDAY TO FRIDAY)

Please call the school, 780-474-5208, to report all lates and absences. Please leave a message on the answering machine. It is helpful to speak slowly and clearly, as it is sometimes difficult to understand some voice messages.

Regular attendance significantly improves overall achievement. Please try to minimize absences and lates. All parents/guardians will be called when children are absent unless the office has been previously notified. Student attendance is a legal obligation for parents.

Lates – students who arrive late must report to the office to receive an attendance slip.

Agenda Books

Our agenda books are key to students and families staying organized. They are also a wonderful way for teachers to communicate with parents. Please note the following regarding our agenda books:

- Students are to bring their agendas to class **every day**.
- We ask that agendas are **signed daily**.
- Lost or damaged agenda books will need to be replaced by the child's parents/guardians.



Allergies

Please notify your child's teacher and the office if your child has a severe allergy. A Medical Alert form must be completed at the beginning of every year. It is strongly recommended by the school and the Capital Health authority that an Epinephrine Auto Injector (or Epi Pen) always be carried if your child so requires.

Though every effort is made to inform and educate our school community of severe food allergies, we cannot guarantee a 'peanut free' school. Students who are in classrooms with children who have severe food allergies (e.g., peanuts) will be notified by letter and asked not to bring lunches to school that contain peanuts. It is recommended that parents of children with severe food allergies bring in suitable treats for their own child on the event of a classroom celebration or birthday.



Arrival Procedures

Outdoor supervision of students begins at 7:50 a.m. In the case of inclement weather students will be supervised in designated indoor areas before school starts. Students are asked not to arrive before 7:50 a.m. For the safety of the students and staff, all doors of the school are locked.

Assessment, Evaluation, and Reporting

Assessment is the continuous process of gathering data on student learning, growth, and performance. The information gathered throughout the school year accurately measures student ability with respect to achievement regarding identified

curriculum expectations. Assessment methods include assignments, demonstrations, teacher observations, projects, performance tasks, tests, etc.

Evaluation is the application of professional judgment by teachers about the quality of student work based on the data gathered.

Reporting is the communication of evaluative data to students and parents/guardians about student progress and achievement. The reporting process focuses on your child as a unique individual, who learns at his or her own rate. All students in Grades 1-6 receive a progress report card. The descriptors used for each subject are linked to Alberta Education's Program of Studies. Descriptors will vary in number from one report to another. The following are *reporting periods*:

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| • Meet the Staff Night | September 16 |
| • Demonstration of Learning | November 26 |
| • Summary Reports available on PowerSchool | January 29 |
| • Demonstration of Learning | March 18 |
| • Report Cards available on PowerSchool | June 28 |

Parents are also encouraged to contact their child's teacher for a conference at any time throughout the year if they have questions or concerns.

Bussing

Edmonton Catholic Schools provides a transportation service that is more generous than the standards specified by the Alberta School Act. Every effort is made to provide students with safe and efficient transportation at a reasonable cost. All busses used by Edmonton Catholic School District students are equipped with video cameras to monitor student behavior and provide a safe environment for our children.

If your child has registered to use ECSD bussing, you will receive a Student Transportation brochure regarding student transportation services. You are asked to read the brochure carefully and then review, discuss, and even demonstrate the Safety Rules and Procedures with your child on a regular basis to ensure that all the information and instructions are understood and retained. It is crucial to your child's safety that the most important rules be fully comprehended. For example: exactly what stop to get off at, what to do if the bus does not come, and how to behave near the danger zone. If a child does not follow the rules, they may lose the privilege of the bus service.

Bus passes are available through the school office at the beginning of each month. If your child typically takes the bus and will not be riding the bus home on a particular day, we require that a parent contacts the school to inform the office staff of any changes.

Change of Address/Phone Numbers

In case of emergencies, it is particularly important that the school has accurate contact information for parents. Please advise the school of any changes in your personal information or phone numbers – including home and work.

Curriculum

Students at St. Gerard School follow the approved Program of Studies outlined by Alberta Education. In September, parents are invited to attend the Meet the Staff evening. During this evening, each teacher reviews the curriculum areas and goals to be achieved during the school year. These resources are available online through the Alberta Education website.

Kindergarten

The full day Kindergarten program at St. Gerard is based on the philosophy which encompasses the idea that the children themselves, who are naturally curious, are the co-constructors of knowledge. They are interactive partners in their learning and are encouraged to creatively explore and express themselves within an actively engaging environment in which they play a predominant role. The teacher is to play the role of researcher, constantly evaluating and interpreting these dynamic inquiry-based learning processes through documentation.

Cell Phones/Personal Devices

We ask that all students please shut their cell phones off during the entire school day. Students are asked to hand in their cell phones to their teachers at the beginning of the day. Please call the school office if you need to speak to your child. At times, cell phones may be used for class projects at the teacher's discretion. The school cannot take responsibility for theft or damage of phones.



Communication

Open and positive communication between the home and school is one of the most important contributions we can make for the educational development of children. The **agenda books** are an excellent means of communication. We encourage parents to communicate with their child's teacher regularly. We communicate via our newsletters, emails, outdoor signs, agenda books, letters, parent-student-teacher conferences, and phone calls home.

- Newsletters/Emails - Our newsletter and classroom emails are our prime method of communication to keep our parents informed about school affairs. A school newsletter and calendar are emailed at the beginning of each month. Please ensure that the office has your current email address. Newsletters and calendars are available to view on the school website (<https://stgerard.ecsd.net/>).

- Reporting Periods - Demonstrations of Learning (Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences) will be scheduled throughout the year. We encourage you not to wait if you feel a need to meet with your child's teacher or the administration at any time during the year.

- Policy of First Contact - If you have concerns regarding your child, we encourage all parents to deal directly with the school personnel regarding all problems or concerns. If the situation is not resolved, discuss your concern with a member of the administration. It is our experience that most concerns are inevitably resolved through open and positive communication. Information about Edmonton Catholic Schools Protocol and Procedures on Dealing with Parent-School Conflict Management is available at the office.

Dealing with Parent-School Conflict Management Administrative Regulation 132

Based on the principle of "first contact" – parents are asked to address concerns directly to teachers before raising these concerns with the school administration or Catholic Education Services staff, when their concerns are about their child's teacher, program, and/or program support. Likewise, if a parent has a concern about school administration, the parent is expected to deal with that concern with the school administration first, before raising these concerns with the Superintendent of Schools.

If, in the view of the complainant, the ruling of the school principal is unacceptable, the complainant may address his/her concern(s) to the Superintendent of Schools in writing. The letter must outline the nature of the original complaint, the steps that have been taken, and in what way the decision of the school principal is unacceptable. Upon receipt of such a letter, the Superintendent will direct the correspondence to the appropriate department for resolution.

Dressing for School

Clothing should be both comfortable but also modest. While some outfits may seem fine the tasks of sitting at desks, reaching shelves, and participating in gym activities may not suit some clothing choices. We ask for your assistance in providing guidance in this area for your child. Please support us in ensuring that any clothing which may become too revealing during school activities is not worn at school. Where necessary, school staff will use discretion to quietly approach any student who may be inappropriately dressed for school, to change into or add something more appropriate for school. Our dress code is founded on our District's Core Values of dignity and respect and is an important and valuable part of our program. Rapidly changing styles and fashions make it impossible to suggest a definite standard of dress.



A few standards are:

- Please remain appropriate by keeping underwear under clothing.
- Given the spiritual nature of our school, students are asked to use good judgement regarding clothing with offensive language or slogans.
- No hats indoors unless exceptional circumstances permit.
- Students are expected to always have a pair of clean shoes or indoor runners for school. Students are asked to remove their outside footwear and change into clean indoor shoes (appropriate for Phys Ed programming) upon entering the building.
- Ensure that students are dressed for the weather as, weather permitting, all students are sent outside for morning as well as lunch recess each day.

Students are not permitted to bring cosmetic items such as hair products, perfume, or make-up. We need to be sensitive to our children and staff with asthma and allergies who can react to perfumed items. It is helpful

for personal items to be labeled with your child's name.

Entering School Safely

To ensure safety, children should not be at school before 7:50 am or after 2:40 pm unless they participate in a scheduled and supervised school activity.

Following Division expectations, during the school day, all doors are locked to ensure the safety of our students. While we welcome all visitors to our school, we ask you to please report to the office and, if you are staying, sign in the visitors' logbook. Please enter through the front doors by ringing the buzzer and remove soiled footwear. **ALL VISITORS MUST REPORT TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE.** Thanks for keeping our students safe and our school clean.

Field Trips

Field trips enhance student learning, and they provide children with unique experiences within the context of the curriculum being taught. Together children discover new insights into a learning situation with their classmates. Before each field trip, parents will be asked to read and sign a field trip permission form. Without this written permission form signed and returned, children will not be allowed to participate in the field trip. **Verbal permission cannot be accepted.**



Though our School Parent Council supports most of the costs of field trips, some activities will require some additional cost to families. Please note that parental support is often required to help supervise field trips, so volunteers are welcome.

Access to Information Act (ATIA) and Protection of Privacy Act

The Access to Information Act (ATIA) and the *Protection of Privacy Act (POPA)* set standards on how public bodies, such as schools, collect, use, disclose and dispose of personal information. St. Gerard School collects information for the purposes of registration and other important activities. Parents are informed that both the information they provide as well as any other information placed in their student record will be protected in compliance with the ATIA and POPA.

These forms are given to parents of children at the time of registration. Should you have questions regarding this form, please contact the school office.

Illness and Accidents

In fairness to all, please do not send your child to school if there are signs of ill health in the morning. We have neither the facilities nor the personnel to care for sick children. Good health is necessary for effective learning. Students who are ill should receive proper medical attention and should not attend school until their health is reasonable. Our policy is to get students who are ill home as soon as possible. Our practice is to call parents and ask them to pick the student up.



In the event of an accident, first aid will be administered, and the school office will endeavor to contact the parent or guardian by phone to ascertain his/her wishes with respect to medical attention. If the child needs immediate medical attention, and the parent/guardian or contact number cannot be reached, the administration will do their best to make decisions. In extreme emergencies, an ambulance will be called at the **cost of the family.**

Please ensure that all necessary phone numbers (emergency, home, and work) and medical information are kept up to date in the office.



- Medication

On occasion, parents have asked us to ensure their child receives prescribed medication. Please be aware that prior to school staff administering medications, parents must complete a **"Request for Administration of Medication at School"** form and have it signed by their family doctor. The school will administer the medication according to the doctor's prescription, provide safe and limited access storage, and keep a record of each student receiving medication.

Homework

Home study is an integral part of every student's educational program and is to be encouraged by teachers and supported by parents. An extension of classroom assignments must be considered and should vary according to the individual student's grade level, ability, and need.

General Purposes of Homework



- To complete assignments not finished during class time.
- To promote good study habits.
- To aid in the mastery of skills.
- To reinforce knowledge.
- To allow the parents to view their child's progress and performance.

Students in Grades 1-6 are to use an agenda book. Please check your child's agenda book daily to keep well informed and encourage the home study materials are returned to school.

If your child has no homework, time taken to read is time well spent. Encouraging reading at home every day is an important skill with great carryover into schoolwork. It is suggested that approximately 10 minutes per grade could be spent on homework. For example, students in grade 2 could spend 20 minutes on homework while students in grade 3 could spend up to 30 minutes on homework. If you have any questions about the amount of homework your child has, you are encouraged to discuss these with your child's teacher.

Nutrition Programs

What is an APPLE Ally School?

St. Gerard School is proud to promote healthy living for all members of our school community. We work with APPLE Schools to help build a healthy community. The organization strives to inspire and empower school communities to be leaders in their journey to health by recommending and supporting evidence-based, sustainable changes.

Snack - St. Gerard School offers a daily snack program just prior to morning recess. The program is run by school staff and is funded, in part, by the President's Choice Children's Charity.

Lunch - St. Gerard receives funding from the Provincial Government for a lunch program. Children (with parental consent) can receive a free lunch every day at school, excluding Thursdays.

Children are reminded that having lunch at school is a privilege and that appropriate behavior is always necessary.

- Cleaning up their own area after they have eaten their lunch is necessary.
- Repeated misbehavior will result in the student losing the privilege of eating lunch at school and parents/guardians will have to make other arrangements.
- Microwaves or refrigeration are not available for student lunches.

Inline Skates, Skateboards, Scooters and Bicycles

Students riding skateboards, scooters, and inline skates, etc. to school are expected to wear helmets. Use of this type of equipment is not permitted during school hours (7:50 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.). A reminder that the purpose of these are to get you to/from school.

Bicycles - When students ride their bikes to school, we request that they be properly identified (through name or serial number) and always locked. The school does not take responsibility for theft or damage. By law, students must wear helmets for safety. Helmets should be kept inside the school. Parents are asked to review basic traffic safety with their children. We ask students not to enter the staff parking lot for safety reasons.



Leaving School

Under no circumstance is a student permitted to leave the school during class time or lunchtime without a note or call from home and obtaining permission from the general office. It is imperative that the whereabouts of students are known at any given time. Should you need to pick up your child during school hours, please ensure his/her safety by signing your child out at the office. We will not release children to anyone who does not normally pick them up from school unless we receive a signed note giving us permission to do so. We may ask to see identification.

Lost and Found/Personal Property

Please label all items of clothing (jackets, shoes, boots, etc.) with your child's name. This will facilitate the return of misplaced items. A lost and found box is located near the office, and we encourage students and parents to check this box frequently. Smaller items such as keys are normally kept in the office.

Expensive items or valuables should not be brought to school. Toys or valuable items should remain at home. Staff cannot be responsible for lost or damaged items. Students are encouraged to respect the property of others.

Parent Volunteers

St. Gerard School is a dynamic school. As such, there is always more work to do than people to do it. We welcome the support of any parents/guardians who can assist with work around the school.

Any parents/guardians who are interested in these tasks are asked to contact their child's teacher. All volunteers are required to complete a volunteer form that is available at the office.

The School Council is also in need of parent volunteers as executive members, room reps, and for other unique events throughout the year. A volunteer form goes home in the fall to allow all parents the opportunity to volunteer for many of the School Council roles and activities.



Parish Team and Liturgical Celebrations

St. Gerard School works closely with our school parish, St. Alphonsus. Our students participate in a variety of liturgical celebrations that take place throughout the school year. These celebrations enable us to share the rich dimension of our Catholic faith. Jesus Christ serves as our role model and through our lived action; we bring our faith to life. The parish team and our parent community are always welcome to be part of our celebrations.



Programs

In addition to our Kindergarten through Grade 6 programs, St. Gerard School offers a variety of supportive programs:

- French as a Second Language for Grade 4 – 6,
- English Language Learning supports for students with English language needs,
- Literacy Intervention supports are in place for students needing additional support and small group Guided Reading is in place in every classroom.

Safety

- Evacuation

There are different causes that could potentially lead to the evacuation of the school building – for example: a major gas leak, a fire, total loss of utility services.

In the event of an evacuation, the students and staff would relocate to **Delton Community Hall**, located at **12325-88 Street**. We would then put into operation our emergency fan-out to contact parents for arrangements for pick-up and dismissal of children. Parents would need to bring identification with them to pick up their children as some of the adults assisting staff may not know each child.

We will practice fire drills, lockdowns, and evacuation procedures with students throughout the year (fall and spring) to ensure that in the event of an emergency, students will be aware of the procedures to follow.

- Lock Downs

Should there be a threat to the school from the outside community; the school will be locked down. This means all doors will be locked and no one will be allowed to enter until the issue has been settled. Children will be in their classrooms and parents who find themselves in the hallways are to go to the nearest room.

School Supplies

St. Gerard School has supply list for each grade level available in the office. The lists are also added on the school website at the end of June (<https://stgerard.ecsd.net/>). The school does receive donations for any student who is unable to purchase the materials listed. Please do not hesitate to come to the office or let your child's teacher know you require some supplies.

School Council and Parent Association

At St. Gerard School, the School Council meets with school staff and administration regularly throughout the school year. The School Council Executive is elected every fall at an Annual General. Parents are encouraged to become active members of the School Council. Members of the School Council are also encouraged to become members of the Parent Association, which is a separate fund-raising group and has Society status for gaming purposes. All parents are welcome to attend.

Recess

Recess is an important part of the school day. It is a time for socializing with friends, exercising, and refreshing the brain! Recess will only be indoors during extreme weather conditions. In winter, the temperature combined with the wind chill must be - 20°C or colder to stay indoors. Ensure that your child is dressed appropriately as, weather permitting, all students are sent outside unless a student has extraordinary circumstances. We believe that children who are too ill to go outside for 15-20 minutes are too ill to be at school.

Students are expected to:

1. Play games that will not harm or endanger ourselves or others. Inappropriate play includes tackling, fighting (real or play), and throwing snowballs.
2. Play in designated areas.
3. Follow instructions of supervising staff or teacher.



Student Activities

There are a variety of extra-curricular and co-curricular activities that students at St. Gerard School can become involved in. The activities help create community and we encourage all students to participate. These activities may vary from year to year. Examples of student activities include lunch monitors, office helpers, buddy classes, running club, student leadership, volleyball, skiing, concert performances, and year end Fun Day.

Student Services

Division educational specialists in the fields of literacy, psychology, and speech/language are available to the school when required. Parents will be consulted before the school refers a child to these specialists.

Supervision

Staff **outside** supervision is provided at the following times:

- 7:50 a.m. (first bell rings at 8:05 a.m. when students line up)
- Supervision is provided at all recess and lunch breaks.
- Students arriving before 7:50 a.m. will be unsupervised. For safety reasons, we ask that **no** students arrive **before 7:50 a.m.** unless there is a planned club or team meeting.

Students are expected to go directly home following dismissal. No playground supervision is provided after dismissal, and students should not be on the playground when there is not a teacher on supervision.

Taxes

Please review your tax notice to ensure your support is assigned to the Edmonton Catholic Schools. If there is any error or doubt, please call City Hall at 780-496-5090.

Technology

Students are required to have parental permission before being able to access the Internet. Student use of the Internet is always supervised. Students are expected to follow the ECSD Acceptable Use Policy. Unacceptable use of the internet or computer may result in the loss of the privilege to use it.

Technology is integrated into each curricular area. It is primarily used as a learning tool for creating digital resources and accessing information online. iPads, Chromebooks, and laptops are accessible through the wireless network provided by Edmonton Catholic Schools. Technology tools are continually upgraded to keep up with emerging research.

Telephone Use

With staff permission, students may use the phone to call home if needed. However, we do not allow students to use the phone to make social plans as these are to be arranged at home prior.



Vandalism and Illegal Activity

Please call the police department if you notice any vandalism or illegal/unwelcome activity occurring on the school property after hours. Students who purposefully damage school property will be responsible for correcting the damage or replacing the damaged item.

Video

Video surveillance has been installed at St. Gerard. There are also cameras to help ensure the safety of the students and staff in and around the building. All entrances/exits are monitored. Incidents of vandalism and theft around the school have diminished greatly since the cameras arrived.

Weather

It is expected that students will come to school with appropriate clothing for the weather conditions (i.e., winter boots, toque, mittens, scarves, snow pants, etc.). During severe weather conditions, all students will be kept inside the school at recess and noon hour. **Students will be supervised and remain in their regular classrooms for the recess and lunch break.**



The cold weather policy will be followed when:

- The temperature is -20 degrees Celsius or colder (taking the wind-chill into consideration).
- There is continuous rainfall (spring and fall).

Website

Another source of information about what is happening at St. Gerard is our school website which we update regularly. Please see <https://stgerard.ecsd.net/>.

In signing below, I agree that I have read the information in the St. Gerard School Handbook.

Student's Name: _____ Grade: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____