



*“An investment in knowledge,
always pays the best interest”
Benjamin Franklin.*

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August 28, 2020

**True North Christian Academy
Reopening and Adapting during Unprecedented Times**

Dear TNCA families,

September 8, 2020 is almost here...

It is a return-to-school our True North Christian Academy students and their families will likely have etched in their memories for many years to come...

So many changes. And for many, so much uncertainty...

True North Christian Academy, (TNCA), acknowledges that 2020 has been an unusual year. When January 1, 2020 arrived, no one could foresee the fear, uncertainty and loss that would accompany the arrival of the global pandemic caused by the virus SARS-CoV-2 which results in the infectious illness called COVID-19. None of us could have imagined that our country would lockdown and that Ontario school buildings would close to protect students from the contagious virus that was actively being spread in the community from person to person.

We are grateful to have had committed, enthusiastic and skilled staff who quickly rose to the challenge and continued the school year teaching our students using a virtual learning platform. We were able to continue to provide and complete the teaching of the core curriculum and as a result, our students advanced prepared to start their next grade's curriculum.

Since then, we have all navigated the summer with our new daily normal of 2 metre physical distancing, mask wearing in indoor public spaces, frequent hand hygiene, conscious respiratory etiquette (covering coughs and sneezes), avoiding crowded places, and spending much more time outside in the fresh air.

Community transmission of COVID-19 in Simcoe Muskoka has mostly been contained and case numbers in our area remain low (please see our community status [here](#)). Keeping community transmission low is the key to keeping our schools safe as stated by our Medical Officer of Health for Simcoe Muskoka, Dr. Charles Gardner (please read his letter to parents [here](#)).

We acknowledge and respect that the decision to send your child/ren back to in-person classes may have been challenging for you as caregivers, and likely took a lot of prayer and consideration of many factors including your unique family circumstances.



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And so here we are in late August 2020, preparing and so excited to see and welcome your children back!

True North Christian Academy (TNCA), along with other elementary schools in Ontario, will reopen its school building in September with in-person delivery of the full range of elementary curriculum, including the new Grades 1-8 Mathematics curriculum.

With great anticipation, we are also welcoming to our TNCA family for the first time, our new Pre-K-specific academic program, which allows for our youngest learners to thrive in a Christ-centred environment. All grades, including our Pre-K program, will attend school 5 days a week during our regular school hours of 8:30am – 3:00pm.

Our enhanced health and safety policies and procedures have been developed and are in place to optimally reduce the risk of acquisition and transmission of COVID-19 amongst our students and staff. We are sincerely grateful for our local health unit, [Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit](#), whose recommendations and guidance have directed our COVID-19 policy development to ensure that your children will be able to learn in a healthy, safe and caring environment.

We are pleased to share these policies with you, and we welcome the opportunity to answer your questions. Please submit any questions you have to l.cooke@truenorthacademy.ca on or before August 31, 2020 at 12:00pm, if you would like them answered at our online meeting on Monday, August 31. There will be no Q&A session during the meeting, but you will have the opportunity to ask further questions via email.

We are looking forward to seeing our students again; we have truly missed them. And though 2020 has been unusual in many ways, TNCA's Board of Directors has enjoyed the buzzing and excitement of our staff, especially our teachers, because they have an amazing school year planned! **Welcome Back!!**

In Christ's service,

Babbette Westcarr-Dziviy,
On behalf of True North Christian Academy's Board of Directors