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Dear Parents,

In Christ the Redeemer Catholic Schools, we are constantly striving to provide the best possible educational experience for the students we serve. In order for our schools to be able to maximize their ability to provide optimal learning for all students it is important that every child attends school regularly and does not miss any part of class instruction. Chronic absenteeism is defined as a student who has, for any reason has missed 10 percent of a class in a month or a year. Barring illness or an extraordinary event, students are expected to be in class. Examples of concerning absences include:

- absences due to trips, vacations and family commitments
- appointments and lessons scheduled during the school day
- students avoiding school because of social and academic issues

Attendance and absenteeism are strong indicators of student success and excellent attendance is important beginning in elementary school. As directed in the School Act, our schools are required to monitor the school attendance of all students. Each school has a procedure to deal with chronic attendance issues. When these issues are not addressed by the student and their parents the school's administration may refer the situation to the school division's Attendance Officer.

Part of my role as Associate Superintendent is to serve as the School Division's Attendance Officer. If attendance issues are not resolved, they are referred to Alberta Education's Attendance Board. This is an action that we would prefer not to do as it causes stress on students and families. Therefore we are asking that you as parents to do everything that you can to make sure your children attend school on time and on a regular basis. If you require assistance at any time I encourage you to talk with your principal and/or teachers. By working cooperatively together at school and home it is our hope that we can minimize and eliminate all attendance issues.

Please contact me if you have questions or are in need of support with your child and their attendance.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vincent Behm".

Vincent Behm
Associate Superintendent