



Hello everyone,

As we re-start schools during this very unusual time, we have been receiving a lot of questions.

To help us, we have started a FAQ – frequently asked questions document to address some of the most common questions. Please note that these questions are specific to our school. I have attached the Brandon School Division School Re-Opening Plan as well, as these will also be implemented at New Era School.

What training will staff receive before school start up?

- Staff will be provided orientation on Health Orders & Workplace Safety and Health during our staff meeting on September 2nd. This will include resources that teachers can use with students.
- Our focus will be on regular cleaning and personal hygiene routines.
- We will review current Physical Distancing expectations based on Public Health and BSD guidelines. (p. 14 of the BSD document)

What training will students receive during school start up?

- Staff will teach students the key components of our school response on September 8th to 11th - specifically around new entry / exit routines, health routines & appropriate mask procedures.

What will the first day that students attend look like?

To facilitate the training / practice for all the new school routines, 50 % of students will attend school on September 8th and 10th (last name A-K) and 50% of students will attend school on September 9th and 11th (last name L-Z). Students will be met by school staff outside at their assigned cohort entry area, enter through assigned (cohort) doors, given orientation on all health and safety expectations/protocols, organize personal supplies and be oriented to the new school movement (traffic flow in hallways).

Please note that all students will start full time on September 14th.

What will a usual day look like?

Prior to school everyday

- Staff will complete self-screening protocols.
<https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/screening-tool/>
- Prior to drop off, parents/guardians need to review the provincial screening checklist for each of their students. <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/screening-tool/>
- All essential visitors will enter through front door and sign in.
- Masks are required for Grade 4-8 and staff, by choice in K-3. Parents are encouraged to send a mask (or two) with their student(s) but the school will have some masks available for students that need them.

Drop Off Time everyday

- 8:45 – first bell – Staff will meet students at assigned ‘cohort’ door and monitor physical distancing.
- Parents can drop off students with their teacher at their cohort door.
 - Front Doors
 - English and French Immersion Kindergarten
 - All grade 7 / 8 classes – will line up on east playground by shed
 - West Side Door
 - English classes
 - 1 / 2 Adamski, 1 / 2 Bertram
 - French Immersion
 - 1 / 2 Colter, 1 / 2 Vermeylen, 1 / 2 Roberts
 - East Door
 - English classes
 - 4 / 5 Clayton, Lamirande, 5 / 6 Walsh
 - French Immersion
 - 4 / 5 Lepage, 5 / 6 Penner, 5 / 6 Bessette
 - North Door (back of school) –
 - English classes
 - 2 / 3 White, 3 / 4 Dreolini
 - French Immersion
 - 2 / 3 Lacerte, 3 / 4 Ninttiema
- If parents are wanting to come into the school, they will need to go to the front door and sign in. Visitors will be screened at the door.
- 8:55 – second bell – staff will enter school with students using assigned entrances.
- After 8:55 - all late students enter through front door.
- *8:55 – 9:15 Entry and attendance.
- 9:30 announcements – This will be moved to an earlier time once entry becomes more efficient.

Recess

- We will have two scheduled recess times in the morning and two in the afternoon. This will help reduce the number of students outside at one time.
- Student cohorts will be assigned an outdoor location and will be separated into these recess groups. This will allow for greater distancing and create a mask ‘break’ for students.
- Students will be escorted to and from their assigned area using their assigned cohort doors.

Lunch

- Students will eat lunch in their classrooms – no food will be provided in our lunch program at this time, so students must bring their lunch from home.
- Our canteen will not be open at this time.
- Student cohorts will be split into two groups. Half of the students will eat 11:40 – 12:10 while the other will have their recess break. Groups will switch at 12:10.

End of every day

- Bus students will be escorted through their assigned door to their bus area. They will be dismissed from their classroom 10 minutes before the bell rings at 3:30. They will not be left unattended.
- All other students will be dismissed at 3:30. They can be picked up from their assigned line (painted on the ground and designated by class) by their cohort door (see attached map). Students will not be left unattended.
- Once at their lines, catchment area students that walk home will be free to depart.

What if my student rides the school bus?

- Transportation will contact you to confirm bus route information.
- Bus drop off - Students will proceed to doors assigned to their cohorts (see attached map). Extra staff will be in place to support students and ensure physical distancing.
- Bus pick up- Bus students will be escorted through their assigned door to their bus area. They will be dismissed from their classroom 10 minutes before the bell rings at 3:30. They will not be left unattended. Extra staff will monitor physical distancing. At the bus pick up location, line up spots will be marked with zip ties and cards on the fence and spots marked on the sidewalk for 2 rows – 2 meters apart.

What measures are being taken to keep the school safe?

- Sanitation/Hygiene protocols;
 - High touch surfaces and bathrooms will be cleaned daily at 10:00 and 2:00.
 - Classroom tables will be cleaned by students/lunchroom monitors after students have eaten.
 - Bathrooms/hand washing – staggered scheduled times for cohorts to minimize interactions between cohorts.
 - Hand sanitizer will be available at every entrance and in each classroom.
 - Students will remain with their classroom cohort (of 25 students or less) throughout the day to avoid interactions between groups
 - Student traffic flow in hallways will be restricted to specific times
 - To maintain social distancing, we will increase the number of entry / exit points
 - Visitor access will be restricted
 - Staggered recess to reduce students on break at one time.

Will there be field trips or extra curricular activities?

- No extra curricular or Off-site Activities will occur to start the year but will be reassessed at a later time and on a case by case bases. Online, modified field trips, Skype field trips will be encouraged.

My student is feeling anxious about returning to school. What does the school have available for the students?

- Virtual Open house September 4th– teachers will share videos of their classroom and welcome students to our school. They will review some of the health and safety protocols, tour of how physical spaces will be used.
- The school will have support networks. These will be based on;
 - Grade group cohorts for teachers
 - Guidance counsellor Jane Milne and Social Worker Raelle Whiteside will be supporting check-ins with students.

Will my Grade 7-8 student have access to a locker?

- To start the year, we will work to create an alternate locker system where students will be assigned lockers that will alternate between classes to spread students out at the lockers – locker access schedules will be utilized so no different class cohorts are at lockers simultaneously.

Will my Grade 7-8 student have options like Home Ec / Industrial Art / Drama?

- Currently, BSD has paused all Divisional options, so Industrial Art / Home Ec / Band will not be offered. We will be scheduling school-based options based on class cohort interest areas.

Will my Grade K-8 student have Physical Education and Music Class?

- Yes. These programs will continue to operate. Music class will be taught in students' homerooms to minimize student movement in hallways. Physical Education will operate outside. Both programs will adhere to current Public Health guidelines for Music and Physical Education.

What should we expect for regular & special needs programming?

- Resource/Intervention Teams will reach out to highest needs students and set re-entry meetings.
- Appropriate PPE for teachers and staff working with high needs students in class.
- Resource will be facilitating / running programming for high needs students, as determined by the school intervention team.
- If you have a student that requires special programming, please advise us.

What cohort is my student in?

- Cohorts will be based on each student's homeroom. Cohort doors, outdoor areas, bathrooms have all been assigned. See attached map for your student's assigned drop off / pick up door.

Will students use the same materials / equipment as other students?

- Students and teachers will clean shared equipment and materials after each use. For example, computer keyboards / chairs.
- Classroom teachers will require students to use their own supplies vs. communal supplies (pencils, scissors, etc).

How will the school support students that have fallen behind academically?

- After students settle into the new school routines, staff will identify students that may require additional support. We will use recovery learning and transition planning as required;
 - Specialists will assist teachers in assessments to identify recovery learning needs.
 - Our school intervention team will determine best approaches to support students in need of recovery learning.
- Plan for other learning models;
 - We will utilize a team approach to support all of our students.

Does my student need to attend school?

- Students are expected to attend full-time unless they are feeling ill or displaying symptoms.

What if my student is feeling sick?

- Anyone that is showing symptoms needs to stay home. Families are encouraged to have backup plans in the case their student is feeling ill.

What will happen if a student becomes ill in my student's class or cohort?

- We will follow the Public Health protocols on what to do if students become sick while at school. For more information, see https://www.gov.mb.ca/asset_library/en/covid/k-12-reopeningplan-guidance.pdf - Page 17

How will we receive updates from the school?

- The school will share the most current plans / updates through email to parents.
- We will also post these updates to our school website.
- If you are not receiving the emails, please contact the school to update your contact information.