



Prairie Rose School Division

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PRSD – WELCOMING OUR STUDENTS BACK PLAN UPDATE

Dear Parents/Guardians and PRSD Staff,

On July 30, 2020, Education Minister, Kelvin Goertzen, and Dr. Brent Roussin, Chief Medical Officer, released Manitoba's return to school plan. Manitoba students will be welcomed back to class September 8, 2020.

Key areas identified in the Manitoba Education Plan, Welcoming Our Students Back: Restoring Safe Schools, K-12 Guidelines for September 2020, July 30, 2020, are as follows:

- Kindergarten to Grade 8 students will return to daily, full day, in-class instruction.
- Grades 9-12 students will return to daily, full day, in-class instruction if high schools can effectively implement physical distancing with the use of cohorts to reduce the risk of transmission and to ensure documentation for contact tracing. If high schools are unable to provide daily, full-day, in-class instruction, high school students must be scheduled for at least 2 days per 6 day cycle.
- All K-12 students with additional/special needs will return for daily in-class, full day programming.
- Teachers and support staff will return to work September 2, 3, and 4, 2020, for public health orientations, preparation of their classrooms (cohorts) and for focused planning on educational priorities such as recovery learning, remote learning, and student mental health and well-being.
- Communication, screening, enhanced hand hygiene, physical distancing, use of cohorts, and outbreak management will be paramount in keeping students and staff in schools this fall and during the pandemic.
- Classrooms will be reconfigured to support physical distancing with the use of alternate spaces as needed; multi-purpose rooms, libraries, gymnasiums, etc. Two metres of physical distancing is required to the greatest extent possible.
- Where two metres of physical distancing is not possible, students must remain in "cohorts" to reduce exposure to others. In these instances, there must be a least one metre between students as they sit in their desks in the classrooms.
- At this time, public health guidance does not require students or staff to wear masks or other PPE in school settings or on school buses. Some staff and children may choose to bring and wear a non-medical mask while in the facility.

PRSD RESPONSE AND NEXT STEPS FOR FALL RE-OPENING

As PRSD plans for the fall, measures will be put in place that will protect the health and safety of our school communities to allow our students to learn in their assigned learning environments with their peers safely. The physical and mental health, personal development, and supporting the important interaction of our young people has to be to be our top priority.

To ensure that we are supporting our students, PRSD staff will follow the recommendations and guidelines set by the Minister of Education, Manitoba Education, and the Chief Medical Officer at all worksites.

I would like to thank all parent/guardians who had completed our June 2020 remote learning survey and our two July 2020 surveys regarding bus transportation and alternate day programming. Your feedback has been heard and your feedback has been extremely helpful as we finalize our Scenario 1, fall return plan, and as we prepare for Scenario 2, Blended Learning (in-Class and Remote) and Scenario 3, Remote Learning (with exceptions) that may require implementation during the school year.

During the past few weeks, the PRSD senior administration team, along with the support and cooperation of the PRSD Board of Trustees, principals, and vice- principals, has been preparing for a safe fall return to school. The province's July 30, 2020, plan has been a valuable resource as our school division and our schools navigate details with our return to school plans.

PRSD's "Welcoming Our Students Back Plan", which has been grounded with the concept of "cohorts"; keeping groups of students (e.g. classes) together and avoiding interactions with other groups should allow PRSD to meet our divisional "TARGET" of welcoming back "ALL" K-12 students to in-school learning this fall.

Facility reviews have been completed. Each principal and/or principal/vice principal team is now finalizing their respective school's "cohort" instructional plan. Each school plan will meet both the educational and public health requirements. These school-based plans will be submitted to PRSD for review and approval between the dates of August 12 – August 14, 2020.

As FAIR NOTICE to parents/guardians and PRSD staff, there will be changes to many aspects of each school's operation; both in facility management requirements as per public health guidelines and program delivery options and opportunities.

Included in the area of PRSD facility management are two possible temporary student group relocations for September 2020. The two schools that PRSD may need to consider temporary relocation of students are:

- Carman Elementary – relocate grade 5 classes from Carman Elementary to Carman Collegiate
- Miami School – relocate all and/or a portion of high school programming to a community facility

A final decision regarding temporary student group relocations for Carman Elementary and Miami School will be made by PRSD when each school submits its “cohort” instructional plan.

GRADES 9-12 PROGRAMS

In addition to having daily, full day, in-class instruction for our K-8 students, PRSD’s “TARGET” is to have daily, full day, in-class instruction for our grades 9-12 students. However, if for some reason a PRSD high school is unable to meet our “TARGET” of having all grades 9-12 students in for daily, full day, in-class instruction, high schools may need to consider alternate day options.

A summary of what that could look like at this time is as follows:

ALTERNATE DAY OPTIONS – GRADES 9-12

- A) A combination of 100% in-school and alternate day programming for certain grades and/or,
- B) All grades will be scheduled for alternate day in-school instruction where 50% of its students will be receiving in-school instruction each day.

If a community high school has to implement a combination of 100% in school and alternate day programming for certain grades, grade priorities for 100% in school programming will be as follows:

- Priority 1 – Grade 9 Students – Grade 9 students will be the 1st priority to provide these students with the best introduction to their upcoming high school career.
- Priority 2 - Grade 12/Graduating Students – Grade 12/Graduating students are given 2nd priority to best prepare them for post-secondary preparation and career planning.
- Priority 3 - Grade 11 Students – Preparation for Grade 12 credits.
- Priority 4 – Grade 10 Students

If alternate day programming is required at a PRSD high school, PRSD’s 6-day school schedule would be adjusted to ensure in-school consistency for both student groups.

Alternate day timetabling would have each school divide the Grades 9-12 student population by surname to meet the 50/50 split requirements. Example: Surnames A-K, Surnames L-Z

WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER

TRANSPORTATION - PRSD’s transportation department has been working diligently in setting the bus transportation routes for PRSD students. I want to thank those parents/guardians who have advised us that they will be transporting their child(ren) to school this fall. Your support and cooperation is truly appreciated.

PRSD may still face some transportation challenges in some regions as we strive to meet the bus transportation guidelines set by Manitoba Education as per public health requirements. If there are any parents/guardians who are able to transport their child(ren) this fall, I ask that you contact Trevor Ryan, Transportation Supervisor, at 1-204-745-2003, or by email at tryan@prsdmb.ca.



If there is any possibility of having more parents/guardians transport their own child(ren), we would greatly appreciate it.

ANTICIPATED STAFFING SUPPORT – PRSD has been advertising for anticipated additional staffing in the areas of substitute teachers, educational assistants, bus drivers, and custodians. If you know of anyone who may be interested in any of these positions, please encourage them to visit the career opportunities section on the PRSD website to review the job postings.

PRSD’s “Welcoming Our Students Back Plan” is now being finalized with the new information that was announced on July 30, 2020. PRSD’s “Welcoming Our Students Back Plan” will be released no later than **MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2020**, as per Manitoba Education’s guidelines. Principals will send out their respective school operational plans in the latter part of August 2020, following the finalization and approval by PRSD.

In closing, I would like to ensure everyone that PRSD is committed to sharing additional information and updates with parents/guardians, students, and staff during the next couple of weeks. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me by email at tosiowy@prsdmb.ca.

Respectfully yours,

Terry M.J. Osiowy
Superintendent/CEO