



September 2, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Welcome Back! We are so excited to have your children back to school with us! We understand that you may be feeling anxious about what school will look like this year. To guide a healthy return to school for all, our wellness team has created a three word goal for this year: **Safe, Calm, Connected**. This goal has guided all of our planning and preparation over the past few weeks and we would like to share with you a few examples:

- Last week, our staff received inservicing on the multi-layered safety protocols that all BRSD schools will be implementing. These protocols will require adjustments to our school day. To give you an idea of what a typical day might look like, we have created a section on school re-entry on our school website. This information can be found under the “About” tab and will answer most of your questions about how we are prepared to welcome students safely back into the school.
- Teachers have already contacted students to welcome them to their classes and to start building the connections that are so important for all young learners. Early this week, our teachers spent two days involved in crucial and collaborative planning for the year. This will ensure that all students will receive a strong education and stay connected to their learning.
- We have been able to keep class sizes between 15-20 students and will have desks and tables separated for physical distancing. We will have our students cohorted in their classroom and at recess time. Cohorted classes will be assigned specific areas on the playground throughout the week.
- All students and staff in Alberta are receiving from the Alberta Government two reusable masks. These masks will be handed out to students on the first day to go home to be washed prior to wearing them. If you have a mask for your grade 4 or 5 students please send them on the first day of school. If you do not have a mask, we have a supply of disposable masks available. It is not mandated that K-3 wear a mask however we encourage everyone to wear a mask when coming and leaving school. While it may be difficult for some children to understand why they need to wear a mask, we can use the analogy that just like we use sunscreen to protect us from the sun, we wear a facemask to protect us from viruses when we are unable to physically distance from others.

We want to thank you in advance for helping your child understand how to physically distance from others, how to practice good hand hygiene, how to avoid touching one’s face and how wearing a facemask keeps everyone safe. We are in this together.

Here are a few other important information items:

All BRSD school playgrounds are closed before school starts. We ask that parents drop off their children between 8:15 and 8:30, as this is when our staff will be ready to welcome children into their classrooms.

We want to remind you that all food your child brings for snack time and lunchtime should be easy for them to open by themselves so that we can limit the amount of close contact between students and staff. We ask that you explain to your child that they are not to share any food with their classmates. We will not be able to have our recycling program at this time so all recyclable items will be returned home.

We have our parking lot completed! This means there will be changes to our pick up/drop off. Please note that there is no parking in the bus lane in front of the school or on Mount Pleasant Drive. Parking for parents is now located on the far east section of the parking lot. As you enter the parking lot, please follow the arrows to the drop off zones. Do not stop or park in the staff section (the part closest to the school). Parents have the choice to:

- Park in the parent section (far east side of the parking lot) and walk your child to the assigned door to be greeted by the teacher. Please remember to physically distance and wear a mask.

OR

- Drop off your child on the sidewalk as you enter the parking lot (drop off zone 1) or at the crosswalk as you leave the parking lot (drop off zone 2) where we will guide students across the crosswalk to their entrance.

For the pickup of your child at the end of the day, please meet your child outside their teacher's door and then walk them to your vehicle via the crosswalk. Please do not send your child to the parking lot without adult supervision. We want to ensure our students are safe coming to and leaving school each day.

For more information, please see the [parking lot map](#), also posted on our school website.

Please know that if you have any questions, we want you to either contact your child's teacher or send an email to jackstuart@brsd.ab.ca

Looking forward to seeing you all again soon!

Mrs. Zenovia Lazaruk
Principal BEd. MEd.

Mr. Todd Sikorski
Assistant Principal BEd. MEd.

