

EVERY STUDENT IS

- Known
- Valued
- Believed In



Saskatoon
Public Schools

Sept 23, 2020

FROM THE BOARD TABLE

New virtual school created to meet online learning demand

The registration of 2,400 elementary students for online learning resulted in Saskatoon Public Schools creating the new Online Learning Centre Elementary school, trustees heard during the Sept. 22 Board of Education meeting.

A principal, vice principal, and 54 classroom teachers, along with additional teachers and support staff, are assigned to the new school, which is responsible for kindergarten to Grade 8 instruction of approximately 2,000 English-stream students. This is the first year Saskatoon Public Schools has offered online learning for elementary students.

The division's pre-existing Online Learning Centre Secondary, which has offered high school classes for more than two decades, has taken on the added responsibility of online instruction for approximately 400 French immersion students from kindergarten to Grade 8, along with more than 950 full-time high school students.

Planning for online learning as part of school reopening began in June and continued throughout the summer. A digital resource writing project saw 25 teachers develop kindergarten to Grade 9 resources. Professional learning in areas such as curriculum integration, online instruction, and management of Google Classroom prepared teachers for the start of the school year.

The board meeting also highlighted the work done by collegiates to ensure students were recognized during 2020 high school graduations. Initiatives included pre-recorded ceremonies, keepsakes for students, and COVID-safe walk-through events at the school. Examples are highlighted in the [2020 Graduation & Farewells video](#).

Reports and information presented at board meetings can be found at saskatoonpublicschools.ca. The next meeting of the Board of Education is Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2020. Requirements that limit the size of public gatherings due to the COVID-19 pandemic mean space for the public is limited. If you wish to attend a meeting, please call 306.683.8200 prior to 4 p.m. of the meeting date.

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ORANGE SHIRT DAY September 30

The Province of Saskatchewan has proclaimed September 30 to be Orange Shirt Day—a day to honour the Indigenous children who survived residential schools and remember those who didn't.

Orange Shirt Day began in Williams Lake, B.C. in 2013 where, at a commemoration event at a local residential school, a story was told about a young female student named Phyllis who had her brand-new orange shirt taken away on her first day at the school. The orange shirt is a symbol of the many losses experienced by thousands of students and families due to residential schools.

Since it began in 2013, the phrase "Every Child Matters" has been used as part of the movement to recognize the value of every child and for communities to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for future generations. Learn more at www.orangeshirtday.org.

All Saskatoon public schools will be recognizing Orange Shirt Day. Students are encouraged to wear orange that day. There will be activities and lessons in the school that will foster students' understanding of the impact of residential schools.

This year, Saskatoon Public Schools is unveiling a new design to recognize Orange Shirt Day in our schools, which was created by Eileen Knox, a student at Marion M. Graham Collegiate.

Orange Shirt Day is one of many actions Saskatoon Public Schools undertakes as part of the division's [response](#) to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.

Saskatoon Public Schools
Inspiring Learning

How do you feel today?

Every morning before your child leaves for school, please check to see if they are experiencing any of these symptoms:



If your child is experiencing any of these symptoms, **do not send your child to school.** Contact Healthline 811 for assistance.



IS YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION UP TO DATE?

At this time, it's important that schools are able to contact families.

Please call or email your school with updates.



IMPORTANT DATES

SEPTEMBER 30 Orange Shirt Day

OCTOBER 12 Thanksgiving Holiday

OCTOBER 20 Saskatoon Board of Education Meeting 7 p.m.

OCTOBER 26 PD / Planning Day—Students DO NOT ATTEND

Hey Parents and Caregivers! Your children have earned an **A+** for keeping our schools safe. But we need your help!

Healthy schools are only possible when we have a healthy community.

How can you help?

- WEARING A MASK is one of the most effective ways to stop the spread of COVID-19. Please join us by wearing a mask when you're on school property interacting with students and staff members.
- HAVE A PLAN in case your child gets sick at school. The sooner your child can be picked up and taken care of, the safer it is for everyone.
- HOW ARE YOU FEELING TODAY? Do a quick check for symptoms before sending your child to school.
- PREVENTATIVE MEASURES like physical distancing and avoiding big groups helps keep you and others healthy.
- If your child has cold or flu symptoms—even if they have a negative COVID test—please keep them home until they are symptom-free for 48 hours.

Help us take care of one another.

If we all do our part, we can keep our schools safe.



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