



ÉCOLE RIVER HEIGHTS SCHOOL

60 Ravine Drive

Saskatoon, SK S7K 1E2

(306) 683-7430

www.saskatoonpublicschools.ca/riverheights

riverheightsschool@spsd.sk.ca

Mrs. Sherry McConnell, *Principal / Directrice*

Mme Deena Shyluk, *Vice Principal / Directrice adjointe*

Mr. Mitch Kachur *Superintendent/Surintendant*

Ms. Colleen MacPherson, *School Trustee / Conseillère scolaire*

« Reaching Greater Heights »

ÉRHS School Plan ~ 2020

Parent and Caregiver Reopening Handbook

Please refer to the [Parent and Caregiver](#)

[Reopening Handbook](#) for general information on

Saskatoon Public Schools reopening plan. This parent handbook provides detailed information on many important topics including:

- Safety Precautions
- Curriculum and Assessment
- Support Services
- Facilities
- Students.

The guidelines of the Parent Handbook will be adhered to by our school along with elements specific to our school.

The following information represents our *school specific plan for a safe return to school at River Heights*. Please note that the plan is subject to change at any time based on direction from Saskatchewan's Chief Medical Health Officer. Changes will be communicated as they occur.

Safety Protocols and Precautions

IF A STUDENT BECOMES SICK AT SCHOOL

All schools will be asked to have an isolation space for anyone with COVID-19 symptoms that cannot leave the facility immediately. If a student or staff member is showing symptoms, they will be isolated in this space and wear a mask until they can be picked up. Students will be supervised in this area. River Heights students will use our nurse's office which is in close proximity to the front office.

IF A STUDENT IS SICK

If a student is experiencing cold or flu-like symptoms (fever, cough, headaches, aches and pains, sore throat, chills, runny nose, loss of taste or smell, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing), **they must not attend school**. Parents/caregivers should contact HealthLine 811 for direction. Students will be given priority for COVID testing and results. They must identify as a student when calling 811 to be prioritized. If the student is referred for testing, they must remain home and self-isolate until they have received their results and direction from the health authority.

Please call, use the [School Messenger App](#) or visit the [School Messenger](#) website to report if your child is ill. Detailed information will come out in our opening school newsletter.

PROTOCOL FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS IN THE BUILDING

Parents/guardians should only be entering the school if there is a **need that cannot be met another way**. Parents/caregivers are encouraged to contact the main office to make an appointment. All visitors attending to the school will be required to fill out a health questionnaire. The form can be filled out by using a smartphone to scan the QR code posted at the front door of the school, which will go directly to the questionnaire site. Paper copies will be made available as needed. **Visitors will be required to wear a mask and use hand sanitizer upon entering the school.**

Welcome Back !

We have missed all of our students dearly ! Please know that the staff is working hard so that all of the procedures are in place to keep your most precious commodity, your children, safe and happy ! We will soon be releasing videos to showcase what has changed. Many things will not be new as our students have seen decals, people wearing masks and being asked to sanitize their hands out in our community. Some things will be different and we are here to say that is okay . River Heights team is working hard to find ways to continue to build our relationships, deepen our connections that we missed so much in the spring and to make learning fun. After all, you are only a child once !

Our entire school team is committed to listening and responding to your suggestions and concerns. We welcome them. The staff have worked tirelessly the past few days to problem solve. We are blessed to have such a strong team. Please understand that this is a green document. Meaning as we listen to you, our staff and our students voices we will respond and adapt. Safety is always our first priority and we do not take the weight of the responsibility lightly. We are ready to dig in and get the learning underway. We just appreciate being back together in a new way ! We have attached the newsletter that went out on August 20th that depicts opportunities for parent voice and to reassure you that we have this! We look forward to our continued partnership.

Mrs. McConnell, Mme Shyluk and our school team

Lanyards

Each student will be given one lanyard. The lanyard will have a badge holder on it. The card in the badge holder will have a number on it which will correspond to the classroom, locker assignment and muster point.

The card will also identify if the student takes the bus or uses our before and after program.

The lanyards will be used to hold the masks by the ear loops should students be able to physically distance in their play zone or at times such as eating lunch.

The lanyards have been purchased with a break away clip AND a removable clip. The clip/badge will be used to hang their tag on a hook when they are using the restroom to assure students are physically distancing and assure only the allotted number of students are using the restroom at a time.



Bell Schedule

Bells	Group 1	Group 2
Classes	8 :55	9 :00
Commence		
Recess	10 :15-10 :30	10 :40-10 :55
Flipped	11 :45-	11 :45-
Lunch	12 :10 (IN) And 12 :10 – 12 :35 (OUT when cleared to do so)	12 :05 (OUT) And 12 :05 – 12 :35 (To muster and IN)
Recess	2 :15 -2 :30	1 :50-2 :05
Dismissal	3 :15	3 :20

Staggered Entry and Exit

Different bells will signal Group 1 and Group 2.

Arrival - Upon arrival to school students will go to their assigned play zone or to their muster point to line up and go in. Each classroom has a muster point which coordinates with their entrance/exit door. Upon entry to the school students will sanitize. Students must be wearing their mask when lining up to enter the school.

Dismissal – Students will exit according to their assigned doors. Students will wear their masks until they are off of school property.

Upon dismissal of school students will sanitize when leaving.

Additional supervision has been scheduled for these doors.

Parents are encouraged to find a meeting place with their child(ren) outside if they are picking them up.

What is a Muster Point ?

Each classroom will be assigned a number. There will be a decal on the tarmac with that number which indicates where a student's class should line up. Students must wear their mask at the muster point and in to the school.

Meeting/Pick-up Points - Muster points are encouraged as good places for older siblings to pick up their younger sibling. For example: a child in grade 3 is dismissed. They walk to their muster point and wait for their sibling to pick them up at it.

Lockers

Students will not initially use lockers. For the first few weeks students will hang their backpack and coats on the back of their chairs. This is being done to gradually teach and introduce procedures. This will also allow us as a school team to adjust our plan if it is required. Once lockers are introduced students will need to sanitize again upon entry in to the classroom. Lockers will be staggered. This means a class will no longer have a block of lockers together. Each locker will have a number (and student name) on it. The locker number will coordinate with the muster point and classroom teacher. We ask that students DO NOT bring locks this year. This will support efficient transitioning. Several classes have additional offices. We are using these in lieu of lockers to reduce congestion in the halls.

Recess

Recess will be staggered. Please see the bell schedule on the previous page for times. Students will sanitize upon exiting the school under supervision. Students will wear their mask until they are at their play zone. If they can physically distance they may remove the mask by placing it on their lanyard. Lanyards can be placed inside a shirt if a child is playing on a slide etc. Supervisors will be monitoring physical distancing. If you are not comfortable with this as a parent we ask that you notify your child's classroom teacher. An icon will be placed on the child's lanyard tag to alert staff about your wish. We ask that you have this conversation with your child at home prior to school start-up. Our school team believes it is important for students to have a break from wearing a mask when it is safe to do so and also respects each parent's decision.

Please see the picture below which identifies our play zones. Students will be able to rotate by cohort through some of the zones once routines and protocols have been established. Cohorts will remain consistent throughout the year. Up to 2 classes can be a cohort.

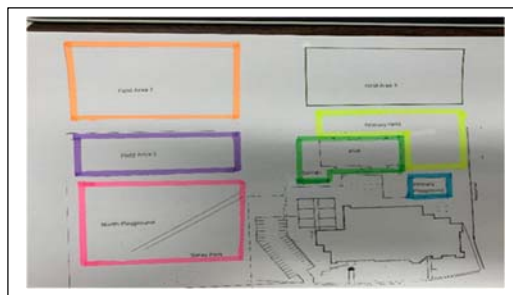
River Heights school team has been working hard to create a list of games and activities that students can partake in that respect physical distancing when not wearing a mask. Student will be allowed to play things like mini sticks provided they are wearing a mask. We will be preteaching many of these games. Research also supports students playing and using their imagination. This will continue to be encouraged.

Each classroom has an assigned equipment bucket which is color coded. Students will be permitted to take the equipment from the bucket provided they sanitize prior. All students will be required to sanitize upon returning in to the building. The equipment will then be sanitized prior to anyone else using it.

Students are permitted to bring items that are able to be sanitized to play with at recess. Ie : mini stick. Pokemon and hockey cards continue to be not permitted. Anything with a soft/plush surface should not come to school.

Given the evidence, CMEC believes in the intrinsic value and importance of play and its relationship to learning. Educators should intentionally plan and create challenging, dynamic, play-based learning opportunities.

(Council of Ministers of Education, Canada, 2012)



School Partners : Our preschool (Park Heights Creative Preschool Co-operative), Kelly's (Before and After) and A Place of Wonder (Kindercare) have all submitted school plans. Information will be shared shortly. They all abide by SPS expectations and protocols. These will also be posted on our school portal and shared with applicable families. We are lucky to have them !

Lunch

Students are encouraged to go home for lunch when they are able.

Students will continue to eat in their classrooms. Our lunch hour will be flipped which means half of the students will eat lunch and the other half will go out for recess to their play zone. When the bell rings students outside will go their muster point, come in on a staggered schedule and then sanitize upon entry. The other half will go outside that just finished eating to their play zone once all the students outside are in their classes.

Lunch groups will be created based on cohorts and exit doors. Supervisors will be assigned to cohorts as much as is possible.

Students can take their mask off when they are eating. Masks will need to go back on after they are done eating unless they can physically distance. Sanitization of desks will occur immediately after. Students will sanitize before and after eating and upon dismissal of the classroom. This will be supervised. We are encouraging students to have a trashless lunch. Masks will be changed for a clean one after lunch.



We
got
this !

Bathrooms

Students will continue to use the restroom as needed. They will use the clasp on their lanyard and hang it by the door to indicate they are in the restroom. When the hooks are full the student must stand on the decal. Physical Distancing decals are placed on the floor for students to wait in line. The entry door to the restrooms will stay open so we do not need to clean the touchpoints. Screen walls are being purchased for privacy when using the boys urinals. Paper towel will be provided to turn off any taps once hands have been cleaned. Handwashing signs are posted on our mirrors and other decals are in place to support physical distancing. All of these procedures will be explicitly taught and reviewed.



Storage of School Materials

One of the tasks teachers will accomplish the week of September 8th will be to teach procedures for organization and acquisition of school supplies. Kindergarten to grade three teachers will share in their first curricular newsletter to you how supplies will be stored, organized and classroom procedures. Our grade four to grade 8 school team has added crates to our school supply list. These will be used to store and organize student supplies. It would be very helpful if students could bring these the first day they start school the week of September 8th.



Mask usage

- "Grade 4-12 students are required to wear masks when appropriate physical distancing cannot be maintained.
- Masks are recommended for prekindergarten to Grade 3 students.
- Staff are required to wear masks at all times when appropriate distancing cannot be maintained.
- When physical distancing is achievable, mask breaks may occur (i.e. outdoor learning).
- All students are required to wear masks while riding the bus.
- All visitors must wear masks.
- Saskatoon Public Schools will provide one reusable mask for each student. Additional disposable masks will be made available to students when needed and required.
- Students are welcome to bring their own masks. We are encouraging reusable masks and asking for 2-3 to come to school each day. Please send paperbags to put used masks in to be returned home. It will be really important to clean those backpacks out each night 😊
- Lanyards have now been purchased for students with a breakaway clasp and badge ID. This will be used to keep masks on when not wearing them.
- Masks will be changed at lunch or when they become moist or dirty. We will have masks on hand but it is encouraged to bring your own.
- In some situations, wearing a mask may not be possible for a student. In these instances, school staff members will work with parents/caregivers to consider accommodations. More information can be found on the [CDC website](#).
- More information about the proper usage of masks or face coverings is available from the [Public Health Agency of Canada](#)."

Mental Health and Social-Emotional Supports

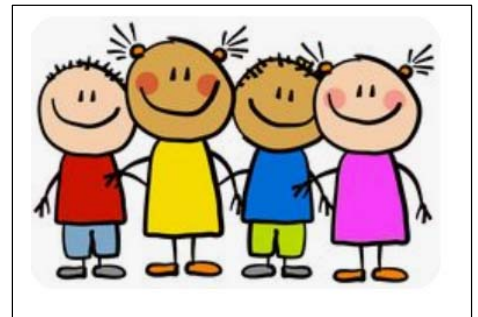
Any student who needs additional support for their well-being may receive support from our school counsellor, Mr. Wachs. We encourage parents who believe this support may be necessary to reach out to their teacher, Mrs. McConnell or Mme Shyluk to discuss. Mr. Wachs will work with us to determine appropriate supports, which may include direct support and/or assisting students and families to access other services in the community.

- *Well-being is one of our four student goals in our school division's strategic plan. Opportunities to learn about and practice well-being exist across multiple curricular areas. This is a priority for River Heights staff. You will see it embedded the first week of school!*



Staggered Start for Kindergarten

Letters will be emailed to our families August 27th with updated dates. To serve as a friendly reminder our staggered start date has changed to commence the week of September 8th. Buses will NOT be running this week for kindergarten students.



Water Bottles

Students are encouraged to bring water bottles. They should go home each day to be washed.

We now have two water bottle dispensers. A cleaning procedure has been established for students to clean after use or teachers will supervise usage.