

Principal update

August 26th, 2020

Dear Roland Michener families,

We hope you are making the best of these beautiful summer days and are enjoying the heat while staying safe. We want to send out a welcome back, let you know we missed you and give you some much anticipated information about returning to school.

Take a deep breath, we can do this...together!

There is a lot of information in this newsletter, so please reach out at any time for clarification. Your questions, concerns, wonders and feedback are important to me. I am here along with the entire RMS staff to ensure a smooth transition into our learning environments. While things will look different, we know that what matters most to our staff are your children! Their safety, their learning, reconnecting with their peers, reclaiming our school culture and strengthening relationships are our top priorities as we welcome our students back.

Please understand that we will continuously assess routines and we will need your understanding, patience and support as we communicate these changes and adjustments as we move forward. Given our shared experiences these past 6 months, it is fair to anticipate changes and challenges may likely progress through the fall. You can count on regular updates via classroom and school newsletters and emails.

Early this week, staff reached out to each family to welcome you back, hopefully ease your concerns and inquire about your plans for returning to school. Registration forms to confirm attendance are available online. Please note, that parents/caregivers will not be permitted school entry on our official school start days that will begin on Sept. 8th. If there is a compelling reason for a parent/caregiver to come into the school, making an appointment is necessary at this time until we can gauge our traffic flow more effectively. A QR code is located on the front doors of the school (along with paper copies) and each visitation must ensure a health survey is completed. This information is collected in the event contact tracing measures become required. If you have any concerns regarding these adjustments, please share with staff when they reach out again next week when teachers confirm your child's class, their meeting location, and what they can expect on the first day of school. We will absolutely work with you and your family to support your child's transition as best we can!

It is our hope that the information in this newsletter, along with the attached PowerPoint with pictures will help to ease some anxiety of what things might look and feel like. If you still have questions or concerns, do not hesitate to reach out!

Kerrie Rutherford

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
- Food and nutrition programs
- 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 Roland Michener School. 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 precautions

- If a student is experiencing cold or flu like symptoms, they **must not** attend school and please contact 811
- When your child is ill, please call Mrs. Carson or use the school messenger/safe arrival app.
- Parents contact the main office to make an appointment if you need to come into the school for any reason
- If a student becomes sick at school the student's parents or caregivers will be contacted and they **MUST** pick up the student immediately
- Parents/caregivers entering the building must complete the health check (point your phone camera at the QR code located on the front entrance)
- All visitors must wear masks and use hand sanitizer upon entry
- The location of our isolation room is the nurse's office, beside the staffroom

School Day Schedule

School Bell Times

8:55 a.m. Warning Bell call to muster locations

9:00 a.m. Classes Begin

10:45 - 11:00 a.m. recess

11:50 a.m.- 12:40 p.m. Lunch recess

2:20 - 2:35 p.m. recess

3:25 p.m. Dismissal to muster locations

Recess

- Outdoor play zones will be communicated and clearly identified throughout the field, Jr. and Sr. tarmacs as well as our creative playgrounds
- Students in grades K-3 will be wearing colour coded, breakaway, lanyards to ensure they are playing in the assigned spots and lining up with the correct cohort
- Classroom equipment bins will provide opportunities that avoid physical contact or the close gathering of student
- Students will be expected to line up with their cohorts and be invited into the building by the supervisor that will provide hand sanitizer upon re-entry
- Staggered start opportunity provides time for students in small groupings to learn new expectations

Lunch

***Students are encouraged to go home at lunch when possible**

- Students staying at school over the lunch break will eat in their classrooms at their desks
- Students will be dismissed in cohorts the same fashion as the recess schedule
- Teachers will direct students to wash their hands prior to eating lunch with hand sanitizer provided again as they enter the school
- Students that go home for lunch will meet their cohort in their designated area and be invited in with the rest of their group
- Please ensure all snacks/lunch items can be opened independently
- All students are required to bring a re-useable, labelled water bottle (water fountains will not be in use)

Entering/Exiting the school

- Classrooms will be assigned specific doors to enter and exit the school
- Students will line up at their appropriate entrance and be invited into the school by their teacher
 - Kindergartens- front door
 - Ms. Crittenden- junior boot room
 - Ms. Friesen - junior boot room
 - Mrs. Fitzpatrick - junior boot room
 - Mr. Barton – junior boot room
 - Ms. Johnson – junior boot room
 - Mr. Johnston – senior boot room
 - Mrs. Reschny – senior boot room
 - Mrs. Tan – Senior boot room
 - Mr. Brown – Senior boot room
- Muster points will be marked using colour coded cones or landmarks by the doors ensuring students are grouped in their cohorts, students will enter together when invited by their teacher starting with the younger grades and working their way up to the senior students
- Students will be given hand sanitizer as soon as they enter their classrooms

- Students that arrive after classes begin are to enter using the front doors, check in with Mrs. Carson and proceed to class
- When exiting the building students will line up in their classroom cohorts and be led out their assigned doors by their teacher to their muster points
- You will receive a phone call confirming your child's teacher on Friday Sept. 4th. At this time, staff will communicate your child(ren) muster locations for arrival and dismissal. Prior to starting, your child will know where to meet his/her teacher and class.
- Please practice or show them the pictures so your children know their locations. If you have more than one child here, help them choose a spot outside to meet their siblings outside after school each day

**Check out PowerPoint pictures so that you and your children can identify which doors will be accessed at the beginning and end of each school day. On Sept. 4th when teachers phone families, they will confirm which door your child will be expected at.*

Bussing – available to Edinburgh Place only

- Everyone riding or boarding buses or taxis are required to wear a mask
- Students will have assigned seats
- Students arriving at school by bus will proceed to their muster locations
- Students will exit the building using their assigned exits to await boarding procedures as directed by the driver

Parking and student drop-off/pick-up

- Families will drop off children as close to bell times as possible but no earlier than 15 minutes before the start of school **(8:45)**
- Parents are encouraged to pick up and drop off students outside of the building
- The staff parking lot is NOT to be used for student drop off or pick up at any time
- Just a reminder that U-turns/stopping in the street are illegal in school zones
- To alleviate traffic congestions and encourage active transportation we suggest having a common drop off and pick up spot a block away

Registration

- Staff contacted families yesterday to get a verbal indication as to your child attending RMS in the fall. This phone call replaced the in-person registration process.
- Friday, Sept. 4th Teachers will be phoning students and families to welcome them into their class, indicate muster points, share assigned entrance and exits, and answer any questions families might have.
- A PowerPoint with pictures of our school spaces will be available for you to view.
- If parents require a meeting with teachers, please call Mrs. Carson to book an appointment

Staggered start grades 1-8

Gr. 1-8 Staggered Start: Sept 8th – 11th will provide 4 days of staggered start for small class groupings

- Busses will be running during staggered start
- **Tuesday, September 8th – Friday September 11th.** This week will be divided into two groups. Students in the same family will attend on the same days. Each group will attend 2 full days and NOT the other two days. The intended outcome is to explicitly teach and practice new procedures and protocols in small groups.
 - **Tuesday Sept 8th & Thursday Sept 10th - Families with the last names from A-H**
 - **Wednesday Sept 9th & Friday Sept 11th - Families with the last names from I-Z**
 - **Regular classes for all students will begin on Monday September 14th.**

Kindergarten specific information

- **Family welcome days September 10th & 11th**
 - Kindergarten students will be invited to come to school with an adult for a scheduled 20-minute time period
 - This individual time will allow you to tour the classroom, receive important information about the program, bring your child's school supplies and discuss any questions you may have
- **Kindergarten staggered start**
 - Kindergarten students will transition to school using staggered start dates September 8th -11th (please see the Kindergarten welcome letter in a separate email for more information)
 - Students will attend in small groups for a half day. This allows for the children to learn procedures in smaller groups, to become familiar with classroom routines in a comfortable setting.
 - Parents and caregivers will drop off and pick up your child at the front entrance beside the kindergarten room
 - There is no bussing for kindergarten students during our staggered start dates

Storage of student materials

- Each classroom teacher will communicate plans that will include:
 - Individual storage of supplies and personal belongings
 - Classroom specific routines/procedures to accommodate developmental age of class
 - Please label your child's supplies and belongings

Flow of traffic through the school

- Decals indicating flow of traffic have been added to all hallways (see PowerPoint for pictures)

- Social distancing decals have been placed by water filling stations, the front office, in classrooms and gender-neutral washrooms to ensure physical distancing while students wait
- Teachers will monitor their routines and student movement within the building through their own classroom procedures and expectations
- Each class will have assigned washrooms to decrease traffic in both our junior and senior areas

Parent/Caregiver access to school

*Parents/caregivers are required to contact the main office to make an appointment if they need to come to the school. At this point, we request that this occur only if necessary.

- Please contact your classroom teacher or call Mrs. Carson at 306-683-7440 to make an appointment
- All parents will enter/exit the building through the front doors only
- All visitors are required to fill out a health questionnaire before entering the building. Use your camera to access the QR code on the front door (paper copies will also be available if needed)
- Visitors will be required to bring and wear a mask and use hand sanitizer upon entering the school
- Questions, concerns, and feedback can be shared via email or phone to your child's teacher

Hygiene

- Classroom teachers will establish regular handwashing routines throughout the day
- Hand sanitizer will be located in every space in the school and used as needed
- Spray bottles with approved cleaning products will be located in every classroom
- Other frequently used spaces will be routinely cleaned by our building operator, Mr. Heit

Mask usage

- Grade 4-12 students are required to wear masks when appropriate physical distancing cannot be maintained. (i.e. classroom learning)
- 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.
- Students should bring their own masks. (scarves/bandanas are not considered 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.
- 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](#).

- Staff members will be provided with a reusable mask and face shield for use as needed. Staff members may also choose to use their own mask.
- CDC **does not currently recommend** use of face shields as a substitute for masks.
- More information about the proper usage of masks or face coverings is available from the [Public Health Agency of Canada](#).
- * **Please wash masks daily**

Mental Health and Social-Emotional Supports

- In addition to the section in the Parent and Caregiver Reopening Handbook on supporting students; we want to assure parents/caregivers that we will not only support but prioritize our student’s well-being. We want to remind you that students who need additional support for their well-being may receive support from the school counsellor. Parents who believe this support may be necessary are encouraged to reach out to their child’s teacher or Mrs. Rutherford.
- Crystal Schwindt, our school counsellor will work with the team 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 the four goals in our school division’s strategic plan. We will prioritize student well-being and social emotional learning across all areas of the curriculum this year.

