Welcome back to a new school year! Please take the time to look over this important document that outlines our school reopening plan. These are the protocols and plans that are unique to our building.

**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.

Please note that the plan is subject to change at any time based on the direction from Saskatchewan’s Chief Medical Health Officer. Changes will be communicated as they occur.

**Safety precautions**

- Students who are sick must not attend school; parents/guardians are asked to phone, email or submit absence using School Messenger.
- All visitors, parents/caregivers are encouraged to contact the main office to make an appointment if they need to come to school. We request that this only occurs if necessary. Anyone who must enter will be asked to complete a QR health questionnaire, wear a mask and sanitize.
- If a student becomes sick at school, there are two separate isolation rooms. Students must be picked up as soon as possible once contacted by the school. The student will be supervised in the isolation room until picked up.

**Bell Times**

- 8:30 a.m. - warning bell
- 8:35 a.m. - school begins
- 10:20 a.m. - recess
- 11:25 a.m. - lunch
- 12:15 p.m. - school begins
- 1:55 p.m. - recess
- 3:00 p.m. - dismissal
**What are pods?** All classrooms have been divided into pods based on their location and class size. These groups will be assigned designated entry/exit doors, recess play areas and bathrooms.

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**What is a muster point?** Each classroom is assigned a muster point. This is an outdoor area located by their assigned door. Students will meet here before and after school as well as after each recess. It is a large area with enough room to social distance.

**Entering and Exiting the School**

Students will go to their muster point before and after school as well as after every recess. Parents/caregivers may choose to drop off and pick up at this location. After recess, the supervising teacher will call each classroom in one at a time to enter the building starting with the class furthest down the hall. Students will sanitize as they enter. Students will exit in the same fashion, one class at a time with the class closest to the door exiting first.

**Traffic Flow**

There are arrows located throughout the school to help with traffic flow. Social distance spots are also used wherever students need to line up (bathroom, water fountain). Teachers will mark classrooms with smaller arrows to help with student movement in the classroom and limit physical contact.

**Recess**

All of the outdoor space that surrounds the school has been divided into 6 areas. Pods will be assigned to an outdoor area for the day. At recess, classroom teachers will lead their students outside one class at a time to play in their designated area. One teacher from that pod will supervise the students. At the end of recess, students will meet at their muster point and the supervising teacher will call in the classrooms one at a time. Kindergarten students will always have access to the small playground. Pods will rotate to different areas each day.

**Lunch**

Students are asked to stay home if possible. Each class is equipped with a spray bottle so desks/tables can be sanitized prior to lunch and after. Students will also be asked to wash or sanitize their hands before they eat. Families are asked to make sure that students can open any containers sent in their lunch. Students are also asked to pack waste free lunches where possible. Any garbage and/or recycling that their lunch creates will be sent home in their lunch boxes. This will help to limit the movement throughout the class. At this point, we will not be recycling at the school. We kindly ask that you recycle at home.
Registration Day

This year, instead of starting with 1/2 day registration, we will be calling all of our families over the next few days to welcome you back, ease your concerns and inquire about your plans for returning to school. This will help limit unnecessary visitors to the building. We will provide some information about the first week of school and answer any questions. Please watch for a video that will be shared on September 2nd to show the changes to our building.

Staggered Start Grades 1-8

The first week of school from Sept. 8th -11th will be a staggered start. This means that students will only attend two days, either Tuesday/Thursday or Wednesday/Friday. Buses will be running during staggered start.

These small groups will support a safe return to school so that students can learn about the new protocols and have time to practice them. It also allows teachers to check in and support students in a smaller group.

*Regular classes begin on Sept 14th with all grade 1–8 students attending.

Kindergarten: Staggered start will be the same week for kindergarten students. Families will receive this information from their teachers on Aug. 26th and 27th.

Storage of Student Materials

Classroom teachers will have time in the first week to sort school supplies with students. Each teacher will choose a plan that works best for their classroom. Personal supplies will not be shared amongst students. Students are asked to bring supplies on their first staggered start day.

Parking

Please note the changes in our parking loop. It is for buses only from 8:00AM-8:30AM and 2:45PM -3:15PM. Outside of these times, drivers can park for 15 minutes in the loop. The ‘kiss and ride’ on Konihowski is still an option for drop offs and pick ups. There is also parking on side streets.

Students are asked to walk or bike whenever possible to help reduce the traffic in front of the school.

Busing

Students will continue to be dropped off in the loop when taking the bus. They will then proceed to their muster point. After school, students will line up at a designated spot and will then proceed to their bus in an orderly fashion. A bus supervisor will be outside to support this process.

*LP3 will provide more specific details

In the morning, supervision begins at 8:20 AM so students must not arrive before this time. When they arrive, students need to head straight to their muster point and are asked not to play on the playground.

Lockers

Students will not use lockers the first week of school. Each pod will create a system for safe locker use once other routines and procedures are solidified.
Before/After School Program—Boys & Girls Club

This program is working closely with the principal to follow the school/division plans. Participants can review the program’s plan but here are some main points:

• Staff and participants will need to wear a mask at all times.
• Group sizes will be kept to 15 whenever possible.
• Parents/caregivers will need to text or call for drop off and pick up to avoid entering the building.
• Frequent sanitizing and hand hygiene will take place.

Hygiene & Washrooms

Hand washing posters will be posted at every sink. Staff will review hand washing procedures with students.

Pods will be assigned to separate bathrooms. During lunch and recess, students will be allowed to enter the bathroom with limited capacity. If a washroom is at capacity, students will wait outside on floor markings. During class time, teachers will monitor the number of students using the bathroom.

Masks - What Do I Need to Know?

• Grade 4–8 students are required to wear masks when appropriate physical distancing cannot be maintained.
• Masks are recommended for kindergarten to Grade 3 students. If you have a child in K - Grade 3, please let your child’s teacher know if your child will be wearing a mask or not.
• 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 masks will be made available to students when needed and required.
• Students are welcome to bring their own masks.
• 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.
• 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

The well-being of our students is a major priority for us. It is important for families to know 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 can reach out to their teacher or administrator to discuss. The 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.

We are looking forward to a great year at École Silverspring School!