

Mary Bergeron Elementary

2020-2021



SCHOOL RE-ENTRY PLAN

Information for Staff, Parents & Guardians



Message from Principal Reynolds

Dear MBE Families,

We hope that your family has had an enjoyable summer and that all are safe and well. As previously communicated in GYPSD's *School Re-Entry Plan* document sent out last week, the health and safety of our students, teachers, and staff remain our primary focus in developing our school's re-entry plan for the 2020-2021 school year. On September 8th, 2020, the school year will begin for our staff and students and we have spent countless hours in researching, planning, developing, and creating implementation and safety protocols that make up our school's re-entry plan. Below is MBE's current re-entry plan, however - please note that this situation is fluid and subject to frequent changes. This plan aligns with the division's plan (black font) and includes protocols and procedures specific to our school's circumstances (blue font). We are committed to updating our families as new information becomes available. For the latest and most accurate information please visit our website at mbelementary.gypsd.ca/, check our [MBE Facebook page](#), or contact us at the school...

Safety as a Primary Focus

To avoid the spread of COVID-19 GYPSD requires the following:

- staff and students conduct daily health checks prior to coming to school
- stay-at-home protocols for those who are feeling unwell
- enhanced cleaning and disinfecting in schools and on buses
- encouraging physical distancing where possible
- creating cohorts of students
- mandatory masks for students in grades 4 and 5. Masks will be mandatory in common areas and in classes if cohorts are not exclusive, as outlined in provincial guidelines
- Encouraging K-3 students who are physically, psychologically or developmentally able to wear a mask, where appropriate
- Strict hand-hygiene requirements for all students and staff

Respecting Family Choice

We recognize that returning to in-person classes may not be the best option for all families. To meet the needs of all our students, an At-home learning option will be offered – in addition to the At-school option - for the 2020/21 school year. Our students really have two main options:

- **On-site learning** (at MBE) ...this option brings us back to as close to 'normal' as we can get at this time. Students will return to school on September 8th and will learn *at* school with some additional health and safety protocols and practices put into place as outlined above in both the division and school's re-entry plan.

- **At-home learning** ...this option will be for families who want to keep their child(ren) at home rather than have them attend at school. It does NOT have to be for the full year, but is an option for families until such time as they feel better about sending them physically back to the school facility. With this option, **parents will still need to re-register students at MBE using the snapcodes that were sent at the beginning of August.** Once students are re-registered here at MBE, we will facilitate the enrolment of your child with the Alberta Distance Learning Centre (ADLC) and will coordinate with them to provide you with the curriculum materials / resources necessary to work on their required studies from home. Your child's work will be assessed by teachers and they will be working on the same curricular outcomes as their counterparts who are attending at school. Parents who start with this option will have the ability to change over to at-school learning throughout the year and can do so by contacting the school principal to arrange for the move over to at-school learning for their child.

There is no doubt that these are challenging times. Although this is certainly not the first challenge we have faced over the past three years as a new school, it is undoubtedly the biggest. Every obstacle and challenge that we have tackled since MBE began has been overcome because we have tackled it together - home and school. We have built a culture of success and triumph here at our school and I know that we will meet this challenge with the same determination, care, and commitment that we always do. This won't be the easiest hill to climb, but I'm confident that *'We Got This'*.



Mr. Darcy Reynolds, Principal
Mary Bergeron Elementary

About COVID-19

What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 is an illness caused by a coronavirus. It is a new disease that has not been previously identified in humans. [Coronaviruses](#) are a large family of viruses. Some cause illness in people and others cause illness in animals. Human coronaviruses are common and are typically associated with mild illnesses, similar to the common cold. COVID-19 is a new disease caused by the coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) and was declared a global pandemic in March 2020. Coronaviruses are most commonly spread from an infected person through:

- respiratory droplets when you cough or sneeze.
- close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands.
- touching something with the virus on it, then touching your eyes, nose or mouth before washing your hands.

These viruses are not known to spread through ventilation systems or through water.

Symptoms

COVID-19 symptoms can be mild and are similar to influenza and other respiratory illnesses. According to information from the [Government of Alberta](#), most healthy people who are infected with the new, or novel, coronavirus will have a mild illness like a cold or flu. They may have a fever, cough, sore muscles or a sore throat. Some people may feel short of breath. Most people (about 80%) recover from this disease without needing special treatment. People who are much older or who already have health problems are more likely to get sicker with the novel coronavirus and may need to be hospitalized.

Alberta Health identifies the following [symptoms for COVID-19](#):

- Common symptoms: cough, fever (over 38°C), shortness of breath, runny nose or sore throat.
- Other symptoms can include: stuffy nose, painful swallowing, headache, chills, muscle or joint aches, feeling unwell in general, new fatigue or severe exhaustion, gastrointestinal symptoms (nausea, vomiting, diarrhea or unexplained loss of appetite), loss of sense of smell or taste, conjunctivitis (pink eye).
- Symptoms of serious illness: difficulty breathing or pneumonia.

If you have any of these symptoms, stay home and self-isolate to avoid spreading it to others. Alberta Health recommends calling Health Link at 811 for more information.

Evidence indicates that the virus can be transmitted to others from someone who is infected but not showing symptoms. This includes people who have not yet developed symptoms (pre-symptomatic) and those who will never develop symptoms (asymptomatic).

While experts know that these kinds of transmissions are happening among those in close contact or in close physical settings, it is not known to what extent. This means it is extremely important to follow the proven preventative measures.

Prevention

Novel coronavirus spreads the same way as other viruses that cause colds and cases of flu. When people cough or sneeze, tiny drops of liquid go into the air. If the person has the coronavirus, the virus can be in those droplets and make others sick. One way a person can get sick is by breathing in tiny drops that have the virus in them, that can happen while talking with or being close to someone who is sick. Another way is by someone touching something that tiny drops have landed on and then touching their mouth, nose or eyes. Sharing dishes and forks and spoons, water bottles and drink containers could also spread the virus from someone who is sick to someone who is not.

You can help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Prevention starts with awareness. The following practices will help reduce the spread of COVID-19:

- *Practice physical distancing*
- *Self-isolate when you're feeling sick*
- *Wash your hands frequently*
- *Cover coughs and sneezes*
- *Avoid touching your face*

Good Hygiene

Wash your hands really well and often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Soap and water are always the best. But, if soap and water are not available, you can use hand sanitizer. If your hands are dirty, or you have touched a surface that others have touched, wash your hands. Don't touch your eyes, nose or mouth until your hands are washed. Cough or sneeze into your elbow or a tissue, then wash your hands. Washing your hands, not touching your face, and staying home when you are sick are the best ways to help you and your family and friends stay healthy.

More Information

If there is anything you might be confused or worried about, do not be afraid to ask someone you trust. More information can be found online at alberta.ca/COVID19.

Quarantine and Isolation

CMOH Order 05-2020 has several legal requirements for quarantine and isolation (please see the table below).

| Quarantine | Isolation |
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| Required when people are not sick, but have been exposed to someone who has COVID-19. | Required when people are sick, to keep them from infecting others. |
| The quarantine period for COVID-19 is 14 days. This is because it can take up to 14 days for an individual to develop symptoms. | The isolation period for people who have symptoms (but not diagnosed with COVID-19) is 10 days or until symptoms resolve, whichever is longer. |

| In School Classes | |
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| Daily Health Check for Students and | Before leaving home, staff, children/students, visitors, and volunteers who will access the school for work or education, must self-screen for symptoms each day before they leave for school using the Alberta Health Daily Checklist . |
| Transportation | |
| Buses | <p>Children/students will not board the bus if they have symptoms of COVID-19. Be sure that the self-screening tool has been used each day prior to leaving for the bus.</p> <p>Bus Drivers will use a face shield when loading or unloading students from the bus.</p> <p>As much as practical, children/students start boarding from the back seats to the front of the bus.</p> <p>Students will be assigned seats and students who live in the same household will be seated together.</p> <p>As much as practical, students start disembarking from the front seats to the back of the bus.</p> <p>Drivers will increase the frequency of cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch surfaces, such as door handles, window areas, rails, steering wheel, mobile devices and GPS at the end of each morning and evening run.</p> <p>Each driver will keep a vehicle-cleaning log.</p> <p>All children/students must perform hand hygiene (hand sanitizer) when entering the bus. Hand sanitizer will be available.</p> <p>Each school bus will have posters promoting hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, physical distancing etc., posted in visible locations.</p> <p>No sharing of personal items (food, toys, water bottles, etc)</p> |
| Pick Up and Drop Off | Each school will develop procedures for student pick-up and drop-off that allow physical distancing of 2 metres between families (as much as possible), support respiratory etiquette and access to hand hygiene. |

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| | <p>Upon arrival, students will follow the same routine as in past years and will head directly to the playground area – with all physical distancing expectations in place. When the bell rings to enter the school the following procedure(s) will be followed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grades 4 and 5 students will put on their face masks and enter the building through their assigned entrance. (please ensure that their face masks are stored in their packbacks prior to leaving in the morning) • K-3 students will be encouraged to put on their masks prior to entering the school, but this will not be mandatory at this point in time. These grades will also proceed to their respective entrances and staff will monitor and support students with physical distancing procedures. <p>At the end of the day, non-bussing students will exit the building through the front foyer doors and meet with their parent(s) waiting outside or will walk to their home. Playing in the playground after school will not be an option.</p> <p>Bus students will leave the school through their designated wing exit doors and will head to the bus area of the playground. Physical distancing guidelines will apply – and be monitored – for students while they are waiting for the bus to arrive.</p> <p>Adults bringing students to school –or picking them up at the end of the day- will be asked to stay in their vehicle or outside the school, and to maintain a safe physical distance between themselves and others.</p> <p>Those who need to enter the school must book an appointment with the school office. Individuals without an appointment will not be able to enter the school. Appointments must be booked by telephone or through the school website. Appointments cannot be made by ringing the front door bell at the school.</p> |
| <h3>Entry Protocols</h3> | |
| <p>Stay at Home when Sick</p> | <p>Stay at home if exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 that are not related to a preexisting illness/health condition.</p> <p>If students are showing symptoms at school and need to be sent home, that will result in the student needing to stay at home for a minimum of 10 days (see isolation graphic on page 5) It is the school’s hope that parents will choose to keep the child home until symptoms are gone and then have them return to school. That will likely be a period of less than 10 days and will allow your child to get better and also ensure the health and safety of students and staff at the school.</p> |

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| <p>Hand Hygiene and Safe Practices</p> | <p>Everyone entering the classroom must perform hand hygiene. This will be either at a hand sanitizing station in each classroom, by washing their hands at the classroom sink, or both. Each teacher will establish a classroom routine for ensuring that students wash and sanitize frequently. This expectation will be the same for when students leave the classroom as well.</p> <p>An emphasis will be placed on hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette and physical distancing as much as possible while in classrooms. Teachers will support students in developing these habits so that they become ‘second nature’ here at school.</p> <p>Students and staff will wipe their own workspace such as desks, Chromebooks, etc. before and after using. Younger students may require help from the teacher or education assistant. We will also have a full time custodian in the school during the day who will be ensuring that high traffic areas and high use surfaces are kept clean and sanitized. In addition to the areas mentioned above, it will also include, musical instruments, P.E. equipment, face shields, all other equipment that our students and staff come in contact with.</p> |
| <p>Physical Distancing</p> | <p>Everyone in the school shall maintain 2 metres physical distancing whenever possible.</p> <p>Schools will use a variety of visual cues (posters and arrow/standing-dot floor markers) to help students maintain physical distancing within the school.</p> <p>Where physical distancing is not possible, extra emphasis on cohorting, hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, not participating when sick and cleaning and disinfecting on a regular basis before and after activities will be implemented.</p> |
| <p>Cohorts</p> | <p>Cohorting limits exposure to others and aids in contact tracing if needed.</p> <p>Each class will be considered a cohort and efforts to maintain physical distancing even within a cohort will minimize the risk for disease transmission.</p> <p>When interacting with people outside the cohort, maintain physical distancing of 2 metres.</p> |

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| | <p>Every effort will be made to limit the number of cohorts that each student is part of. For MBE this will mean that, until further notice, we will not continue with normal programming such as Reading Buddies, Kinder 8, M&Ms Assemblies, etc.</p> <p>M&Ms assemblies will still take place each Monday morning, but will happen virtually through each classroom’s Smartboard and classroom video camera.</p> |
| <p>Signage</p> | <p>Each school will have posters promoting hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, physical distancing etc., posted in visible locations.</p> <p>All school doors will have COVID-19 signs posted to indicate that anyone with symptoms cannot enter the school.</p> |
| <p>Engineered and Administrative Controls in Schools</p> | <p>School offices will be equipped with a Plexiglas divider to protect visitors and staff from potential exposures.</p> <p>Directional arrows will be posted in each school to support physical distancing.</p> <p>Schools may designate different entrances and exits for different classes of students.</p> <p>Schools may post occupancy limits for bathrooms, common areas and meeting rooms to allow physical distancing. All common washrooms at MBE will be limited to a capacity of 2 students at a time.</p> <p>All rugs/soft surfaces that cannot be cleaned and sanitized have been removed from classrooms.</p> <p>Microwaves will be removed from all classrooms. All classroom microwaves at MBE will be unplugged and not available for student use.</p> <p>Schools may remove unnecessary furniture from classrooms.</p> |

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| <p>High Touch Areas</p> | <p>There will be increased frequency of cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch areas in schools.</p> <p>Where required, extra custodial time has been added to accommodate this work. MBE will have a custodian in the building throughout the entire school day to focus on cleaning and disinfecting.</p> <p>The following high touch items will not be used in schools except as needed in Foods classes: refrigerators, microwaves, dishwashers and vending machines.</p> <p>There will be no use of school cutlery, cups, dishes, etc. except as needed in Foods classes.</p> <p>All food sales, including cafeterias, hot lunch programs, bake sales are cancelled.</p> <p>School Nutrition Programs are limited to pre-packaged food.</p> |
| <p>Visitors to School</p> | <p>No one should enter the school if they are ill. (Complete the self-assessment tool)</p> <p>Follow all instructions of AHS and the school.</p> <p>Only required visitors can attend the school.</p> <p>A record of all visitors will be kept at each school.</p> <p>The number of schools that substitute teachers will work in will be limited as much as possible. Substitute teachers will be required to follow the exact same school re-entry protocols and procedures required of all staff. Every effort will be made to use substitute teachers who are familiar with the school and its routines, procedures, and expectation.</p> |

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| <p>Masks</p> | <p>As directed by the Chief Medical Office, GYPSD will implement mandatory masks for students from Grade 4 - 12 and for all staff in settings where physical distancing cannot be maintained.</p> <p>As outlined in provincial guidelines, K–3 students who are physically, psychologically, or developmentally able to wear a mask will be encouraged to do so. Every effort will be made to support our K-3 students so that they do not see the mask-wearing option as a ‘scary’ thing, but rather as a cool / fun way to show caring and kindness to ourselves and others. We expect to see some unique, cool, and funny masks and bandanas worn by staff and students and this will help to lessen anxiety and promote a school culture of looking out for others.</p> <p>Individuals who are physically, psychologically, or developmentally unable to wear a mask, or protected under the Alberta Human Rights Act, may be excused from this protocol.</p> <p>Any person unable to wear a mask for the reasons stated above is required to provide a note from a medical professional.</p> <p>Care should be taken to ensure guidance on non-medical mask use is followed and masks are used correctly and safely.</p> <p>Practices such as physical distancing, cohorting, hand washing, staying home when sick and increased cleaning of surfaces continue to be the priority of public health measures.</p> <p>Every student at MBE will be provided with a face shield. This face shield will be labelled with their name and will remain in their classroom. These face shields can serve many purposes, but one of the main ones for our school will be as a tool to help our students learn to not touch their eyes, nose, or mouth. We believe that this can be an effective tool to meet that goal. It may also be a less ‘scary’ stepping stone for our K-3 students who might not be ready to try the mask route but might be willing to try the face shield or ‘MBE Space Helmet’ 😊</p> <p>All face shields will be wiped/disinfected after use and will remain with the student in their classroom. As a precaution, since we know it will take some time for kids to get used to not naturally starting to sing, cheer, chant, etc, we may ask our students to wear these face shields during music class.</p> |
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| <p>Expectations for Shared use of Items/Materials</p> | <p>Absolutely no sharing of personal items will be permitted (pencils, crayons, erasers, toys, water bottles, books).</p> <p>When school items/materials must be shared (Chromebooks, Manipulatives, CTS shop equipment, badminton racquets, etc.) it must be cleaned and disinfected after each use. All chromebooks, musical instruments, P.E. equipment, etc will be cleaned and disinfected after each use.</p> |
| <p>Personal Belongings</p> | <p>All students and staff are encouraged to use a backpack for all personal belongings.</p> <p>Lunches are to be stored with personal belongings (in a backpack). Please consider wide mouth thermos containers for hot food as microwaves are not available.</p> <p>It is recommended that students bring their own water bottle (labelled with their name) and fill water bottles rather than having them drink directly from the mouthpiece of a fountain.</p> |
| <p>Electronic Devices</p> | <p>Students are encouraged to - bring your own devices (BYOD). Students at MBE will not be required to bring any devices to school. Students will use the school’s Chromebooks for any activities that require the use of computers. These devices will be cleaned and disinfected by students after each use. Students will not be using Chromebooks during the month of September.</p> <p>Personal devices are to be stored with student personal belongings. Student will not be allowed to use cell phones during the school day. They are to be stored in their backpacks if they bring them to school and are allowed to be used only at dismissal time the end of the day.</p> <p>All other electronic toys and devices should be left at home or cleared with the teacher for things such as Show & Tell and classroom projects.</p> |

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| <p>Responding to Illness</p> | <p>If a student develops symptoms while at the school, the student will go to the office where admin staff will assume the supporting role. The student will be asked to wear a non-medical mask provided by the school if they are able to, and will wait in the office area meeting room. The parent/guardian will be notified to come and pick up the student immediately.</p> <p>The zone medical officer of health will work with school authorities to quickly identify cases, identify close contacts, create isolation measures when needed, and provide follow-up recommendations.</p> <p>A COVID-19 case may not automatically lead to school closure. It could be that only the group of students and staff who came in close contact will be required to quarantine for 14 days.</p> <p>Parents will be notified if a case of COVID-19 is confirmed at school and public health officials will contact those who were in close contact with the person.</p> <p>GYPSD will support students and staff to learn or work at home if they are required to self-isolate.</p> <p>Any school authority/school connected to a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19 will be contacted by AHS and may be required to close in-person classes to allow the public health investigation to take place. The decision to send a cohort/class home or to cancel classes will be made in consultation with the local Minister of Health.</p> |
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| Classes and Programming | |
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| Instruction | <p>In September, the initial focus for students, who return to physical classrooms, will be on their social/emotional needs and administering screening tools to identify gaps in learning.</p> <p>Kindergarten education in Alberta is not mandatory. Given that our early learning and Kindergarten programs are play-based and focused on socialization, a virtual program is not available. Kindergarten students will have the option for on-site learning or to join us in Grade 1. Kindergarten students will have an extended staggered start to their school year so that we can ease their transition anxiety and that of their parents. Full class instruction will not begin until the middle of the month. Parents will be contacted by the school to inform them of these details.</p> |
| Class Composition | <p>Class sizes will be similar to previous years as there is no additional funding to hire more teachers.</p> <p>Where 2 metres is not possible between desks, they will be separated by the greatest possible spacing in each classroom. MBE is a Cooperative Learning school and as such, classrooms are furnished with a combination of tables and desks. Tables will be clearly labelled dividing them into ‘personal space’ areas so as to maximize distance between students.</p> <p>Teachers will have and follow seating plans for all classes</p> |

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| | <p>In situations where physical distancing is not possible, extra emphasis on hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, not participating when sick and cleaning and disinfecting on a regular basis before and after activities will occur.</p> <p>Each class will be considered a cohort and interaction between cohorts will be minimized.</p> <p>Cohorts encourage individuals who cannot maintain 2 metre physical distancing (i.e. classes) to interact with the same people (their cohort) rather than switching daily contacts or randomly interacting with other people.</p> <p>Within each cohort (classroom), students will maintain the greatest physical distancing possible to minimize the risk for disease transmission (i.e., spacing between desks).</p> |
| <p>Student Movement</p> | <p>Where possible, teachers will move between classrooms and students will remain at their desks. Student cohorts will be moving between classrooms for the following classes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music • P.E. (gym) • Library <p>These three areas are considered as ‘classrooms’ and as such, will be subject to the same procedures and protocols as all other classrooms in the school. Students will have sanitized their hands as they leave their homeroom to go to these other areas/classrooms and will arrive ready to learn safely. Each of these areas will have their own hand sanitizing station so that students can do the same when they leave at the end of class and head back to their homerooms.</p> <p>All Music and PE equipment that was used will be cleaned/sanitized at the end of each class and all returned library books will be quarantined for a minimum of 48 hours and wiped prior to being put back into circulation.</p> <p>Hallway protocols are developed to ensure students remain a safe distance apart while moving throughout the building. Teachers will work with their students to teach them these protocols and to support them in carrying them out successfully.</p> <p>Teachers and staff will reinforce protocols posted in each school re: (promoting hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, physical distancing etc., posted in visible locations.)</p> |

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| <p>Cleaning Workspaces</p> | <p>Materials for staff and students to clean/sanitize their own workspace (desks, shared devices, etc.) will be available in the classroom.</p> <p>Students and staff will wipe their own workspace before and after using. If students remain at the same desk all day, this would be done at the beginning and end of the day.</p> |
| <p>Breaks</p> | <p>Snack, lunch, recess, and class change breaks will be staggered in each school to maintain physical distancing among children/students. MBE students will have staggered recessed (am / pm) as well as a staggered lunch. Your teacher will communicate with you and let you know the times that your child’s class has recess/lunch. These cohort groups will remain the same.</p> |
| <p>Using Playground Equipment</p> | <p>Playgrounds will not be open during school time until further notice. Students will be provided with equipment / items that they can play with during recess. All items will be returned at the end of recess to a central location outside the gym and cleaned prior to being used again.</p> <p>Students will wash / hand sanitize prior to leaving their classroom to head out for recess, and will do the same upon return to their classroom at the end of recess.</p> |
| <p>Physical Education</p> | <p>When possible, physical education will take place outside and will follow the Guidance for Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation.</p> <p>Teachers will choose activities or sports that support physical distancing (e.g. badminton over wrestling).</p> <p>All PE equipment used during a PE class will be cleaned prior to being used again.</p> <p>Locker rooms and change rooms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elementary and middle school students will not change for Physical Education classes. |
| <p>Music Instruction</p> | <p>No singing or playing wind instruments in elementary and middle school.</p> <p>All musical instruments used during class will be cleaned prior to being used again.</p> |
| <p>Option Courses</p> | <p>Where Alberta Health Services (AHS) recommendations and guidelines can be followed (i.e. cleaning, physical distancing, cohorting, etc.) these courses will continue to be available to students.</p> |

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| <p>Extracurricular Activities and Field Trips</p> | <p>Extracurricular activities, field trips requiring busing, and all overnight student excursions are postponed. This will be reviewed as the year progresses</p> <p>In town walking field trips may be approved if all AHS recommendations and guidelines can be followed. Parents will be notified in advance should this be the case.</p> |
| <p>Alternate Education Programming Options</p> | |
| <p>What is Virtual Education?</p> | <p>All virtual education will be parent led and supported by a certificated Grande Yellowhead and/or Alberta Distance Learning teacher.</p> <p>Virtual education is the online and/or print delivery of student programming by Grande Yellowhead and Alberta Distance Learning teacher to students who are at home. Unlike the remote learning implemented in the spring, all outcomes from each course will be taught in virtual education just as they are with in-school classes. It should be noted that virtual education might not mirror in-class instruction.</p> <p>Virtual Education in Grades 1 through Grade 12:</p> <p>Learning materials will be virtual; however, a print version may be requested.</p> <p>Print material will be distributed and deposited (on completion) from the local school.</p> <p>Teacher support is available during school hours online (email and Google Meet) or in person, through appointment only.</p> <p>Students registered for virtual education will require a laptop/Chromebook connected to the internet as well as a working camera/microphone.</p> |

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| <p>Student and Parent Responsibilities</p> | <p>Students and parents are expected to be engaged in both online and offline learning processes.</p> <p>Students are responsible to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit attendance daily • Engage both online and offline • Attend online sessions as scheduled • Ask the teacher questions as needed • Submit assignments and assessment according to schedules developed by their teacher <p>Parents and guardians are responsible to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure students have a device connected to the internet with a working camera and microphone to complete their coursework • Support students by ensuring they have the space, tools and time to complete coursework as assigned. • Encourage their child to connect with the teacher when they have questions • Connect with the teacher as needed to support their child's learning |
| <p>Does Virtual Education lead to a High School Diploma?</p> | <p>Yes, all required courses for a high school diploma completed through virtual education lead to an Alberta High School Diploma as distance education/learning at home are taught by a certificated teacher and follows the Alberta Education Programs of Study.</p> |
| <p>Can a Student Switch to In-school Classes?</p> | <p>If the virtual, learn-at-home option is not meeting your child's needs, re-entry to traditional learning can occur at any time during the school year.</p> <p>Parents will need to provide the principal with notice of their decision to return to traditional in-class learning so that teachers can prepare to welcome the child back to the classroom. The return to school date will be decided by the principal.</p> |
| <p>Electronic Devices</p> | <p>Each student enrolled in virtual education will require their own device (a Chromebook, laptop or computer) connected to the internet with a working camera/microphone in order to participate. Parents/guardians are responsible to ensure that their child has a device.</p> |

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| Non-core Courses | The decision to provide instruction in non-core courses will be made at the end of August and will be dependent on the number of students who are enrolled in distance education. |
| Provincial Testing | GYPSD will not be participating in optional provincial assessments (PATs) for the 2020/21 school year. |
| School Council Meetings | School council meetings for the 2020–2021 school year will proceed. These meetings must follow Alberta Health restrictions for social gatherings as well as the safety protocols and expectations outlined in both the provincial School Re-entry Plan and this COVID-19 Division Re-entry Strategy. Schools will support their school council members to determine if they will hold in-person meetings or online virtual meetings. |
| Support for Students and Staff | |
| Providing Mental Health Support | <p>Staff have access to professional learning on supporting the mental health of students through the Division Psychologist and Family School Liaison Counselor (FSLC).</p> <p>Information on accessing mental health resources for students, families and staff is posted on the Grande Yellowhead Mental Health & Wellness site and the GYPSD website.</p> |
| Supporting Students with Special Needs | <p>Returning to school can cause additional concern or anxiety for families of students with special needs. Families need to know we are taking steps to support them.</p> <p>This includes:</p> <p>Working with Alberta Health Services on COVID-19 safety protocols for some of the complex medical interventions and supports some students require, to keep both students and staff as safe as possible.</p> <p>Adding COVID-19-specific strategies as needed to student-support plans, such as Instructional Support Plans (ISPs), Medication Management Plans or Individual Student Behaviour Plans.</p> |

Declaration of Learning Experience

Parents/guardians have been asked to declare which learning experience is best for each of their children by noon on August 14, 2020 and in doing so, make a five-month (one semester) commitment until the end of January 2021. This will enable the School Division to deploy teachers, resources and student supports as needed for effective programming.

All Grande Yellowhead schools have been given guidelines to prepare for Scenario 1, and will make adjustments based on their unique school community and physical layout of each school.

Please note that this plan may be updated in response to changes directed by Alberta Education. Alberta Health and Alberta Education will determine any changes in the school re-entry scenario with information on local school-based and zone information. We will remain in communication with the Alberta government and will continue to follow its advice.

Government of Alberta Guidance for School Re-entry - Scenario 1

[COVID-19 information: Guidance for School Re-entry - Scenario 1](#)

References:

[Alberta K to 12 School Re-entry Website](#) [Alberta Health Daily Checklist.](#)

[Screening Questionnaire](#)

[Guidance for Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation](#)

[Guidance for Playgrounds \(updated June 18, 2020\)](#)

[Elementary - Returning to School Safely Video](#)

[Junior and High School - Returning to School Safely Video](#)