



BORDEN SCHOOL

Achieving Success Together

P.O. Box 40 Borden, SK S0K 0N0
306 997-2090 www.spiritsd.ca/bordenschool

Dear Borden School Families,

I am so pleased to be reaching out to you all again today. I hope that the summer has been healthy, safe, and that you and your families have all had opportunities to experience joy and relaxation! There is plenty to share today and in the coming days as well!

As the start of the school year is rapidly approaching, I completely understand that families are seeking as much information as can be provided. I am working on providing as much as I can while being as transparent as possible with Borden School families. At the same time, your continued grace and patience is truly appreciated as the Borden School staff plans for a school year unlike any other in our lifetime.

Before getting into the specific updates in this letter, I want to share my plan for the weeks of August 24-28 and August 31-September 4. During these weeks, various protocols, procedures, and plans will be uploaded onto our school website. The documents uploaded will have detailed plans for a wide variety of school functions, transitions, expectations, and general conduct. When new documents are uploaded, an email and social media posts (Facebook and Twitter) will let families know that new uploads are posted. The documents that are posted are organic documents that will grow and evolve as our experience and circumstances change.

The Borden School staff is working diligently to prepare and envision various school processes, functions, and transitions and our intentions are to provide the best possible experiences for our Borden Bruin students. Having said that, once students are in the building, adjustments and corrections will surely be required. When protocols, procedures, or plans are changed or adjusted, families will receive an email and a Borden School Facebook update that adjustments have been made as well as a brief explanation of why the adjustment was made/required. Once again, your patience and understanding as we navigate through many of these processes for the first time will be truly appreciated.

In this letter, I will share information regarding the following topics:
Learning Options for Families, Request - Update Contact and Medical Information, Lockers, Cohort Classrooms, Transportation, Soft Start, and Water Bottles.

Learning Options for families

In this update, I would like to expand on the broad learning options available to families that were first outlined in the August #2 Update. I'd also like to be direct and say that we want to work with your children and alongside our Borden School families to make this year a successful and happy one for all Borden Bruins. Here is a refresher and update on the 3 broad options for families to choose between.

A) In-person Learning:

The traditional school delivery where students are taught in the school by teachers and educational staff. This option is the preferred method of delivery for families who can safely and reasonably do so. When only considering learning and teaching (in a pre-COVID world), this is the best model for students to thrive in.

B) Blended Learning:

Blended Learning allows for students to learn at school or at home and permits flexibility to move between learning at school and learning at home. Families who choose this option will be paired with a Borden School teacher who will deliver instruction and content to students learning from home. One of the best parts of Blended Learning is the flexibility it provides for families and students. As circumstances change, families will be able to transition between In-person Learning and Blended Learning with minimal challenge.

In order for Blended Learning to be successful, flexibility and coordination between home-learners and their teachers will be critical. Technological support (training/coaching and lending mobile devices from the school) is available for families that are interested in pursuing this option for learning.

All teachers at Borden School will be developing Blended Learning plans to be communicated to families with specific details for their class(es). This communication will be delivered on Thursday, September 3rd.

In the meantime, all Borden School families should anticipate a connection from a Borden School teacher in the next several days to confirm or discuss the learning option plans that best suit your family.

C) Spirit eLearning:

For families who are not comfortable with either In-person or Blended Learning plans, there will also be Spirit eLearning. This is an exclusively online delivery of instruction and assessment that is available to students from Grades 1-12 at no cost. The course offerings are still being determined, but there will be plans to support learners from Grades 1-12. Instruction would be delivered by teachers within the Prairie Spirit School Division, but online classes could be composed of students from all across the division/province. Students who choose this path are committing to at least 1

semester (until February, 2021). If this interests you and your family, please reach out to me to discuss further.

D) **Homeschooling:**

Homeschooling is the final option. Planning and delivery for homeschooling learning programs are 100% family led. Parents are required to submit a learning plan. Homeschooling learning courses in Grade 10-12 do **not** meet the criteria for Grade 12 graduation. If this option interests you, please reach out to me and I will help coordinate your contact with our Division Personnel responsible for homeschool learning.

Update Contact and Medical Information

We are asking families to update their family medical information as well as contact information by September 2nd. The options for updating this information are:

- A) PowerSchool – Parent Entrance (for students in Grades 7-12) located at <https://prairiespirit.powerschool.com/public/>
- B) Phone the school – (306)997-2090
- C) Email either angelena.lukan@spiritsd.ca or brody.morris@spiritsd.ca

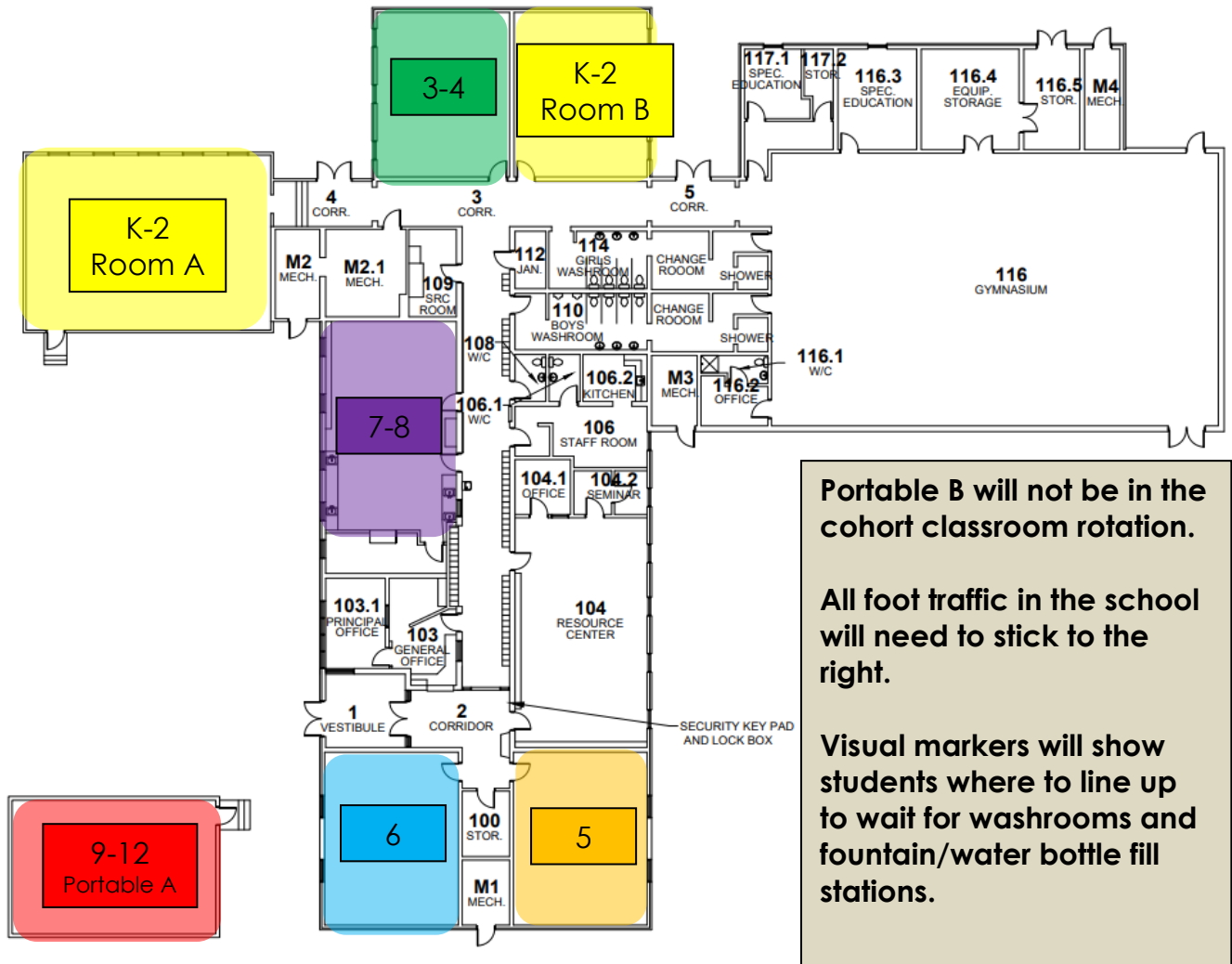
Having all student information current and accurate is very important for situations where students begin to show signs or symptoms at school and need to be cared for and picked up. Having reliable alternate contacts listed if parent(s) are unavailable is also very important. Your timely support in this regard is appreciated.

Lockers

This update is a reversal from what was communicated in the August Update #1. Lockers will **not be available** for the first 6 weeks of the school year. In this time, we ask that all students (Grade K-12) keep their personal belongings and indoor footwear in their cohort classroom. Space and accommodations will be made for students' essential belongings/materials in their cohort classrooms. The reason for this adjustment is centered around congestion and student traffic in the hallways. This issue will be examined and monitored closely. Adjustments to the Locker plan will be modified and communicated by mid-October as inclement weather becomes more common.

Cohort Classrooms

Below is a map of the school with colour coded classrooms for each cohort. Please review this with your child(ren) before the first day of school so that they know where to go. Supervisors and staff members will be present and able to help direct students as well. This will help minimize confusion and congestion in the halls and entrance. And as a reminder, students will remain in their classroom and teachers will move between classes.



Portable B will not be in the cohort classroom rotation.

All foot traffic in the school will need to stick to the right.

Visual markers will show students where to line up to wait for washrooms and fountain/water bottle fill stations.

Transportation

The same protocols and procedures for safe bus riding from years gone by will still apply (stay seated, remain calm and quiet, and cooperate with the bus driver respectfully). There will be additional expectations outlined below.

Families who are able to transport their child(ren) to and from school are asked to do so. Families being familiar with the **school arrival** and **dismissal procedures** will be very important (these will be posted on the school website before school start).

For families who will be able to transport their children sometimes, but not always, effective communication will be critical. In order for your family bus driver to adapt and respond to requests, it is important that communication with them be clear and direct. Also, using a confirmation email or text (bus drivers' preference) is preferable.

It has also been announced that all students riding a bus in the Prairie Spirit School Division will be required to wear a mask. Seating plans will also be crafted for all bus

trips. Seating plans will be built around family units and minimizing student contact during bus entry and exit.

Another change that will be new for seasoned bus riders will be the bus loading and unloading processes. Loading buses during the AM route to school will be a matter of entering and moving to the assigned seat (provided by the bus driver). Loading buses during the PM school dismissal will involve getting lined up in sequential order from rear-most to front-most passengers and waiting in single file while maintaining physical distancing. Unloading the bus will happen in stages from the front-most seats going sequentially to the rear-most seats. Students will need to remain seated until their bus driver informs them that it is time to exit. Communicating the new expectations to your children before their first bus ride would be a huge help for our drivers, our school, and your children.

Based on the request in this section, I am anticipating a higher number of families picking-up and dropping-off their children. When this happens during a bus loading or unloading, please remember that *ALL THROUGH TRAFFIC IN BOTH DIRECTIONS IS STOPPED* when the bus stop signs are deployed.

Soft Start

Delivered along with this letter is an update from Prairie Spirit School Division. We will be communicating plans for soft start student groupings for Grade 1-12 by the end of this week.

Water Bottles

Borden School is very fortunate to be supported by many volunteers, community members, families, organizations and businesses! Borden School was contacted by Brittany Kletzel, and she has donated a large quantity of reusable water bottles to Borden School.

These donated water bottles will be available for students and families at Borden School. Thank you so much, Brittany, for your generous support of Borden School and all our Bruins!

Closing

I thank you for taking the time to read this letter. The whole staff at Borden School is dedicated to making the school the safest it can possibly be, and we are grateful for your support. There will be more letters and more information coming in the following weeks.

I have had several families reach out with questions over the last days and weeks. I have really enjoyed and appreciated the dialogue from these connections. If you have questions that have arisen from this letter, other things you have read or heard, or just have general questions about the school year, please reach out to me. I can

be reached by email at brody.morris@spiritsd.ca, a phone call to the school at (306) 997-2090, or you can call or text my cell phone which is (306) 371-2888. Your gracious support and kindness are always appreciated!

Brody Morris – Borden School Principal