



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. The return to school is fast approaching. The whole staff is so excited to return to learning alongside your child(ren)!

Last week, emails were sent indicating the 2 attendance days for your family during the soft start. If that email did not reach you, please let us know at the school.

Most of the information in this letter has also been posted in our [Borden Safe School Plan](#) which is on our school website.

In this letter, I will share information regarding the following topics:
Mealtime, Blended Learning, Attendance, Wipes, Locker/Change Rooms, Mask Maintenance, and Emotional Support for School Return

Mealtime:

Mealtimes at Borden School will look different this year, and it is important that families and students are aware of the changes. The first change this year is that students who are able to safely return home for their mealtime are asked to do so. It is also important for all families to be aware that there will be no canteen and no microwaves available for students' use. Another change will be the insistence that food, snack, and drink items are not shared amongst classmates.

The bell schedule over the mealtime will also be adjusted slightly. The bells will ring at: 12:22, 12:44, and 1:05. This bell schedule allows us to stagger our recess/break time for elementary and high school cohorts to reduce and minimize exposure and crossover between cohorts.

Lastly, it was stated in the [Borden Safe School Plan](#) that Grade 7-12 would have access to the gym over the meal break. This will still be an option, but not every day as it was stated in the [Borden Safe School Plan](#). I apologize for this adjustment – the shifting procedures have made safe supervision of the gym less frequent than initially anticipated.

Blended Learning:

As we near the return to school, more clarity on the blended learning expectations is forming. The first piece of information that is important to share is that blended learning is a temporary option for families unless there is a medical reason that makes learning from home the safest/only option for a student. That means that families choosing the blended learning option will need to have a plan and timeline for resuming in-person learning unless there is a verified medical reason for continued learning from home. [AP 617](#) outlines the parameters and responsibilities for blended learning.

As a school, we are predicting higher than typical absenteeism due to illness. To prepare for that possibility, Borden School staff will be maintaining their learning and instruction for blended learners. It is important that all families (even those choosing to start the year in-person learning) be familiar with Google Classroom and accessing blended learning content. All our teachers will be using Google Classroom as their primary platform for blended learning. Also, all students will need to use their prairie spirit email to access and participate in the Google Classroom work.

During the soft start week, students will be shown how to access Google Classroom using their prairie spirit email address. If you would like to learn more about how to access or use Google Classroom, please contact the school. If you are unsure of your child(ren)'s prairie spirit email address, please let us know and we will give it to you.

Attendance:

Many parents have asked about attendance expectations due to illness. [AP 432](#) has recently been updated with a flowchart that outlines the process clearly for all. The flow chart is at the bottom of the link. Families understanding and supporting this procedure will be greatly appreciated.

At this time, the option for students in Grade 7-12 to leave the school during breaks is still available. Completing an up-to-date Permission to Leave Form is still required. That form has been attached with this letter.

Wipes:

At this time, families are not to send wipes of any kind to school. Borden School has already received a delivery of wipes and various disinfectant sprays/products. Staff have been given training on how to utilize these products safely. The wipes that are to be used in our school are already here. Students will have access to these wipes.

The reason we do not want wipes from home is that mixing products is not an advised practice. By relying on the supplies and products already at Borden School, the possibility of inadvertently causing a reaction between products is removed – we know that the products in our school work together safely, so those are the only products we will rely on.

Locker/Change Rooms:

For at least the first several weeks, locker/change rooms will be closed and off limits. The primary reason for this is the limited space for physical distancing. There are additional health concerns that prevents alternate spaces from being viable options as well.

Break and Lunch times may be utilized by Grade 7-12 students to prepare for and recover from Phys. Ed class.

Mask Maintenance:

Many Borden School students will be wearing masks for portions of their day. Maintaining masks during a school day and also from day-to-day will be an important process for families. The third page in the ministry [Safe School Plan](#) lays out some simple guidelines for maintaining masks. The whole document is full of great information as well. The document linked above was also sent out on Thursday of last week.

The [Johns Hopkins website](#) also lays out some great tips and practices for mask maintenance.

Emotional Support for School Return:

Returning to school is going to be a unique and challenging experience for all students (in-person and learning from home). Many things will be new, many things will be different, and it has been a very long time since we were all learning together in a formal way. Strong emotional responses to returning to school are natural.

The Borden School staff are here to support our Bruin students and their families. Please encourage your child(ren) to reach out to a staff member when they feel they need additional support. We also hope that parents will contact the school if their child(ren) express concerns about school while at home.

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.

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