



BORDEN SCHOOL

Achieving Success Together

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Dear Borden School Families,

I am so happy to be welcoming everyone back to another exciting year at Borden School! I hope that everyone has enjoyed a safe, healthy, and fun-filled summer with your family, friends, and loved ones. I speak on behalf of the whole school staff when I say we cannot wait to get back to the work of learning and growing alongside you and your children.

In this update I will share information on the following topics: FAQ & Chart of Changes, Portal Access, Borden School Handbook Updates, and PAA at W.W. Brown.

FAQ and Chart of Changes:

Borden School staff have compiled a list of frequently asked questions over the last years and then provided responses to those questions. The FAQ document can be viewed here: [FAQ](#).

Last year, there was a large School Safe Plan document shared before the start of the school. This year, I am sharing a smaller Chart of Changes to COVID restrictions for the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year. The Chart of Changes is subject to change on short notice and is based off what we know currently. The Chart of Changes document can be found here: [Chart of Changes](#).

I would also strongly encourage folks to read the letter sent by the Prairie Spirit School Division on Monday, August 23rd. That letter can be found here: [PSSD's Letter to Families - August 23, 2021](#).

Portal Access:

The Borden School staff are on a constant journey of evolving and improving practice. One area that has received focus lately has been the concept of *evidence collection* in place of *task completion*.

As a school, we have decided that the PowerSchool Parent Portal will be closed except for pre-determined periods of time throughout the year. In the past, parents of students in Grade 7-12 always had access. With teachers focusing on evidence collection and employing their professional judgment, gradebooks are becoming more organic – which means that things can change or alter as more evidence is collected and collated. To prevent confusion or misleading parents, we are choosing to close the portal except during pre-determined times when they will be accurate and up to date for that point in the year.

The goal is to provide a window of time near the midpoint of each quarter and immediately following each quarter.

Quarter 1 will have the following windows where PowerSchool Parent Portal will be visible: October 18-October 22 and November 15-November 19.

If you have any trouble signing up or accessing the PowerSchool Parent Portal during the open windows, please contact the school so we can help out.

Borden School Handbook:

The Borden School staff is currently updating the Borden School Handbook. There will be big changes to the Dress Code section and smaller adjustments to bring the handbook up to date.

The Honour Roll and Awards sections of the handbook are going to be intentionally omitted for now. Borden School is going to begin working to re-brand and shift the focus of awards and the definition of honour roll. That work will commence early in the school year, and families will be kept updated as that process unfolds.

We appreciate your understanding as this document is updated and finalized.

PAA at W.W. Brown School

Students in Grades 7-12 will be bused to Langham to receive their PAA (mostly Home Ec. and Industrial Arts) class time again this year after missing last year. Grade 7-8 students will attend afternoons in Quarter #1, Grade 9 will attend afternoons in Quarter #2, and students in Grade 10-12 who have signed up for PAA courses in Langham will attend afternoons in Quarter #3-4.

It is important to note that while Borden School students are in W. W. Brown School, they are required to follow the rules, expectations, and guidelines of W. W. Brown School (even when they don't align with Borden School). The W. W. Brown handbook is currently being updated also; we will share the W. W. Brown dress code once it becomes available.

Conclusion:

I thank you for taking the time to read this letter. If you have questions or would like to speak about anything at Borden School, 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