

Hello DCS Students and Families

We are excited to have students return to us this fall, and we look forward to teaching your child at DCS. Our staff continues to work hard to ensure that we have a safe start to the 2020/2021 school year.

Our DCS Safe School Plan will be available for you to view on our website today. The document will outline the following information:

- Protocols to ensure safety, reduce contact and support students and staff
- Efforts to reduce contact such as:
  - grade 7, 8 and 9 cohorts and,
  - grade 10-12 block timetable schedules
  - organization of daily student transitions
- Lunch and break protocols
- Transportation information
- Review of the 2020/2021 PSSD learning options
- Mask requirements

There is a lot of information in this document. If you have any specific information, or would like some clarity, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Information related to student schedules will be shared before September 4<sup>th</sup>. This will include:

- Block Scheduling for 10-12 student courses
- Staggered lunches for our 7-9 and 10-12 students
- Information related to cohort specific bathrooms
- Student entry and exit format
- We will also have more information related to bussing as it relates to entering and exiting the school

### **Masks:**

In order to meet the Chief Medical Health Officer's in-school mask use recommendation, **staff and students will be required to wear masks on buses, in hallways and in classrooms unless otherwise indicated.** We know wearing masks can be hard, but doing so will allow learning environments more flexibility. The guidelines for not wearing a mask require forward-facing physical distancing of 2 meters.

Masks will be made available for students who do not have one. Please ensure students are aware of this guideline and let us know if you have any questions.

### **Return to school soft start plan for the week of September 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>**

Please note Prairie Spirit has made a change to our return to school plans. With the approval of the Ministry of Education and our local Medical Health Officer, Prairie Spirit schools will be implementing a "soft start" for the week of September 8 - 11.

Our schools will be dividing their student population into two cohorts or groups:

- The first cohort will attend school on Tuesday, September 8 and Thursday, September 10.
- The second cohort will attend on Wednesday, September 9 and Friday, September 11.

Starting with smaller groups of students will give our students and staff the opportunity to:

- practice new routines in classrooms, hallways, playgrounds and buses
- establish patterns of movement within the school
- provide opportunities to acknowledge and support a variety of emotions

We will be sending information related to these cohort groups by the end of Friday, August 28<sup>th</sup>.

Additional information:

- Families will be **required** to update all contact information before Friday, September 4<sup>th</sup>. Inclusive of emergency contacts.
- Please contact Diane if you would like support creating a parent PowerSchool account.
- Student fees will not occur this year.
- School pictures have been postponed. We will keep you posted on rescheduled dates

We are so excited to see all of you again!

DCS Staff