



SOUTH CORMAN PARK SCHOOL

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Dear SCP families,

The province and our school division have released plans for return to school on Sept. 1. You can keep up-to-date on return to school plans on Prairie Spirit's website: <https://www.spiritsd.ca/>

Just like every September, our staff are excited to get back into our building and see the smiling, eager faces of our students! While this year may have a host of unique challenges, we remain the same positive, creative, caring, hard-working and wonderful school community. We feel fortunate to be a small school, with amazing students and staff, and such supportive families.

We are going to be taking a "baby steps" approach to our school plan, recognizing that changes can happen quickly, and our plans need to be focused on the most current information, while keeping an eye on preparing for the near future. Plans will dovetail with division and provincial plans, while considering our local context. Our first hurdle will be September, which will include developing, organizing and practicing systems that support student safety, socialization, as well as a celebration to be back in school!

Here is a glimpse of how we anticipate our school day proceeding for the month of **September**:

Student arrival:

- ❖ Students will arrive by bus or by parent drop off between 8:45 and 8:55.
- ❖ To keep students safe, we will have clear zones for bus, parent vehicle, and student pedestrian traffic; if you are dropping children off, please enter and exit by the south parking lot near the log cabin. The area in front of the school is reserved for buses and the walkways north of the school will be used by student pedestrians as well as staff parking. We will closely monitor the situation, and rearrange as necessary.
- ❖ Student entrances have changed for the fall—*Kindergartens* will enter through the *side kindergarten door*, *grade 1s and 3/4s* will enter through the *west door*, *grade 2s* will enter through the *south door*, and *grade 4/5 and 6* students will enter through the *front*.
- ❖ To avoid congestion in the boot rooms/entrances, students will not change their outdoor shoes until weather requires it, and then will keep their boots in their locker.
- ❖ On the first day, students will go directly to their classrooms for a welcome and to review new procedures.
- ❖ School guests will be very limited at this time. Classroom newsletters, email communication, planners, and Freshgrade will be important communication tools to ensure continued parent involvement. Meet the Teacher Night will occur through the online meeting platform *Teams* to give additional and specific classroom information.

Classrooms and Instructional Time:

- ❖ Every effort will be made to organize students in cohorts and use their own classroom learning space. We will delay the start of literacy groups, care partners, etc. until we have more information about inter-class groupings.
- ❖ Classrooms and the library space will be trimmed down, with extra furniture moved to the art room, which will not be used as a shared space until we have more information about using shared spaces safely.
- ❖ Students will have assigned classroom seating, with front facing seating as much as possible.
- ❖ School supplies will not be shared.
- ❖ Regular hand-washing, hand sanitizing, and/or a space wipe down will be scheduled about every 30 minutes throughout the day.
- ❖ We will be putting a plan in place to limit cross contamination and increase sanitation in the bathroom.
- ❖ Most of our classes are reasonably small (15-20 students), but in the event of a cohort larger than 20, we will use additional break-out spaces to allow for increased physical distancing of students.
- ❖ We are excited to welcome 2 interns to our school this fall as well.
- ❖ Where possible, phys ed equipment will be numbered and assigned to students individually.
- ❖ Our students are already in the habit of hand sanitizing on entrance and exit from the computer lab, but wipe-down of keyboards and computer mice will also occur in between classes.
- ❖ We will use outdoor spaces as much as possible, while the weather permits us to do so.
- ❖ Every classroom has a sink and at least one window.

Lunch and Recess:

- ❖ Students will have a staggered dismissal and entrance for recess, with alternating lockers to assist students with distancing. Locker usage will be limited as much as possible to reduce hallway congestion.
- ❖ No-contact and equipment-free activities will be encouraged at recess
- ❖ Please ensure your child is independent with their shoes, jacket, and other outer-wear to reduce the amount an adult or other child will need to be in their personal space.
- ❖ Students are encouraged to bring a washable tea towel to use as a placemat for their lunch.
- ❖ Students are encouraged to bring a water bottle and take it home each day to be washed.
- ❖ Please pack lunches with items that can be opened independently by your child to reduce the amount a teacher or other student will be touching your child's food items.

Dismissal:

- ❖ To reduce time spent in proximity on buses, bus students will be dismissed first, with classes being dismissed in a staggered fashion
- ❖ Dismissal of students transported by parents will follow, with pick-up being at the south parking lot (by the log cabin). Students will wait in their family groupings on the tarmac south of the school
- ❖ Before and After School Program—students will be picked up from their classrooms
- ❖ Please make sure your child knows after-school plans. Some parents use a visual strategy to remind them (like a note in the child's lunchkit, or a bus tag on their backpack), as well as a note in the planner

Masks:

- ❖ At this time, we are encouraging mask usage. We do not anticipate they will be needed in all situations, but we hope that we can help keep our school healthier by using masks at appropriate times throughout the day. We also hope that increased hygiene practices will help our students engage in more “normal” school activities throughout the day.

If your child is sick:

- ❖ Please monitor your child and keep them home when sick
- ❖ I know this is easier said than done, with parents’ work schedules, and symptoms either coming on quickly, or being difficult to discern! But here are a few things that could help:
 - wherever possible, err on the side of caution in keeping your child home if illness is suspected
 - make a few back- up plans for dealing with sick children
 - keep in regular communication with your child’s teacher
- ❖ If your child is exhibiting concerning symptoms, we will move them to a quiet spot and contact you to create a plan
- ❖ Our staff members will be experiencing similar realities in terms of keeping our building healthy, so may require a substitute teacher periodically. Because of our warm, welcoming, helpful and respectful students, we have always been fortunate to have a regular cohort of substitute teachers, most of whom work exclusively at South Corman Park School. This will serve us well, as our guest staff know our students, staff, routines, expectations, and our school building well. A new person in the classroom may trigger more frequent hygiene practices to keep everyone safe.

We still have many questions, as I’m sure you do as well. We will do our best to continue to advocate for education and safety for our school community, as well as for continued answers to questions. This information is to give you a glimpse of what your child’s day will look like as school starts in September. However, we will be providing more information later in August, as well as updates in early September. Please check the school webpage and division webpage for updates as well.

Sincerely,

K. Tucker

Principal

South Corman Park School