



STONY MOUNTAIN SCHOOL

Mrs. D. Fenske Principal

General Delivery, Stony Mountain, Manitoba R0C 3A0

Phone: (204) 344-5459 Fax: (204) 344-5048

www.isd21.mb.ca/sm



“Preparing Today's Learner for Tomorrow”

September 1st, 2021

Dear parents and guardians of Stony Mountain School,

Welcome back! Welcome to our newest members of the community! We are pleased to have accepted numerous new students over this summer. Fall is fast approaching and with it brings a few changes to school start up. Staff are excited to see those familiar faces and meet the new ones, and celebrate the fact that we are teaching our classes in our classrooms, not between two or in the gym. Please know that every attempt will be made to honour the concerns of our students, staff, and community, and to help them feel safe and keep them safe. Having said this, we acknowledge that flexibility, kindness and understanding is required by all stakeholders and we appreciate every effort.

The first day of school is September 9th for grades 1-8, and September 13th for odd day Kindergarten and 15th for even day kindergarten.

With current conditions in mind, we will again suspend our open house this September, and students will arrive on September 9th, with kindergarten beginning with their assigned appointment times and dates. Upon that first morning, please direct your child to the appropriate cohort entrance as follows:

kindergarten- gym entrance north side,
1/2 students – south side across from the swings/equipment,
3/4 students - east end by the gym on the south side,
5/6 students – courtyard garden doors,
and 7/8 students – west end south side.

The first day of school *is, and should be*, celebrated. If you are escorting your child to school, we ask that you sneak your hugs, kisses, and good byes outside the school and congratulate your child for entering the school on their own. Bus students and town students will exit through the same cohort doors at day's end. Bus students will not be permitted to leave school grounds during nutrition breaks. For late arrivals or early pick ups, please consult the attached reopening plan.

Attached you will find our re-opening plan. I hope it answers any questions and offers the guidance you may have been seeking. Should you have further questions, please do not hesitate to call me at the school or send me an email, or visit the divisional website regularly at www.interlakesd.ca for updates. Please ensure the contact information, (email and phone number) we have on file is correct. Thank you to our students, staff, parents, and community for the continued strength and support. It is our hope that we lift one another up in exercising kindness and compassion during this navigation.

Kind regards,
Dawn Fenske

Home of the



1. Student Learning Preparedness: *How will the school...*

a. *Cohort students/classes/grades?*

Our student body will consist of four cohorts: kindergarten – grade 2, grade 3/4, grade 5/6, grade 7/8, requiring learning activities to exist within these groups. Students will experience all indoor activities in the school within their cohort spaces to the best of our ability. Teachers will come to the classroom when able, to minimize travel within the building and arrangements are in place to continue to make resource and other learning specific environments available while respecting cohorts.

b. *Determine course offerings and timetables?*

The use of wind instruments in music classes, to include singing indoors, is now permitted with the use of a mask. However, option courses such as band, drama, visual arts, and outdoor living, will continue to be suspended until further notice to align with cohort protocol. Additional support to students in grade 5-8 for recovery learning, with an emphasis on numeracy and literacy will be scheduled during this time as was implemented last year.

c. *Address recovery learning and transition planning needs?*

Recovery learning and transition planning needs will be addressed in collaboration of the classroom teacher, early literacy support teacher, and resource teacher. Additional support of students in grades 5-8 for recovery learning will be addressed during the previously scheduled option courses.

d. *Coordinate schedules, breaks, recesses, etc.?*

Nutrition breaks will continue as previously exercised with k-2 and 5/6 eating in their classroom during the first half of the break and going outside during the second half of the break, with the grade 3/4 and 7/8 students working on the opposite schedule. All students will be required to go outside during their assigned time and encouraged to practice physical distancing to the greatest extent possible, while partaking in mask-free time outdoors. We recognize that strict physical distancing at all times, particularly with young children, is not practical in the school setting. Staff will do their best to adhere to these guidelines while using a safe and caring approach with students. If your child has been screened at home as healthy to attend school, the expectation is that they will participate in the outdoor portion of nutrition break.

e. *Plan for extracurricular programs and activities?*

Extracurricular programs and activities may be offered by teacher volunteers, however, staff offering programs will be mindful of cohort groupings. The availability and participation of house and divisional league games will be determined at a later date.

2. Building Operations Preparedness: *How will the school...*

a. *Plan for increased cleaning, sanitization, and hand hygiene?*

Increased frequency of cleaning, disinfecting and sanitizing, particularly high-touch surfaces and common/shared areas will continue. Students and staff will be required to practice frequent handwashing at the beginning and end of the school day, after a visit to the washroom, after getting hands dirty, after wiping noses or handling dirty tissues, after coughing/sneezing/blowing nose, and after cleaning tasks, before and after nutrition breaks, and other activities that may include handling of equipment outside of their classroom. Cleaning and hand sanitization supplies will be provided by the school and hand sanitization supplies will be at every entrance.

b. *Address physical distancing needs in entrances, hallways, classrooms, and shared spaces?*

Each cohort will have an assigned entrance/exit to access or leave the building. Staff will supervise and stagger entry at each cohort entrance to encourage physical distancing and required sanitization.

Travel within the school will be limited as much as possible throughout the school day and enhanced cleaning/disinfection of common areas will be a priority of custodial staff. Students will keep personal belongings with them and locker use will be discontinued until further notice. Students will use cohort assigned hooks and shoe racks as provided.

Directional signage in hallways will be posted and required to follow should students need to access common spaces such as library, gymnasium, and science lab.

While in the school, masks will be required for staff and students, and students will remain in their cohort to reduce exposure to others, and encourage physical distancing to the greatest extent possible between students

when seated. Parents are kindly asked to supply masks, however there are a limited number of masks provided by the school if needed.

c. *Remove or reduce the use of learning materials that cannot be sanitized?*

During this time certain equipment or materials that have been previously used to enhance learning may be removed from the classroom to either make space to encourage physical distancing or removed due to sanitization challenges.

d. *Operationalize the schedule and protocol for student drop-offs and pick-ups?*

Bus students will arrive at school courtesy of the school division. However, parents of bus students may transport their children should they choose, while adhering to school procedures. Each cohort will have an assigned entrance/exit to access or leave the building. In the event that your child arrives late during school hours or you need to pick your child up for an appointment, please notify the office of your arrival preferably by phone call. We will ask you to proceed to your child's cohort door where someone will meet you. Parents picking up children from kindergarten are welcome to park at the most easterly end of the parking lot for best traffic safety practices. All other cohort entrances/exits are south-facing, and the back-parking lot offers the best traffic safety practices for those students. Please remember that once school busses are in the parking lot, no traffic is allowed through. To maintain the requirements of the province, students will not be entering nor exiting through the front door.

e. *Communicate and enact protocols for students and staff exhibiting symptoms at school?*

Should a student become ill or exhibit symptoms at school, the parent or guardian will be notified and required to arrange for a pick up within the hour. Please be sure to have previous arrangements made should you require someone other than yourself to pick up your child.

Should a staff member become ill or exhibit symptoms at school, they will immediately isolate themselves and go home to monitor symptoms. Staff are advised to contact Health Links-Info Sante (204-788-8200 or 1-888-315-9257) for direction.

3. Student & Family Preparedness: *How will the school...*

a. *Communicate expectations for attendance and participation?*

All students will be expected to attend and participate in classroom learning and outdoor activities. It is the responsibility of each staff member and parent to self-screen, (or screen their child), before coming to school. If experiencing symptoms, or feeling unwell, please see COVID-19 Shared Health Screening Tool at:

<https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid/screening-tool>

Should you keep your child home due to illness or otherwise, please notify the school.

b. *Share information about the importance of hand hygiene, symptom monitoring, and other public health measures?*

Signage throughout the school as well as classroom discussions to promote and encourage the importance of hand hygiene, symptom monitoring, and to encourage physical distancing will be shared with the students. Information from our school, school division, and links to Manitoba health will be updated on ISD websites.

c. *Plan for parent/guardian/volunteer visits to the school?*

Parents, visitors, volunteers, and guests are required to self-screen and adhere to the public health recommendations and hygiene practices in place for our students and staff, which include wearing a mask. At this time, Open House will be suspended.

d. *Provide access to mental health and well-being supports?*

Our students and parents are welcome to seek support through either myself, dfenske@isd21.mb.ca, or our guidance teacher, Dawn Bartholomew by either email, dbartholomew@isd21.mb.ca, or calling 204-344-5459, and should you need further support, we can guide you to divisional student services support and/or external community services.

e. *Gather input/feedback from parents on school operations and programming?*

Parents are welcome to provide input or feedback on school operations and programming through phone calls, email or PAC meetings.