

MINIOTA SCHOOL

Small School, Big Heart, Achieving Excellence!

P.O. Box 190, Miniota, MB, R0M 1M0

Telephone: 204-842-2826

Principal: Trevor Lewis



PARK WEST SCHOOL DIVISION

To Miniota School Parents

October 15th, 2021

As you know, our remote learning period is coming to an end and we will be returning to in-class learning once again starting Monday, October 18th. As we transition back to school, there are a number of things that we need to work together to achieve in order to ensure the safety and health of our students and staff and to hopefully avoid having a similar situation reoccur.

The bullets below are the protocols from Public Health we were following (and will continue to follow) at the time of the school going into remote learning. However, there are a couple of adjustments that we are making as part of our transition which have been noted.

- ➔ As of Oct 4th, public health orders require students and staff to wear masks at all times while indoors regardless of physical distancing. They can be removed to eat and drink or for brief, infrequent breaks as long as 2m (6ft) distancing can be achieved. They can be removed when outside.
- ➔ During Phys. Ed. classes, students will be able to remove masks while actively playing but will wear masks while getting organized or for stationary activities where 2m (6ft) distancing cannot be achieved
- ➔ In addition to wearing masks as stated above, we are going to continue to keep the students distanced 2m (6ft) apart in the classrooms while in their desks and during other instructional activities
- ➔ For the time being, we will be moving back into smaller cohorts during recess. The K/1 classroom will be a cohort, grades 2-4 will be a cohort and grades 5-8 will be a cohort. Students will not be playing with students from the other cohorts during recess breaks, which is similar to last year.
- ➔ We will continue to manage the flow and mixing of students in the bathroom using bathroom sticks, we will not be mixing classrooms for any indoor activities such as learning groups or assemblies, breakfast will be served to students while they are seated in their classrooms and students will enter the school in small groups according to their classroom cohorts

Along with the above, it will be important that the procedures for students who are ill or showing symptoms be followed closely. Students who are ill or showing symptoms should not attend school until Public Health (Health Links) is contacted and provides direction. If testing is recommended but you choose not to, the student will be required to remain at home for 10 days. If testing is done, the student may return to school if the test is negative and there have been no symptoms for at least 24 hours. If positive, Public Health will provide directions to both the school and family. If a student starts to display symptoms while at school, we will be asking for that student to be picked up so the above process can take place. For a visual reference, I recommend you look at the "Return to School" flowchart, which was emailed to everyone in Park West earlier this year.

Another important aspect of our transition back to school is an open communication about why a student may be absent. In order for us to be able to monitor any increase in illness or symptomatic students, we ask that parents keep the school informed for the reasons behind an absence. There are many other reasons why students might not be in school so being able to distinguish between those students and the ones who are ill is extremely important. As has always been our practice, if we are not aware of why a student is not at school, we will connect with parents for that information.

I know that the last couple of weeks has been stressful for many of you. I sincerely hope you have managed to stay well both physically and mentally during this time. As I already referenced at the beginning of this letter, it will take all of us working together to make this transition back to school as smooth and safe as possible.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to give me a call.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Trevor Lewis".

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