



## Woodlands School Reopening Plan – September 2020

The return to school this September brings with it many questions and concerns in regards to what we can do to make our staff, community, and students have the safest experience possible considering the current COVID-19 pandemic. Students want to be back at school with their friends and their teachers. We will strive to create an environment where students are comfortable and able to learn at their best. We are confident we can provide a balance between appropriate safety and caution while still allowing kids to learn and grow together in a “normal” manner.

Woodlands School is in a fortunate position when it comes to students returning to school this fall due to a number of factors:

- **Large classrooms** - all of our classrooms are over 800 square feet. We have plenty of room to ensure our students are adequately physically distanced when they are in their homerooms. In addition, each classroom is outfitted with at least 1 sink that staff and students can use for regular handwashing.
- **Small class sizes** - we average 18 students per classroom (largest - 22, smallest - 15).
- **Space** - we have a large multi-purpose space, library, and gymnasium that can easily accommodate our students and allow them to spread out when necessary.
- **Building** - our school is only 5 years old. It has superb ventilation, and its modern design allows for good flow of students and staff around the building.
- **Cleanliness** - our custodial staff are extremely proactive and committed to ensuring all of the necessary protocols are followed on a daily basis.

Our school reopening plan is broken up into the following sections:

1. Student Learning
2. Building & Operations
3. Student & Family Support

Additional resources and answers to frequently asked questions can be found on the [Interlake School Division website](#) and on the [Manitoba Governments Restoring Safe Services Website](#).

### Student Learning

- We will have 2 cohorts of students. Cohort A will have 53 students - grades K-1-2. Cohort B will have 71 students - grades 3-4-5-6-7-8. These 2 cohorts will rarely come in contact with each other during the school day. Students within the cohort will only be around each other during outdoor/indoor recess breaks.

- All classes will remain as originally planned in June:  
 K - 1 class (school days 2,4,6) COHORT A  
 1/2 - 2 classes COHORT A  
 3/4 - 2 classes COHORT B  
 5/6 - 1 class COHORT B  
 7/8 - 1 class COHORT B
- Our students will need time and practice when it comes to adjusting to new school routines and expectations. Some students had lower participation in remote learning than others for a variety of reasons. Our teachers will work collaboratively with each other to determine when and how recovery learning will happen during the first few weeks and perhaps months of school. Regular check-ins, and support from our school's student services team will help us address our student's academic, social, and emotional needs which will lead to our students reach their potential.
- Our 2 student cohorts will have staggered activity/nutrition breaks - similar to previous years:  
 10:35 - K-2 nutrition break, 3-8 activity break  
 10:58 - K-2 activity break, 3-8 nutrition break  
 1:00 - K-2 nutrition break, 3-8 activity break  
 1:28 - K-2 activity break, 3-8 nutrition break
- Outdoor learning and the use of our playground for Physical Education classes is strongly encouraged. When the weather permits, teachers will strive to take the learning outdoors. Please ensure your child comes to school prepared to participate outdoors.
- At the start of the year we will be extremely cautious when it comes to any extracurricular programming that takes place at the school:  
*Breakfast program* - suspended until further notice.  
*Cross-Country Running* - training will take place with modifications in place, meets suspended until further notice.  
*Volleyball* - small group indoor training will take place, games/tournaments suspended until further notice.
- All other extracurricular programming (ie. Terry Fox Run, Holly Jolly Jog, Clubs, guest speakers) will be subject to approval prior to commencing. We hope to offer our students a full range of programming, but in order to do so we need to ensure the necessary safety measures are put in place prior.
- Grade 7 & 8 Life Skills programming at Warren Collegiate has been suspended until further notice.

## Building & Operations

- There will be an increase in the frequency of cleaning, disinfecting and sanitizing - particularly on high-touch surfaces and in common/shared areas. We have recently received additional custodial time which will help address this need.
- Custodial staff and administration will establish timelines in terms of cleaning specific spaces after student/staff use.
- All students and staff will sanitize their hands at entrances every time they enter the building. This will be a controlled procedure led by staff.
- Proper hand hygiene will be stressed to students from staff on a consistent basis throughout the school day. Handwashing with soap and water for 20 seconds is the recommended practice. We will encourage and supervise proper hand hygiene at various times of the day (ie. After recess, before eating), and hand sanitizer will also be made available.
- All staff, and students in grades 3-8 will be required to wear non-medical face masks at school when physical distancing can not be assured. Students in grades K-2 will be highly encouraged to wear masks when physical distancing can not be maintained. There may be times when students are allowed to take off their masks during the school day (ie. Outdoor activities).
- We will make use of our 3 main entrances so students can enter and exit the building in a safe manner. We will avoid students queuing in line for extended periods by monitoring doors and staggering entrance and exit times. Kindergarten students will enter/exit the K room doors at all times.
- At 8:35, we will start to marshal students in to the building in an organized manner. No more than 6 students per classroom will enter the school at one time. They sanitize, stop at locker briefly, and then proceed to their classrooms. This will continue until all students are in their rooms.
- Students will be assigned lockers in their hallway. The lockers will be act as a place to store outwear and a backpack. Student lunch kits will be brought into the classroom at the start of the day. Student lockers will be spaced out in a manner to ensure physical distancing.
- Classroom audits will take place with each teacher and the school Principal prior to the start of classes to ensure proper physical distancing, and to collaborate on other aspects of the learning space that need to be addressed during the school day.

- The Multi-Purpose Room (MPR) will not be used as a student cafeteria going forward. Students will eat their snack/lunch in their individual classrooms or outside. Microwaves will not be made available for student use. Please send food that is easily prepared and accessed by your child. The meal program offered by Mr.Overton will be suspended until further notice.
- Prior to student drop-off or pick-up (outside the typical times at the start and end of the school day) parents will be required to call the school to notify the administration assistant. The student will then be notified of the pick-up, and will meet the parent/family member outside the main doors of the school.
- **It is imperative that students and staff stay home if they are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 - cough, headache, fever/chills, muscle aches, sore throat/hoarse voice, etc.**
- If a student becomes ill while at school, they will be isolated in a predetermined space in the school and provided with a medical mask to be worn. Parents/guardians will be notified immediately to have their child picked up.
- Self-screening should take place at the start of each day for staff and students. The school will not be directly screening individuals entering the school each day. Staff will be closely monitoring students for symptoms and will be connecting with the Principal if they have any concerns around student health. A self-screening tool can be found [here](#).
- All requests to visit the school (parents, guardians, community members) will have to be cleared through the school Principal prior to.
- The Open House BBQ originally scheduled for September 3<sup>rd</sup> has been cancelled. If parents wish to connect meet with your child's teacher at the start or the school they can contact them directly.

## Student & Family Support

- All students are expected to participate fully in in-school programming unless they have been medically advised not to. Schools are critical to the mental-health and well-being of children and we are excited to see our students returning on September 8<sup>th</sup>.
- When and if students are absent from school due to illness or self-isolation, schools will plan to meet their needs through take-home package and communication with home.
- In all classrooms, students will be instructed on the importance of physical distancing, proper hand hygiene, and symptom monitoring. These important topics will be reinforced on a consistent basis across classrooms and settings.

- Our school staff will be looking closely for any signs of anxiety, stress, and/or depression in any of our students. Our guidance counselor will be proactive when it comes to monitoring student behaviour and offering support where needed.

This plan is a work in progress, and will undoubtedly change as the school year progresses due to changes in divisional and provincial guidelines, and how some of these measures work once our full student population returns on a daily basis. It will always be our attempt to do what is best in terms of educational programming while adhering to the directions and recommendations from public health.

Any feedback, clarifications, or questions in regards to this plan can be directed to:

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