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The staff at Niverville Elementary School are excited to welcome all of our students back to school on September 8th. We have used the provincial documents, [Restoring Safe Schools](#) to assist us in our planning. As a public school we must follow the guidelines outlined by the Department of Education. We will do our best to update our families on necessary changes as quickly as we are able. Below are the areas we have addressed in our planning to ensure that the start of the school year is as safe as possible for our students and staff as we work to minimize the risk of spreading COVID-19 in our school. Please take the time to read this important information and share relevant sections with your child(ren). If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school principal, Tracy Beaudin.

Welcoming Students and Families

This year we will be holding in person Meet Your Teacher meetings for all students in grades 1-4. In order to accommodate everyone safely, these meetings will be ten minute appointments in the classrooms. You can sign up for the appointments on the [parent portal](#). As per public health orders all parents and students must wear a mask to these appointments. Kindergarten students and their parents will meet their teachers in the classroom during appointment times on September 8 and 9. Kindergarten parents have been given their appointment times ahead of time. If you have not received your appointment time, please contact the school office at 204-388-4861.

School Calendar

Our [school calendar](#) is available to view on our website.

School Attendance and Participation

As always parents are asked to contact the school if their child will be away. Please use the parent portal, email the office at nes@hsd.ca or call the school at 204-388-4861.

- All student learning will be in person in classrooms. If a child were to be absent for an extended period of time due to illness or need to self-isolate, the school will make arrangements for learning packages to be sent electronically.
- Teachers will implement the use of digital platforms such as SeeSaw early in the year so that students and parents are familiar with its use. Should the province implement remote learning, teachers will use the digital platform to teach remotely.

Physical Distancing

- Signage and arrows on the floors in the hallways are in place for reminding students and staff of physical distancing
- Students have been placed in cohorts to maintain appropriate group sizes
- Manitoba Public Health in conjunction with Manitoba Education has moved schools into Code Yellow to start this school year. This means that some restrictions that were in place for the 2020-2021 school year have been reduced to allow for more movement, learning in groups and some sharing of materials. In order to ensure that your child continues to learn in the best way possible (together with others), and remains safe, we will continue to layer practices which strive to reduce viral transmission - cohort systems, hand-washing, and masking.

Cohorts - Recess/Lunch breaks

This year the Cohort group will be split by grades. A student's cohort is their classroom group and also the grade group which they go out for recess and lunch breaks.

The school playground has been divided into 2 sections in the back and students grade 1-4 will rotate with their cohort group to different areas based on the day of the week. The front playground will be for the Kindergarten students. The Cohorts are as follows:

Kindergarten (days 1,3,5)

Kindergarten (days 2,4,6)

Grade 1

Grade 2

Grade 3

Grade ¾ & grade 4

Masks

As per public health orders, all staff and students in K-12 must wear a mask. Students will wear a mask during transitions, including arrival and dismissal, in class, and on the bus. Students do not need to wear a mask during recess time outside, while they are eating, or during gym class..

Student Arrival and Departure planning

- Students who are walking or being transported by parents are asked to arrive at 8:55 and enter directly through the assigned door to the classroom. If a student arrives before 8:55 they will line up outside of their designated door and wait. Parents are asked to say goodbye to their child outside and not enter the school building.
- Bus students will come directly to the assigned door and go straight to their classroom.
- There will be no playing on the playground in the morning or after school.
- Parent pick up and drop off should occur by the assigned grade access doors. Parents who pick up their child during the school day must report to the front office and sign their child out. Please make sure to communicate any changes of the home time plan to the classroom teacher **and** the office nes@hsd.ca or 204-388-4861

- Kindergarten door east side main school entrance (by flag pole)
- Grade one door south side of school (across from Co-Op)
- Grade two door north side of school (by gym / staff parking lot area)
- Grade three door north side of school (by playground swings)
- Grade four door south side of school (across from Wiens)

No-Sharing Policy and Personal Items

It is important to reinforce in children the policies of no food sharing and no water-bottle sharing. Generally, these policies are intended to reduce potential exposures to allergens, but the practice of not sharing food or water bottles in schools also helps reduce virus transmission among staff and children. Our water fountains are closed with the exception of the water bottle filling station. Students are asked to bring a refillable water bottle(s) clearly labelled to school.

Mental Health and Well-Being of the School Community

We know the changes that have occurred in the school experience may cause anxiety and concern for some students. Social and emotional well being will be the primary focus for the first few weeks of school and as always, will continue to be a part of the approach our teachers take to support and understand the needs of our students. Teachers will continue to build strong relationships with their students and work together to develop a positive classroom culture of learning as they are aware of the challenges that our students faced last year.

Communication

- Relationships and communication with our parents are very important to us. All parents must have a Parent Portal account. Because we are needing to continue to reduce the number of people entering our building, this may look a little different this year.
- E-mail will be our primary mode of general communication. Please make sure that we have your correct email address in our system. If we need to contact you during the day we will call you first and then the emergency contacts listed for the student. Please make sure that we have the correct contact information. This can be done on the parent portal.
- Classroom teachers will communicate with families through SeeSaw, email, or phone calls

Screening for symptoms

- It is important that children are screened by their parents every morning. If your child has COVID-19 or flu related symptoms, keep them at home. An up-to-date list of symptoms can be found on the [COVID-19 facts page](#). Use the province's [Self-Assessment Tool](#) to check if your child should be tested for COVID-19. Call Health Links at 204-788-8200 or 1-888-315-9257 if you notice symptoms or if you need more information. If your child develops symptoms at school, they will be isolated and parents/caregivers will be called. Please pick your child up promptly. Make sure the school has your current contact information and a back up to call if you can't be reached.
- All staff will self screen every morning and will not attend work if they have any COVID-19 or flu related symptoms.

General Hygiene Measures

- All classrooms have alcohol-based hand sanitizer stations installed for supervised student use. In addition, teachers will schedule times for students to wash their hands throughout the day.
- Increased cleaning procedures by custodial staff will be occurring several times throughout the day. Classroom will be cleaned and disinfected by the evening custodial staff.
- Proper hand washing posters are displayed in all washroom areas as well as by hand sanitizer dispensers.
- Teachers will teach, review and model proper etiquette for coughing and sneezing.

Cleaning and Sanitizing

Our custodial staff will be working hard to keep our school clean. Washrooms and common area surfaces will be cleaned several times throughout the day. Evening custodial staff will clean and disinfect classrooms.

Restricting Access to Buildings

Access to the building must be limited. Parents are asked to drop off and pick up their child at the designated spot outside and to not enter the building unless it is necessary to do so. All visitors must sanitize their hands when entering and wear a mask in the building.

Important Documents for your reference:

[Covid 19 Education Plan](#)

[Restoring Safe Schools Planning Guide for the 2021-2022 School Year](#)

[Restoring Safe Schools, A guide for Parents, Caregivers and Students](#)

Thank you for your continued support. Please contact the school or school principal - Tracy Beaudin - if you have any questions. To contact us please call 204-388-4961 or email at nes@hsd.ca