



ÉCOLE RIVER HEIGHTS SCHOOL

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Ms. Shauna Hilsen, *Principal / Directrice*

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Mr. Mitch Kachur *Superintendent/Surintendant*

Ms. Colleen MacPherson, *School Trustee / Conseillère scolaire*

« Reaching Greater Heights »

ÉRHS School Plan ~ 2021

Parent and Caregiver Reopening Handbook

Please refer to the [Parent and Caregiver Reopening Handbook](#) for general information on Saskatoon Public Schools 2021-22 reopening plan. This parent handbook provides detailed information on many important topics including:

- Safety Precautions
- Curriculum and Assessment
- Facilities
- Students

The guidelines of the Parent Handbook will be adhered to by our school along with elements specific to our school.

The following information represents our *school specific plan for a safe return to school at River Heights*. Please note that the plan is subject to change at any time based on direction from Saskatchewan's Chief Medical Health Officer. Changes will be communicated as they occur.

Safety Protocols and Precautions

IF A STUDENT BECOMES SICK AT SCHOOL

All schools will be asked to have a space for anyone with COVID-19 symptoms that cannot leave the facility immediately. If a student (or staff member) is showing symptoms, they will be moved to this space and wear a mask until they can be picked up. Students will be supervised in this area. River Heights students will use our nurse's office which is in close proximity to the front office.

IF A STUDENT IS SICK

If a student is experiencing cold or flu-like symptoms (fever, cough, headaches, aches and pains, sore throat, chills, runny nose, loss of taste or smell, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing), **they must not attend school**. Please keep your child home until symptom free. Parents/caregivers should contact HealthLine 811 for direction. Students will be given priority for COVID testing and results. They must identify as a student when calling 811 to be prioritized. If the student is referred for testing, they must remain home and self-isolate until they have received their results and direction from the health authority.

Please call, use the App or email [School Messenger](#) if your child is ill. Detailed information will come out in our opening school newsletter.

PROTOCOL FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS IN THE BUILDING

Parents/guardians should only be entering the school if there is a **need that cannot be met another way**. Parents/caregivers are encouraged to contact the main office to make an appointment. There will no longer be a QR code/ questionnaire to complete. All visitors attending the school will be required to self-monitor for symptoms prior to entering. **Visitors will be required to wear a mask and use hand sanitizer upon entering the school.**

Welcome Back !

We have missed all of our students dearly ! Please know that the staff is working hard so that all of the procedures are in place to keep your most precious commodity, your children, safe and happy ! Many protocols will not be new as our students have been wearing masks and being asked to sanitize their hands last year. Some things will be somewhat different and we are here to say that is okay . Our River Heights team is working hard to find ways to continue to build our relationships, deepen our connections that we missed so much last year and to make learning fun. After all, you are only a child once !

Our entire school team is committed to listening and responding to your suggestions and concerns. We welcome them. The staff will be working very hard over the coming days to plan for the return of our students. We are blessed to have such a strong team. Please understand that this is a 'living' document; meaning as we listen to you, and hear more from our school division, our staff and our students' voices we will respond and adapt. Safety is always our first priority and we do not take the weight of the responsibility lightly. We are ready to dig in and get the learning underway. We appreciate being back together and look forward to our continued partnership !

Ms. Hilsen, Mme Lindgren and our school team

École River Heights School Day (307 Minutes)

Supervision 8:40-8:55

(8:50 Warning Bell)

8:55-9:20	25
9:20-9:45	25
9:45-10:10	25
10:10-10:35	25

10:35-10:50 Recess 15

10:50-11:15	25
11:15 -11:44	29

11:44 – 12:04	(Lunch 20)
12:04 - 12:29	(Outdoor Recess 25)

(Lunch Break is 45 minutes due to the 2 minutes extra in our instructional day change this year)

(Warning Bell 12:24)

12:29 - 12:57	28
12:57 -1:22	25

1:22 -1:47	25
1:47-2:12	25

2:12-2:27 Recess 15

2:27-2:52	25
2:52- 3:17	25

Supervision 3:17- 3:30ish



Given the evidence, CMEC believes in the intrinsic value and importance of play and its relationship to learning. Educators should intentionally plan and create challenging, dynamic, play-based learning opportunities.

(Council of Ministers of Education, Canada, 2012)

Bell Schedule

Entry and Exit will not be staggered this year however our Muster Point expectations will continue.

Arrival - Upon arrival to school students will go to their assigned play zone or to their muster point to line up and go in. Each classroom has a muster point which coordinates with their entrance/exit door. Upon entry to the school students will sanitize. Students must be wearing their mask when lining up to enter the school.

Dismissal – Students will exit according to their assigned doors. Students will wear their masks until they are off of school property. Upon dismissal of school students will sanitize when leaving. Additional supervision has been scheduled for these doors.

Parents are encouraged to find a meeting place with their child(ren) outside if they are picking them up.



What is a Muster Point ?

Each classroom will be assigned a number. There will be a decal on the tarmac with that number which indicates where a student's class should line up. Students must wear their mask at the muster point and into the school.

Meeting/Pick-up Points - Muster points are encouraged as good places for older siblings to pick up their younger sibling. For example: a child in grade 3 is dismissed. They walk to their muster point and wait for their sibling to pick them up there.

Lockers

Students will use lockers. A class will have a block of lockers together. Each locker will have a student name on it. Teachers will arrange in their classrooms how they are going to stagger their own locker usage to avoid close contact and congestion.

We ask that students DO NOT bring locks this year. This will support efficient transitioning. We use a carabiner hook to keep lockers closed.

Recess

Recess will be at the same time for all students (as it has been in the past). We will work hard to have designated play areas for students. Please see the bell schedule on the previous page for the new times. Students will sanitize upon exiting the school under supervision. Students can choose to wear their mask outside in their play zone but it is no longer required. We will still work at physical distancing as much as possible. We ask that you have this conversation with your child at home prior to school start-up. Our school team believes it is important for students to have a break from wearing a mask when it is safe to do so and also respects each parent's decision.

Staff will be talking about play zone, supervision, routines and protocols later this week. We will communicate these areas and work with students to be aware of these areas in the coming weeks until it becomes a routine.

River Heights school team has been working hard to create a list of games and activities that students can partake in that respect physical distancing when not wearing a mask. Student will be allowed to play things like mini sticks provided they are wearing a mask. We will be preteaching many of these games. Research also supports students playing and using their imagination. This will continue to be encouraged.

Each classroom has an assigned equipment bucket which is color coded. Students will be permitted to take the equipment from the bucket provided they sanitize prior. All students will be required to sanitize upon returning into the building. The equipment will then be sanitized prior to anyone else using it.

Students are permitted to bring items that are able to be sanitized to play with at recess. I.e : mini stick. Pokemon and hockey cards continue to be not permitted. Anything with a soft/plush surface should not come to school.



We
got
this !

An infographic titled "SASKATOON PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2021-2022 Getting Back to School Safely". It lists several safety protocols: SCHOOL DAY (in-class, every day learning starting September 1), MASKS (required in elementary schools), HYGIENE & CLEANING (hand sanitizer and wash stations), VENTILATION (following ASHRAE standards), PRESCREENING (personal daily screening check), STUDENT ILLNESS (immediate pickup if sick), COMMUNICATION OF POSITIVE CASES (notification if a case is confirmed), and IN-SCHOOL AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES (aligned with pandemic protocols). The infographic includes icons for each category and the Saskatoon Public Schools logo at the bottom.

School Partners : Our preschool (Park Heights), Kelly's (Before and After) and A Place of Wonder (Kindercare) have all submitted school plans. Information will be shared shortly. They all abide by SPS expectations and protocols including meeting points. These will also be posted on our school portal and shared with applicable families. We are lucky to have them !

Bathrooms

Students will continue to use the restroom as needed. Teachers will discuss a new plan to limit the numbers of students who use the washrooms at the same time.

The entry door to the restrooms will stay open so we do not need to clean the touchpoints. Paper towel will be provided to turn off any taps once hands have been cleaned.

Handwashing signs are posted on our mirrors and other decals are in place to support physical distancing. All of these procedures will be explicitly taught and reviewed.

Lunch

Students are encouraged to go home for lunch when they are able.

Students will continue to eat in their classrooms. Our lunch time will look like 20 min with students eating in their classrooms and 25 minutes play time outside. When the warning bell rings, students outside will go their muster point, enter the building as a group, and then sanitize upon entry.

Students can take their mask off when they are eating and drinking. Masks will need to go back on after they are done eating. Sanitization of desks will occur immediately after. Students will sanitize before and after eating and upon dismissal of the classroom. This will be supervised. We are encouraging students to have a trashless lunch. Masks can be changed for a clean one after lunch.

Storage of School Materials

One of the tasks teachers will accomplish the first week of September will be to teach procedures for organization and acquisition of school supplies. We will continue to ask students to not share supplies to avoid touch points.

Kindergarten to grade three teachers will communicate, in their first curricular newsletter to you, how supplies will be stored, organized and classroom procedures. Our grade four to grade 8 school team has added crates to our school supply list. These will be used to store and organize student supplies. It would be very helpful if students could bring these supplies for the first staggered start day September 1st or 2nd.



Mask usage


- All students are required to wear masks at all times indoors. This also includes during Physical Education that is in the gym and for extra-curricular offerings.
 - Staff are required to wear masks at all times.
 - Students are not required to wear masks when outdoors.
 - All students are required to wear masks while riding the bus.
 - All visitors must wear masks.
 - Saskatoon Public Schools will provide disposable masks. They will be made available to students when needed and required.
 - Students are welcome to bring their own masks. We are encouraging triple layer masks and we are asking for 2-3 to come to school each day. Please send paperbags to put used masks in to be returned home. It will be really important to clean those backpacks out each night 😊
 - Masks will be changed at lunch or when they become moist or dirty. We will have masks on hand but it is encouraged to bring your own.
- In some situations, wearing a mask may not be possible for a student. In these instances, school staff members will work with parents/caregivers to consider accommodations. More information can be found on the [CDC website](#).
- More information about the proper usage of masks or face coverings is available from the [Public Health Agency of Canada](#). “



Mental Health and Social-Emotional Supports

Any student who needs additional support for their well-being may receive support from our school counsellor, Mr. Wachs. We encourage parents who believe this support may be necessary to reach out to their teacher, Ms. Hilsen or Mme Lindgren to discuss. Mr. Wachs will work with us to determine appropriate supports, which may include direct support and/or assisting students and families to access other services in the community.

- *Well-being is one of our four student goals in our school division's strategic plan. Opportunities to learn about and practice well-being exist across multiple curricular areas. This is a priority for River Heights staff. You will see it embedded the first week of school!*



Water Bottles

Students are encouraged to bring water bottles. They should go home each day to be washed.

We now have two water bottle dispensers. A cleaning procedure has been established for students to clean after use or teachers will supervise usage.