



Ryerson School

10 Ryerson Ave. | Winnipeg, MB R3T 3P9 | 204.269.1400
www.pembinatrails.ca/ryerson

Friday, August 28, 2020

Dear Ryerson School Parents, Guardians, and Families;

We have been working very hard to plan for a safe return to school and can't wait to have our students back at Ryerson. Please find below our Return to School plan:

Return to School Plan 2020-21

The staff at Ryerson School are excited to welcome our students back for the 2020-21 school year. We are committed to ensuring that our school is a safe and equitable place for students and staff to work and learn. The safety and well-being of staff and students is our priority.

Our framework for our September return is guided by local public health practices and protocols, and our Pembina Trails School division's Return to School plan.

Please read our plan carefully and adhere to all elements of it. We need to work together as a school community. This framework will be adapted to meet changes in public health requirements as needed. Families will be advised of changes in a timely manner.

We look forward to a great school year and know that the Ryerson community will shine!

STAGGERED ENTRY

We will begin the school year with a staggered start (meaning that students only attend one of the first two days back). This will allow for smaller group sizes to support teaching and practice regarding:

- class specific entry and exit locations
- school/classroom routines/practices regarding physical distancing, recess, lunch, etc.
- class specific recess zones
- hand hygiene, cough/sneeze etiquette, mask use (as appropriate)
- washroom routines/guidelines for access/use

Our schedule for Staggered Entry will be the following:

Grade 1 – 6 students:

Tuesday, September 8 – Students with the last name **A–H** will attend. Others will stay home.

Wednesday, September 9 – Students with the last name **I–Z** will attend. Others will stay home.

Thursday, September 10 – All grade 1 – 6 students will attend.

Kindergarten Students:

You will receive a letter in the mail early next week with your child's specific schedule. There will be four days of staggered entry for the kindergarten students. Students will attend either Tuesday/Thursday or Wednesday/Friday of the first week, and all kindergarten students will attend on **Monday, September 14**.

SCREENING

Families will be expected to follow public health guidelines and screen their children before coming to school every morning. Shared Health Manitoba's COVID-19 Screening Tool is available online. If your child is experiencing flu-like/COVID-19 symptoms, please keep your child at home and follow public health guidelines.

COHORTS

Students will be grouped into cohorts, defined groupings, to limit and track interactions to enhance safety. Students' primary cohort (Level A cohort) will be their classroom. They will learn together all day.

Each class will be in a Level B cohort (which will be set groups of two or three classrooms) for occasional learning, and daily recess, entry and exit.

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL SUPERVISION, ENTRY AND EXIT

All students will remain in their Level B cohort before and after school, during recess, and at lunch recess.

Please do not drop off your child prior to 8:20 a.m. All students must be picked up by 3:35 p.m. Students will wait for the bell at the door assigned to their cohort and will only use this door to enter and exit the school during the school day. **Please dress appropriately for the weather.** We will have staff on supervision during these times to ensure that students remain in their cohort areas at the beginning and end of the school day. There will be no supervision outside of these times, therefore we ask for your cooperation to not have your child on the school grounds outside of these hours for the safety of our school community.

If your child arrives at school after 8:45 a.m., you will need to go to the parking lot doors and buzz the office to have your child enter the building safely. The child will go directly to the office to sign in.

Entrances:

Cohort Level A (Class)	Cohort Level B (Groups)	Entrances to be Used
K - AM	Cohort B1	K door
1/2 Wil	Cohort B2	HUB door (Ryerson Ave.) with lineups south of entrance
1/2 Wood	Cohort B2	HUB door (Ryerson Ave.) with lineups south of entrance
1/2 BeSt	Cohort B3	Ryerson Ave. door with lineups north of entrance
1/2 M	Cohort B3	Ryerson Ave. door with lineups north of entrance
3/4 H	Cohort B4	3/4 door by daycare
3/4 M	Cohort B4	3/4 door by daycare
3/4 F	Cohort B5	Parking lot entrance with lineups south of parking lot
3/4 O	Cohort B5	Parking lot entrance with lineups south of parking lot
5/6 E	Cohort B6	Grade 5/6 door on south of school
5/6 A	Cohort B6	Grade 5/6 door on south of school
5/6 R	Cohort B6	Grade 5/6 door on south of school

Walking School Bus

The Walking School Bus will pick-up/drop off students at three locations. The group of students from each pick-up/drop off location will be considered a cohort.

Students will be supervised by staff during the walk. Students will be expected to adhere to cohort social distancing. Students will be taken to their school entry doors upon arrival at Ryerson. We will take attendance daily and keep records of attendance.

Further information will be included on the Walking School Bus registration form in the student package.

RECESS

Our recesses will be staggered to allow students to adhere to their Level B Cohorts at recess entry, exit, and while outside. This will include lunch recess as well.

Recess group 1:

Cohort B2 (1/2 Wil and 1/2 Wood) will be on the 1/2 playground.

Cohort B4 (3/4 H and 3/4 M) will be on the 3/4 playground.

Morning recess: 10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Lunch recess: 11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Afternoon recess: 1:35 p.m. – 1:50 p.m.

Recess group 2:

Cohort B3 (1/2 BeSt and 1/2 M) will be on the 1/2 playground.

Cohort B5 (3/4 F and 3/4 O) will be on the 3/4 playground. *

Cohort B6 (5/6 A, 5/6 E, and 5/6 R) will be on the 3/4 playground. *

*The 3/4 playground will be divided into two zones for recess group 2. Cohorts B5 and B6 will alternate zones.

Morning recess: 10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Lunch recess: 12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Afternoon recess: 2:05 p.m. – 2:20 p.m.

Kindergarten:

The kindergarten class will go outside at the teacher's discretion when others are not outside.

LUNCH:

There will be a staggered lunch period so that students can adhere to cohort grouping when outside. The lunch periods are as follows:

Cohort B3 (1/2 BeSt and 1/2 M), Cohort B5 (3/4 F and 3/4 O), and Cohort B6 (the 5/6 classes) will eat lunch from 11:30 a.m. -12:00 p.m. and be outside from 12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Cohort B2 (1/2 Wil and 1/2 Wood) and Cohort B4 (3/4 H and 3/4 M) will go out for recess from 11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and eat from 12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Due to safety precautions, students who go home for lunch will not be allowed to return to the school ground until 12:25 p.m. They will go directly to their assigned door and will enter the school at the bell.

The students who are in Ryerson Child Care will meet the daycare staff at the ramp in the main hallway on the kindergarten side of the school. They will be walked outside to the daycare by their staff. They will eat from 11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. in the daycare. They will then go outside for a supervised recess on the playground to the west of the school. At the bell, they will be taken to their assigned entrances to line up with their classmates.

For safety purposes during lunch:

- There will be no sharing of food or drink.
- There will be no microwave use.
- Students are encouraged to have a “litterless lunch”. This means that they take home all their garbage.
- Students will wash/sanitize their hands before and after eating. Their assigned eating spaces will be washed after eating.

LATE ARRIVALS, ILLNESS, AND ABSENCES

Late Arrivals

If your child arrives at school after 8:45 a.m., you will need to go to the parking lot doors and buzz the office to have your child enter the building safely. Your child needs to come directly to the office to sign in.

Illness at School

If a student exhibits any symptoms of COVID – 19 while at school, he/she will be isolated in a dedicated area of the school. Family members will be called for immediate pick-up. If you are unable to pick up your child within 30 minutes, we ask that you have a back-up plan of someone who is on your emergency contact list.

If your child is sick or needs to self-isolate, we will provide learning supports via work packages or in some cases, SeeSaw or TEAMS.

Absences

If your child misses school due to illness or self-isolation, please call the office at 204.269.1400 and then dial 2 for attendance. Please report the reason for the absence.

Our attendance recording is a priority to ensure the safety of our community.

LOCKERS, CUBBIES, WATER BOTTLES AND SUPPLIES

Lockers and Cubbies

In order to adhere to social distancing and cleaning requirements, we will not be using lockers and cubbies to store students’ jackets, lunch kits, etc.

Students will hang their jackets and bags on the back of their chairs. Their outdoor shoes will be placed in a location where they will be able to get them while maintaining social distancing.

Due to the limited space, we remind families to send the bare minimum to school. All students need to bring is their backpack, lunch kit, water bottle, and if cold, a jacket.

Water Bottles

We ask that students bring a reusable water bottle to school. Our water fountains will be off, but students can use the water bottle filling stations.

Supplies

As part of school fees, we purchased school supplies for our students. Each student will have his/her own case with supplies which will remain at school. There will be no shared supplies unless they can be properly disinfected between use.

In addition, students will not be changing for Physical Education, and will not be using the recorder in Music class.

SPECIALIST SUBJECTS

Our timetable was created with safety considerations in mind. Hallway travel will be limited to groups from the same cohort when going to and from specialists. Many specialist classes will be held outdoors. There will be time between classes/groups to ensure for proper cleaning of equipment if necessary.

Physical Education

Physical Education classes will be held outside, weather permitting. No contact activities will be taught and there will be no use of equipment that cannot be easily sanitized between use.

Students will not change for Physical Education.

We will keep you informed as to the changes to the Physical Education and Athletics Return to School plans. The decisions of the sport governing bodies inform the decisions made by the school division. All sport teams and individual sport meets are on hold until further notice.

We may run some athletic clubs for each cohort. More information will follow.

Music

Due to our open area school, grade 1 – 6 Music will take place in the Music room or outdoors. Classes are scheduled based on their cohorts to allow for safe travel to and from the Music room. Kindergarten Music classes will take place in the kindergarten room.

As per public health direction, there will be no singing indoors, and no choirs until further notification.

Grade 4 – 6 French, Culture and Communication

Grade 4 French classes will take place in the French room as their grade 3 classmates will remain in their homeroom while they are taught by our specialist teacher. Grade 5/6 classes will be held in the homeroom classroom to limit student travel.

Library

Students will travel to the library once per cycle for book exchange. They will not touch the books when selecting. Upon a book's return, it will be held in an office for the 96 hours before being put back on the shelf.

The Teacher-Librarian will travel to homerooms for Makerspace, Technology, and Literacy lessons to limit student travel.

CLEANING AND ENHANCED SAFETY MEASURES

Cleaning

All excess furniture and equipment have been removed from the classrooms to enable for the optimal physical distancing for students (minimum 1 m within cohorts). This will also allow for more efficient cleaning. Classrooms and common areas will all be deep cleaned/sanitized by our custodial staff at the end of each day.

Washrooms and high touch surfaces will be cleaned and sanitized multiple times each day. Ongoing daily cleaning will also occur in classrooms by staff.

Masks

Masks will be mandatory for all grade 3 – 6 students and all school staff. They will be required when social distancing of 2m cannot take place. Masks will not be worn outside at recess, and we will schedule mask breaks for students. We strongly recommend masks for our younger students as well.

We encourage parents to purchase at least two masks as part of their child's Back to School shopping.

Masks are mandatory for school visitors as well.

Hand Washing and Sanitizing

Students will wash/sanitize their hands upon entrance to the school, prior to and after eating, when hands are dirty, and upon leaving school. We will be educating students on proper hand washing/sanitizing techniques as well as other safety precautions to reduce the risk of illness.

COMMUNICATION

Any changes to this framework will be communicated in a timely manner via email. We will alert you to new information via our social media feeds (Twitter: @ryelementary; Instagram: ryersonschool). Please ensure that we have your correct email address. We will follow direction from the Pembina Trails School Division.

The most recent COVID-19 school division updates can also be found at:
<https://www.pembinatrails.ca/COVID-19/Pages/default.aspx>.

We are all in this together! We appreciated your support in the spring. Please note that this is the current plan, and it may change as directed by public health. Thank you for your continued support in your child's education. Your questions and comments are always welcome. Please email one of us at kbru@pembinatrails.ca or sshields@pembinatrails.ca, or call us at 204.269.1400. We look forward to seeing our students' smiling faces (even under their masks!) again and know that our Ryerson School community will SHINE!

Sincerely,



Kathy Bru
Principal



Shannon Shields
Vice Principal