

**Parent Update**  
August 12, 2020

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Hello everyone,

While I am excited that we are returning to face-to-face learning in September, I want you to know that safety for our students and our staff will be our top priority throughout this transition. We have purposely and thoughtfully slowed down the start of the 2020-21 school year to allow everyone time to adjust to several very important restrictions specifically put in place to protect us all from Covid-19.

To slow down and stagger the re-entry of our students we will be welcoming students back in smaller numbers for the first six days of the school year. To do this, we will be asking families with surnames from A-K to send their children Sept. 1st, 3rd, and 8th, while those families with surnames from L-Z to send their children Sept. 2nd, 4th and 9th. For parents of Kindergarten students only, your child's school may communicate a different staggered start schedule. We are keeping student populations low to ensure that:

- a) Routines expected by Alberta Health such as: entrance and exit procedures, handwashing, the appropriate use of masks, physical distancing, hallway movement, etc. are all taught carefully to every single one of our students.
- b) Our teachers and support staff are given quality time with a smaller number of students to build lasting relationships that will be critically important for them to maintain safe and engaging learning environments.
- c) Our teachers will have focussed time to identify learning needs before class sizes return to more normal levels on Thursday, Sept. 10th.

Thursday, September 10th will be our first day to see our Re-entry Plan completely in action when all students will be in attendance. To fully ensure we have it right, we will be moving the September 25th PD day to Friday, September 11th so that staff can take some time to reflect and act upon what we learn from a staggered September start-up. As a result of this decision, there will now be school on Friday September 25th and there will not be school for students on Friday, September 11th. Changes to the 2020-21 calendar have been posted to our website.

I have every confidence in our staff and in our plan. We will go slowly and we will get it right. I am convinced that if we get off to a safe, positive start, we will be able to maintain that momentum throughout the school year.

To help you become fully aware of Chinook's Edge School Division's Re-entry Plan [please click on this link](#) and read it over carefully. I am sharing the re-entry guidelines well ahead of our first

day back so that you can become familiar with them as a family and see how you can help us keep our students and staff as safe as possible. Please know that this document may change over time as new information becomes available.

To help us out, we are asking all of you as parents, prior to your child's return to school, to ensure that you:

- a) Familiarize yourselves and your children with our [Re-entry Plan](#).
- b) Click on the link for [assessing your child's health](#) and create a daily morning routine where you and your child will carefully complete the daily self assessment. *It is critically important that you keep your child home if they are showing any symptoms.*
- c) Take some time at home to allow your child to get used to [wearing a mask](#) prior to arriving at school.
- d) Help us keep everyone safe by honouring our expectation that you do not enter school buildings without a specific purpose and permission from the school Principal.

We are very committed to supporting all of our Chinook's Edge families. If you are choosing not to send your child to school right now, for health related reasons or other unique circumstances, please take a moment to click on this link and complete the [request for remote learning form](#) prior to August 20th. We will contact you to determine with you what might be the best way to meet your child's learning needs.

In closing, I do fully realize we are asking for a great deal of patience from our parents as we slow down our transition back to regular classes. That said, I truly believe that by making some sacrifices of time early in September, we will set ourselves up extremely well for a fantastic year in Chinook's Edge School Division.

I am very grateful for your ongoing support and understanding as we welcome students safely back to school.

Yours truly,

Kurt Sacher  
Superintendent of Schools