

Bowden Grandview School

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September 1, 2020

Dear Bowden Grandview School Parents:

We are so excited to welcome our students back to school this week! It has been such a long time since we were together.

As per Mr. Kurt Sacher's August 12 and 28 parent updates, safety for our students and staff is our top priority. We have spent the last few days preparing our school according to the AHS guidelines and our [CESD re-entry plan](#). Staggering the re-entry of our students this week allows us to make sure that the plans we have put in place are solid so that we are able to establish routines expected by Alberta Health such as: entrance and exit procedures, handwashing, the appropriate use of masks for grades 4-12 students (and those K-3 students who may wish to wear a mask), physical distancing, minimizing congestion etc. We appreciate anything you can do to support us in helping your child with following our safety processes.

Having less students in the building for the first six days will give us time to reestablish relationships and help our students to feel safe and ready to learn. After all of our students are here on September 10, we will re-evaluate how our re-entry plan worked and adjust as needed.

Staggered Entry Dates:

Staggered entry dates are:

Tuesday, September 1 - Students with surnames starting with A-K
Wednesday, September 2 - Students with surnames starting with L-Z
Thursday, September 3 - Students with surnames starting with A-K
Friday, September 4 - Students with surnames starting with L-Z
Monday, September 7 - Labour Day no school
Tuesday, September 8 - Students with surnames starting with A-K
Wednesday, September 9 - Students with surnames starting with L-Z
Thursday, September 10 - All students attend
Friday, September 11 - Organizational Day-no students
Monday, September 14 - Regular classes resume for all students

*Kindergarten classes may follow a slightly different schedule. Mrs. Marshall will be in touch with all Kindergarten parents.

Since we will be taking Friday, September 11 as a re-entry reflection day we will have all students attend school on Friday, September 25 (this was previously a Professional Development day). We will be having a non-instructional day on Friday, October 23 (see [BGS updated school calendar](#)).

Home Screening:

Before leaving home, staff, children/students, and visitors who will access the school must self-screen for symptoms each day that they enter the school using the [Alberta Health Daily Checklist \(updated August 20\)](#). Students are required to complete the Daily Screening Questionnaire but a copy does not need to be provided to the school. We suggest you keep a copy of the most updated screening assessment on your fridge or in an area that is visible daily. Should anyone answer “YES” to any of the daily health check questions, they are prohibited from entering the school. Your child must stay home.

Use of Masks:

The use of masks is mandated for students grade 4-12 and encouraged for students in grades K-3. Students in grades 4-12 must enter and exit the school building wearing a mask. Students must wear masks on the school bus to and from school, as well as in common areas such as hallways and gathering areas. In the classroom, masks may be removed at the direction of the teacher. When using masks, every effort will be made to follow appropriate protocols regarding [safe mask usage](#). Students unwilling to wear a mask will be sent home.

If a Student Displays Symptoms at School:

If a child displays possible COVID-19 symptoms (according to the self-assessment checklist), they will be moved to an isolated area or sick room. As per the Alberta Government’s pandemic response, parents will be contacted and asked to pick up their child immediately. If the parent/guardian is unable to pick up the student, the designated emergency contact will be notified for student pick up. The child must be tested for COVID-19 to confirm that it is not the source of their symptoms. If your child is tested for COVID-19 and is cleared to return to school, please inform the school of a negative test result. At this time, the school does not need evidence of the result, but we will need to know that it is safe for the student to return. As with any illness (COVID or not), it is strongly recommended that if a student is sick they stay home until their symptoms subside.

If a case of COVID-19 exists, AHS will provide direction for students and staff.

Importance of Updating Demographic Information:

Yearly Demographics updates are available on SchoolEngage and are required to be completed as soon as possible. It is of utmost importance that we have current contact information for parents and emergency contacts as well as medical information. An email was sent out last week by Chinook’s Edge School Division Office with a link to login to your parent portal account on PowerSchool and instructions about completing the form. Please contact the office if you require assistance.

Parent Pick Up/Drop Off

When you are **dropping off or picking up your child please remain in your vehicle**. If you are walking to the school to pick up your child, please plan a meeting spot away from the building. Bus drivers will monitor congestion when arriving at BGS and will let students off the bus accordingly. If older siblings are picking up younger siblings please help your children to set an outside meeting spot.

Student Entry and Exit Doors (starting September 1st)

Grades Playschool, K, 3 and 4 will be using the west doors (by the swings)

Grades 1 and 2 will be using the northwest doors (outside the grade one room)

Grades 5, 6, 7 and 8 will be using the south (front) doors.

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 will be using the east (staff parking lot) doors.

Restriction of Parents and Other Adults to the Building:

Parents and guests who come into BGS must enter and exit wearing a mask and must report immediately to the office to sign in and get a visitor tag before proceeding to another part of the building. As Mr. Sacher asked in his letter, please help us keep everyone safe by honoring our expectation that you do not enter the building without a specific purpose and permission from the office staff. An exception will be made when playschool parents are dropping off their children through the west doors.

Food guidelines

As mentioned in the re-entry guidelines document, there will be no microwaves or vending machines available for student use. At this time, our breakfast program will not be operating. Please ensure that your child has adequate nutrition and a refillable water bottle to get them through their day.

Thank you so much for taking the time to review this important information to support your child's safe return to school. Please note that we will be sending regular communication via School Messenger, our BGS newsletter and our Bowden Grandview Facebook page.

We have been speaking as a staff about the importance of remaining flexible, patient and kind as we navigate this year. None of us have lived through a pandemic and we are bound to make mistakes, but please remember that the safety, wellbeing and education of your child are at the forefront of our work. If you have any questions or concerns please bring these forward to your child's teacher or to one of the administrators.

Sincerely,

Jeff Thompson
Principal

Dawn Weststrate
Vice Principal