



Blueberry School
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**Re-entry Information for Blueberry School Families
COVID-19 Response 2020-2021**

Dear Blueberry School Parents and Guardians,

We hope you are enjoying these final days of summer. It has been an unusual time, to say the least. Hopefully you have had some relaxation and quality time with your family.

We are writing this to provide you with an update about school start-up at Blueberry School for the fall. We are using the following resources to help us with our planning:

[Alberta Government's school reentry plan.](#)

[Parkland School Division 2020 2021 Plan for School Reentry](#)

[PSD70's Guidance for School Re-entry - Principal's Handbook](#)

Many of you responded to the Parkland School Division Survey asking about your preferred option for sending your child(ren) back to school. Thank you! If you did not get a chance to complete the survey please feel free to email sbridgeman@psd70.ab.ca or mvisscher@psd70.ab.ca your preference. **Details regarding your options can be found in *Educational Options for 2020-2021* found [here](#).** We welcome any questions that would help you make your decision.

The safety and security of our students and staff has always been, and remains our primary priority. We are implementing a number of measures and protocols to keep your children as safe as possible. While no single precaution will eliminate the risk of spread of COVID-19, we wanted to highlight **some of** Blueberry's enhanced protocols, as well as some requests of our families for a successful 2020-2021 school start up. This is a lengthy document, but our intent is to provide you with as much information as possible at this time. *Please note that these are our plans for the start of the 2020-2021 school year. We will respond and change plans as directed by Alberta Health Services.*

1. Prior to Re-entry

1. If your child(ren) has a pre-existing medical condition, please inform the school of this underlying issue. This information is critical for us to ensure safety protocols and avoid isolating any child(ren) who appears to have cold or flu symptoms.
2. Please list two (2) emergency contacts in PowerSchool in case your child has to be picked up due to illness. Please ensure that emergency contact information is correct and updated in [PowerSchool](#) at <https://powerschool.psd70.ab.ca/public/home.html>. If you need assistance signing into PowerSchool, please contact the school office at 780-963-3625.
3. As there will be no sharing of items in the classroom (pencils, crayons, etc) please ensure that you have the items on the [school supply list](#) which can be found on our school website at <https://blueberry.psd70.ab.ca/Supplies%20Fees.php>. We strongly encourage you to provide your child with hand sanitizer that they can use at school, on the playground, etc. Please note that we will have sanitizer in our classrooms, however individual sanitizer will provide an additional cleaning method.
4. We are strongly encouraging students to bring their own water bottles for personal use. This minimizes the use of water fountains, decreases foot traffic in the hallway, and reduces the risk of spreading germs.



- Please consider sending your child with their own chromebook/laptop, if possible. We have enhanced cleaning protocols for equipment and devices and we will be vigilant in our efforts. That being said, a personal device that is NOT shared by anyone is the best option in minimizing the risk of spreading germs.

2. School Start Up - Staggered Entry

We are staggering our entry for Grades 1-9 to facilitate teaching students about new habits/directions related to COVID-19. Families whose surnames begin with letters A through L will attend school on Monday, August 31st. Families whose surnames begin with letters M through Z will attend on Tuesday, September 1st. All students will attend Wednesday September 2nd. Kindergarten students will have their own staggered entry schedule that will be communicated by the Kinder team.

3. Mask Protocol and Hygiene

The Minister of Education has mandated that all students in grades 4 to 12 wear masks outside the classroom in common areas (hallways, buses, etc.). Therefore, we will be asking these students to be vigilant about wearing their masks outside of the classroom. Please remind your child of proper mask usage:

1. wash/sanitize hands **before** donning mask
2. wash/sanitize hands **before and after** taking mask off

The Minister of Education has announced that two reusable masks will be provided to each student in grades 4 to 12. Information on how these masks will be distributed to students will be shared when available. Students in grades 4 to 12 must have a mask to wear on their first day of classes. Disposable masks will be provided for those students who forget their mask at home. We are looking for your support in ensuring your child has their mask on prior to boarding the bus or entering the school.

4. Building

Entry/Exit

Blueberry School is limiting the number of visitors in the school in order to minimize exposure risk for students and staff. The following protocols have been put in place in order to mitigate potential exposure:

1. All cohorts (homeroom classes) will be assigned a specific entry/exit door to the school. Whenever possible, students will enter directly into their classrooms via outside doors connected to their homerooms. The specific entry process for each homeroom will be shared with students and parents on the first day of student attendance. A reminder that these plans may be modified and will be flexible to respond to the needs of students.
2. Once the bell rings and classes start, all visitors (parents) and deliveries will be directed through the front door. Please note, that EVERYONE (including parents) who enters the building will be screened for COVID-19 (questionnaire). Visitors must proceed directly to the



front office.

3. We are kindly asking that if you need to pick up your child early, please call the school office and we will escort your child (if required) to the parking area.
4. If your child is coming into school late (after the start of day bell), they will need to check in at the office. Children should enter through the front door and proceed directly to the office.
5. At this time, we will not be able to have parent volunteers in the school, until further direction is provided by the school division.

5. Cohorting:

Students' classes are "cohorted". This means that when a student is in a class, they are spending as much time as possible with that group and academic/social time with other groups is minimized. This is done for **CONTACT TRACING**, and as a means of reducing potential COVID-19 exposure. This is done in accordance with Alberta Health Services guidelines.

In addition to cohorts, students will remain in their assigned classrooms for the majority of the day. Teachers will travel from class to class as opposed to students. Pictures of homeroom classrooms will be shared with families to show the physical design of classrooms. Students will still have recess and physical education classes, however we will be doing as much as possible to provide these opportunities outside. Recess times will be staggered to reduce the number of students interacting throughout the day.

Maximizing Physical Distancing in the Classroom:

In order to be able to physically distance as much as possible and do contact tracing as accurately as possible, the following procedures will be implemented in each cohort class:

1. Seating plans will be established and not changed. Please explain this to your child(ren).
2. All students will face one direction where furniture allows. Students will be arranged at tables (if applicable) to maximize physical distance.
3. Group work/projects will be done virtually (via googlemets or shared googledocs in the classroom).

Maximizing Physical Distancing in Hallways:

In our hallways, we will be placing directional arrows indicating one-way traffic flow. We kindly ask that you reinforce to your child(ren) the need to respect these markers, and to use visual cues in order to maintain safe physical distancing.

Washrooms will have a maximum number of occupants posted on the wall by the entry door. We kindly ask students to respect these guidelines.



Recess/Lunch Breaks:

Recess breaks will be staggered and classes will be assigned rotating play areas. This reduces the number of students outside at one time. Play areas will be rotated so there is equitable access.

Please note, all **microwave use is currently suspended**. This has been done because we cannot ensure proper sanitization after each use. Therefore, we ask that your child(ren) bring a lunch that does not require being heated.

The hot lunch program and fundraising lunches have been suspended for the time being.

6. Music/Physical Education/Option Programs:

Music will continue to be offered at Blueberry School for the upcoming year for K - 6 students. However, the program is limited in what we can offer. We will determine if musical theatre can be offered to our Junior High students as the school year progresses. We will act in accordance with Alberta Health Services guidelines.

The school will continue to offer Physical Education classes. Physical distancing will be implemented as much as possible (within the gymnasium) and students will have classes outdoors as much as possible (weather permitting). Masks during P.E. class are **NOT** required.

In response to COVID-19, Blueberry School has had to rethink the option classes that we offer. Previously, students could choose from a list of options and go to that class. Options will continue, but be offered to homeroom cohorts and types of options will be limited due to COVID-19 protocols. For example, we will not be offering foods class first term, as the risk of contamination increases in a food studies class. More information about options will be shared as students return to classes.

7. Shared Equipment/Items:

If equipment is being shared (ex. basketball), that equipment will be sanitized before and after use. Also, students will be asked to wash/sanitize their hands prior to and after the use of that equipment.

Additionally, we strongly encourage students to keep personal items (Pokeman cards, small toys, etc) at home so the risk of exposure to other individuals is kept to a minimum. If you have questions regarding bringing personal items to school, please contact the school directly.



Lockers and hooks will not be used at this time. Students' personal items will be stored in the classroom.

8. Students Self-Reporting Illness:

If a student discloses that they are ill (presenting symptoms), they will be escorted to the office and we will ask the student to please wear a mask (if appropriate). We will then ask the student to remain in a supervised sick room until a parent or guardian can pick up the student in a **TIMELY** manner. Please ensure that if you are unable to pick your child in a timely manner, your emergency contact will be able to do so. Again, please verify your emergency contact information in [PowerSchool](#) and update accordingly.

If students display symptoms at home (prior to the start of the school day) they are mandated by Alberta Health Services guidelines **to stay at home**. We ask for your cooperation on this as we will not allow students with symptoms of illness to enter into classrooms at the start of the school day. Families are asked to familiarize themselves with the [COVID-19 screening tool](#) to use with their child(ren) prior to the start of each school day. As in previous years, we ask that you contact the school to report a student absence.

9. Enhanced Cleaning Protocols:

Parkland School Division has enhanced cleaning protocols in all schools. The administration team and our head custodian have developed an initial schedule for cleaning and sanitizing high touch surfaces such as door knobs, sinks, and washrooms. Once the plan is finalized, we will be posting it to our website where it can be viewed in greater detail.

Thank you for partnering with us as we embark upon this school year. Please don't hesitate to email or call with any questions or concerns. We look forward to connecting with you all very soon and working together to make this year successful for your family.

Sheryl Bridgeman
Principal of Blueberry School

Michelle Visscher
Assistant Principal of Blueberry School

