

August 27, 2021

Back to School ! Classes resume on Wednesday September 1st, and our staff has been working all week to ready the building for your child's return to school! Lots of parents have questions about what it will look like, so here's our FAQ that should help!

What are the COVID Safe Re-Entry plans?

Students will return to in-person learning with several provincially mandated precautions in place, as well as the NLPS masking mandate.

Masking - Students and staff will be required to wear masks on school buses. All students, staff, and visitors will require approved face coverings (no scarves, gaiters, or face shields) to enter the building and move through common spaces like

hallways or the cafeteria. Masks will be optional in classrooms or where students are participating in instructional activities in other areas of the school (gymnasium, library, CTS labs, etc.). Students and staff who choose to wear masks in instructional areas will be supported in their decision to do so. During lunch, students must remain seated in one spot to eat while unmasked; they must re-don their mask to move through this common space. Masks are not required outside. Please send enough masks for your child to replace soiled masks when needed.

Staying home when sick - Anyone entering a school will need to screen for symptoms using the [Alberta Daily Checklist](#) and follow the requirements for isolation that are in that document. Students and staff who show signs of illness while at school will be sent home. Students becoming symptomatic at school will be asked to mask and wait in our infirmary area to be picked up by parent or guardian.

HVAC systems will be maintained in accordance with manufacturer guidelines, and NLPS will continue with the practice of regularly circulating fresh air in schools while maintaining a comfortable temperature for students and staff.

Regular cleaning, including regular daytime cleaning and disinfecting of high touch surfaces will continue. We have hired a daytime sanitizer/cleaner for the year!

Continued promotion of hand hygiene including placing hand sanitizer in locations throughout the school where soap and water are not available, promoting the use of hand hygiene throughout the school day and sharing information about hand hygiene with students, staff and visitors to the school. Students and staff will still sanitize hands as they



enter the school and leave and enter classrooms. Staff will review respiratory etiquette and thorough hand washing practices regularly with their students.

When are Grade 4 Transitions / Meet the Teacher?

Welcome to our new Thunderbirds! This **Tuesday afternoon from 1pm-3pm**, we invite parents of Grade 4 students to bring their child in, meet our team, visit their teachers, and drop off their school supplies before school starts in their classrooms. Parents of Grade 5 through 8 can drop off their supplies then as well, and those students will be storing most of their supplies in their lockers, so be sure to purchase your child's lock in [School Cash](#)! If you cannot make it at this time, parents can bring their child to their classroom on Wednesday morning before school starts. All parents, students, and visitors must remain masked as they move through the building.



What will the first day of school look like?

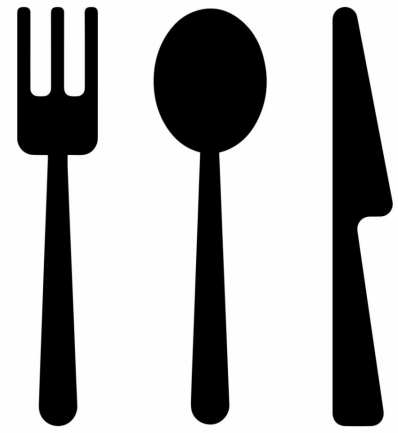
Students will need masks to ride the bus and enter the building. Doors do not open until 8:20am on school days. Students being dropped off and picked up before and after school **MUST** be dropped off and picked up at the South entrance (the cafeteria doors). Students should never be let out of vehicles in a place requiring them to cross traffic and bus lanes at these times!

Students arriving and leaving via bus or walking should enter through the front main entrance. All students must be masked to enter the building. Students can go to the cafeteria for breakfast program food between 8:20am-8:45am. Students will proceed to their homeroom teacher's classroom for attendance and distribution of their daily schedules. After some review of orientation materials, classes will resume!

Is programming returning to normal?

We are glad to be able to offer wonderful programs like Music, Home Ec, Fine Arts, Outdoor Education, Recreation, field trips and extracurricular activities as long as provincial restrictions allow! Sign-up for volleyball and mountain biking begins right away in the gym! This will be a rebuilding year for us with many programs, such as Band. Grade 6 students will all have Music programming offered all year, including their introduction to Band. Grade 7 and 8 students will have programming for Music, Recreation, and Outdoor Education. Teachers will all be required to use [Google Classroom](#) as a tool to provide instructional materials and communication with students when they miss school. [School supply lists](#) are on the website, but special programs

and homeroom teachers may request parents provide specialized supplies depending on the activity involved.



What cafeteria service is available?

We are an [APPLE School](#) so nutrition is a top priority! The Breakfast Program will be up and running with fruit, cereal, muffins, and other offerings available free of charge each morning from 8:20am-8:40am in the cafeteria. This year, for lunch, we will have affordable, healthy, hot meals provided that align with Vera's Nutrition programming [MENU](#). Pre-purchase of meals through [School Cash](#) is required, as there will be no cash sales. In order for our chef to order enough supplies, parents will typically need to purchase meals a week in advance. You can still order for the first week of school starting on Monday and up until Tuesday evening! There will be no beverage purchases at this time, so please send your child with a refillable water bottle and snacks for morning snack break. The [Kids are Worth It](#) program will continue to support hungry students throughout the year!

How do I find out about my child's homeroom teacher?

On August 26, your child's schedule and homeroom teacher information was made available on [PowerSchool](#). As our admin assistants will be participating in organization days and processing new registrations, please do not call asking for the information -- it's all available online. Get help with your portal [here](#)!

Does my child need a lock for their locker?

We are using lockers this year, though students will only be able to access them at designated break times. Grade 5 through 8 students should purchase a \$10 lock through [School Cash](#). Grade 4 students do not need to purchase a lock, but may choose to do so in order to have their child practice as part of their transition plan.

Parent Volunteers Needed!

Our future dates for BINGO worker days in 2021 are: **Oct 9, Nov 25, and Dec 19!** Enjoy a free meal while watching the BINGO action and helping out the students of our school! The shift runs from 5pm to about 9pm and we require three people to work the shift. Free food and wonderful people make for a great Sunday night out. Please call or text our amazing and hard-working BINGO Fundraising parent volunteer coordinator Joyce Cloutier at (780) 623-8203 if you are able to volunteer. Our next PAC Meeting is Wednesday September 22 at 6:30pm via [Google Meet](#) !

Have a terrific 2021-2022 !