**2021-22 School Opening Plan**

School Logo

**School: R.J. Waugh**

As we prepare to open schools on September 8, 2021 in Beautiful Plains School Division, we continue to prioritize the safety, health and well-being of our communities by doing our part to reduce the spread of COVID-19. With the advice from our Chief Medical Officer and Manitoba Education, R.J. Waugh is planning to maximize health and mitigate risk proportionate to the level of COVID-19 infection determined by Manitoba Health.

As we continue to live in an unprecedented time with the pandemic, this plan assists in navigating responses to possible questions for the upcoming school year. **All levels support continued learning for students in BPSD for the 21-22 academic school year.** Our school plan provides some specific details regarding the school day structure.

*On August 5, 2021, the provincial announcement indicated that level yellow will be followed based on MB public health guidelines for September. Announcements regarding any changes to levels will be posted on the BPSD website.*

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| **MB Education Pandemic Response Levels** |
| **Yellow****(Caution)** | * All K-12 students return for full time in-class learning, with contingency plans in place.
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| **Orange****(Restricted)** | * K-8 students are prioritized for in-class learning
* Grade 9-12 will participate in teacher-led remote learning, with limited use of school facilities for specific programming and assessment.
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| **Red****(Critical)** | * Remote learning in place for all grades,
* Schools are closed to the public with the exception of Kindergarten to Grade 6 students of critical workers
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**Welcoming Our Students Back**

I hope that each and every one of you have enjoyed a restful and enjoyable summer.

Families can be reassured that Manitobans have made significant progress in slowing the spread of COVID-19. While current case numbers and vaccination rates are encouraging, cases may increase. There may also be a resurgence of other respiratory viruses with symptoms that resemble those of COVID-19. We have planned for this scenario and are ready to implement additional public health measures if required.

We are committed to following our mission of promoting a safe and positive learning environment for all. We continue to seek to develop the whole child by promoting a lifelong love for learning.

**Requirements for Student/Staff Attendance**

Students and staff must be in good health to attend school. Designated entries and exits are required; locations can be found on pages 5 and 6. Before leaving for school each day, parents need to use the MB Covid-19 Screening Tool [https://www.beautifulplainssd.ca/uploads/9/6/3/0/9630957/august\_26-2021\_screening\_tool\_new.pdf](https://www.beautifulplainssd.ca/uploads/9/6/3/0/9630957/august_26-2021_screening_tool_new.pdf%20) using the following guidelines:

* + If a student/staff shows any symptoms, they must stay home
	+ Students are expected to notify the school if they are feeling ill at school; for any students who start showing any symptoms at school, parents will be contacted and students will need to go home. **Please prepare a plan for this in advance of returning to school.**
	+ Students need to remain at home until there are no symptoms and they have been advised it is safe to return. Schools will plan for students to learn from home when they are required to stay home.
	+ Staff will be greeting students to screen for any visible physical symptoms
	+ Please refer to BPSD student attendance expectations <https://www.beautifulplainssd.ca/uploads/9/6/3/0/9630957/bpsd_student_attendance_expectations_august_30-2021_new.pdf> for additional information

**Reporting and Contact Tracing for Covid-19**

If a person in the household has been diagnosed with COVID-19, they are required to consult [Health Links](https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/screening-tool/) prior to attending and follow their directions. In the event of a student or household member reports that they have received a positive test for COVID-19:

* + The parent/guardian will immediately advise the school principal, who will then notify the superintendent
	+ To facilitate contact tracing, we record attendance regularly and accurately. This includes maintaining a daily log of all visitors and itinerant staff who access the building
	+ As required by public health, we will provide contact information for other students or staff who are “close contacts” of the individual receiving the positive test result
	+ Public health officials will communicate with close contacts and advise the wider school community. As a school, we are not permitted to communicate this information without specific direction from public health officials
	+ Contact tracing involves identifying the contacts of a positive case and contacting those individuals who may have been exposed.
	+ Public health will identify cohorts/groups of staff, students, volunteers, and visitors in the school for a specified timeframe and contact students, staff, and families if they have been in close contact with a confirmed/probable case to determine whether they need to self-isolate or self-monitor and when they can return to school
	+ Public health will recommend testing to staff, students, volunteers, and visitors who may have been exposed to a positive case and assess the need for the school to be closed for a period of time
	+ We will clean and disinfect areas where exposures took place; these areas will not be used until they are determined to be safe.
	+ If there is an outbreak at a school, this will be announced through Manitoba media bulletins and public health will provide instructions to those who have been in close contact.

**Personal Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette**

Please help us teach our students about proper hygiene and respiratory etiquette. You can do this at home:

* + MB Public health strongly recommends masks for staff, students and visitors to the school as an additional layer of protection. Public Health officials will continue to monitor closely and will adjust guidance as needed.
	+ Remind them to wash their hands with soap and water regularly and especially
		- After coughing or sneezing
		- Before and after eating
		- After toilet use
		- When hands are visibly dirty
	+ Ensure they cover their mouth and nose with a tissue or into their sleeve. Throw out tissues in the garbage and then immediately wash hands or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer
	+ Remind students to avoid touching face (eyes, nose mouth) with unwashed hands
	+ We have hand sanitizer available at our entrances and around the school. Please remind your child to use the sanitizer when entering and leaving the school and classroom
	+ Students/staff presenting symptoms at school will be re-located to an isolation room located in the small office beside the library or the empty classroom closest to the main office until they can be picked up.

**Bus Transportation**

Students eligible for regular bus transportation will continue to be provided service. Buses are considered cohorts for MB health tracing. Assigned seating will continue. Mask will be required on school buses. The loading and unloading of school buses will be staggered to minimize crowding.

**Student Well-Being**

Student and staff well-being is a priority for us as we navigate through this pandemic together. If you have any concerns regarding your child, please contact the school and we will work with your family to provide the resources and assistance as best we can. For general information on mental health and well-being, our [divisional website](https://www.beautifulplainssd.ca/covid-19.html) has a list of online resources that are being updated regularly. Mental health and well-being tip sheets have been developed:

Tips for Students: <www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/covid/docs/tips_students.pdf>

Tips for Parents: [www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/covid/docs/tips\_parents.pdf](http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/covid/docs/tips_parents.pdf)

**Additional Information:**

* Risk Response Drills (ex. Fire drills) will be practiced on an individual class basis to reduce congestion
* Students will be reminded of importance of physical distancing and hand hygiene
* We will be avoiding greetings that involve touching such as high fives, handshakes and hugs.

**Beautiful Plains School Division Priorities**

* + Health and Safety
	+ Promoting Mental Health and Well-Being
	+ Assessing and Addressing Learning Impacts

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| **Details** | **September 2021** |
| **Cohorts** | * Each group of students placed together in a class is a cohort with the school’s goal to limit the mixing of cohorts for fewer possible exposures and easier contact tracing

Cohorts are as following:K/1, grade 2, grade 3, grade 4* Cohorts are no more than 75 students in a space at the same time; each cohort will have its own arrival, departure, recess and lunch time with locations of classrooms, additional spaces and timetabling used as strategies to reduce mixing
* When cohorts are in close proximity, there will be a minimum distance of at least 4 meters between the groups (ex. Recess locations)
* Each cohort will have a contact teacher to assist with communication and check-ins
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| **Arrival** | To reduce crowding, students will have meeting spots on the playground that will ensure adequate distancing between cohorts. Students will meet their teacher or an EA at the designated meeting spots at 8:40am. Students will proceed to their classroom at 8:50am.**Please do not drop your child or send your child earlier than 8:40am.** **Meeting spots:** Meeting spots will be clearly marked and a map is located at the back of this document. Grade: Kindergarten Door: back west  Meeting spot: pavement on west side of buildingGrade:1 Green Door: back westMeeting spot: pavement on west side of buildingGrade: 1 TreloarDoor: back westMeeting spot: pavement by outdoor classroomGrade:2 McLeodDoor: front westMeeting spot: basketball court on west sideGrade:2 BarteauxDoor: front westMeeting spot: basketball court on west side Grade: 3 Gensorek  Door: back east  Meeting spot: basketball court south of school Grade: 3 Klassen/Hofer Door: back east Meeting spot: area close to swingsGrade: 4 MannsDoor: front east Meeting spot: grassy area front of school (west) Grade: 4 Duguay/McIntosh Door: front east  Meeting spot: grassy area front of school (east)**If students arrive at school after 9 am, they will need to enter through the front door of the school and buzz to get in. All other entrances will be locked at 9 am as per usual.****If students arrive before 9 am but after their cohort has gone in the school, they will enter through their designated doors and proceed directly to their classrooms.**  |
| **Dismissal** | Students attending the YMCA Before and After School Program will be taken to the gym prior to the class going outside. They will meet the coordinator there at that time. Dismissal doors will be the same as arrival doors above.**Kindergarten 3:20** Bus students will proceed out to bus loop with an EA while town students will remain at the outside meeting spot with the teacher until students are picked up. **Grade 1 3:20** Grade 1 classes will proceed to an outside meeting spot. Bus students will proceed to bus loop while the teacher waits with town students until buses have cleared the loop. If students are to walk home on their own they will be dismissed once the buses leave the loop. **Grade 2 3:25** same procedure as grade 1**Grade 3 3:30** same procedure as grades 1 and 2**Grade 4 3:35** same procedure as grades 1,2 and 3**Please avoid entering the school building for pick up/drop off. Please avoid the use of the staff parking lot for pick up/drop.**Buses will begin loading at 3:20. Ms. Galatiuk or her designate will be at the bus loop daily to assist with the boarding buses.  |
| **Movement of Students** | * Students have a designated area in the school to maintain cohort
* The flow of traffic in common areas will be monitored and regulated
* Regular in-class movement breaks, recess, and Phys. Ed classes will continue.
* Indoor or outdoor non-contact sports (e.g., basketball, soccer) may occur with physical distancing during the play, except for brief exchanges of close contact as recommended by Public Health and MB education.
* Field trips may be permitted in accordance with Public Health guidance and orders
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| **Recess/ Breaks** | * To reduce crowding, students will go out for recess at staggered exit times and will play within their cohort only in their designated space.
* Each cohort will have a container of equipment to play with
* Zones on the playground will be designated with cohorts cycling through the different areas on a scheduled basis.
* Hand hygiene performed before and after recess.
* At the conclusion of recess, students will assemble at their meeting spot where an adult will meet them and bring them inside.
* Recess cohorts are as following: K, 1T and 1G, 2M and 2B, 3G and 3H/K, 4M and 4D/M.
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| **Lunch** | * Students will practice hand hygiene before and after eating
* **Town families who are able to accommodate lunch at home are encouraged to do so to assist in reducing numbers over the lunch hour. If students are going home at lunch, please return by 12:45.**
* Students must bring their own lunches. Please do not send lunches that require heating up.
* If weather permits, lunch breaks may be held outside.
* No food or water bottle sharing permitted between students
* Students eating lunch at school will eat in the classroom wiping down their eating area before and after lunch
* Lunch times:

**grades: k-4** will eat lunch from 11:50-12:10 in their own classrooms and proceed outside in a staggered manner to avoid crowding to play in their designated zones with their cohort from 12:10-12:45.At the conclusion of the lunch hour, students will meet an adult at their designated arrival meeting spot and proceed into the school through their designated door. |
| **Classroom** |
| **Classroom Configuration** | * Our classroom arrangements support physical distancing to the greatest extent possible combined with establishing cohorts.
* Outdoor spaces are also being used when possible
* Hand sanitizer or hand washing will be used for entry and exit from the classroom
* Wearing masks will be required for all staff and students
* Hand cleaning schedules will be frequent throughout the day
* Students will sanitize iPads, computer keyboards and mouse after use
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| **Instruction** | * Full curriculum is being taught
* Gym classes will continue. Any equipment that must be shared will be sanitized between classes. Good hand hygiene will be practiced upon entry and exit from gym.
* Music classes will be held in classrooms with Miss Klassen moving from room to room for lessons. Shared equipment will be sanitized between classes. Indoor singing will be permitted while encouraging physical distancing.
* Library will be open for use while ensuring good hand hygiene upon entry and exit. Extra cleaning protocols will take place between classes.
* We will be using Class Dojo for communication and blended learning as well any remote learning when needed. Please ensure you are signed up for this with the classroom teacher the first week of school.
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| **School Supplies and Personal Belongings** | * Student supplies will be labeled with their name and organized into personal containers.
* For any materials that need to be shared, students will hand wash/sanitize before and after use. Materials will also be sanitized after use
* Lockers for grades 3 and 4 students will be utilized and accessed in a staggered manner to avoid crowding and to maintain social distancing.
* It is essential that students only bring materials they will be needing for the school day (lunch kit, agenda, runners, water bottle, outdoor clothing). Please don’t bring toys, games, trading cards etc. as they will not be permitted.
* Payment for supplies and agendas can be made by cash or cheque (R.J. Waugh School) and sent with your child the first week of school. A receipt will be issued once we receive payment. Please be sure to label your payment with child’s name and classroom.
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| **Volunteers/Visitors to the School** | * We will be minimizing the number of outside visitors to the school at this time. Should you need to visit the school, please call 834-2828 to make an appointment.
* All visitors must adhere to current Public Health orders at the time regarding mask use, self-screening, physical distancing and recommended hygiene practices. Masks will be required in the school building. Visitors with any symptoms consistent with COVID-19 should not enter the school. Schools are required to keep a list of all visitors.
* Community use of schools will be suspended, with the exception of the YMCA Before and After School Program.
* Online or telephone contact is encouraged as much as possible.
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| **Masks** | * Non-medical masks are mandatory for all Kindergarten – Grade 12 students, staff and visitors while indoors and while riding on a school bus. Mask breaks may occur with physical distancing. Masks can be removed when outdoors.
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