

June 30, 2020

Dear parents and legal guardians:

In regards to the Ministry's announcement of September's school reopening plan, we would like to inform you on the latest developments.

The Ministry of Education has informed Manitobans about three different scenarios for the return to school in September:

- Scenario 1: In-class learning for everyone in near-normal conditions.
- Scenario 2: In-class learning with public health measures in place.
- Scenario 3: Distance education from home with limited use of schools.

The DSFM is currently planning for each scenario in order to be prepared for September, however the scenario chosen will be decided by the Province and school divisions will be notified on August 1, 2020.

Scenario 1 is essentially back-to-school as usual.

Scenario 2 is more complex as the Ministry is asking us to ensure that students grades K to 8 be in class daily while following physical distancing and hygiene guidelines, which means less students in a classroom. School buses could only accommodate a maximum of 24 students. For grades 9 to 12, the Ministry indicates to prioritize a complete schedule but if space becomes an issue, mandatory courses will become priority. The Ministry is also asking us to offer a hybrid teaching model: distance learning and in-class learning.

This scenario requires us to review our schedules, our bus routes, our classrooms; the possibility to use music classrooms, science classrooms, libraries and gymnasiums in order to have all students under one roof.

Scenario 3 is similar to what we have experienced the last three months. Distance learning with small-group meetings for assessment and for students needing support.

As you can see, we are faced with many challenges but we are working hard to finalize a reopening plan that will ensure student and staff safety and which will allow learning recovery when needed.

The opening conferences will be done exceptionally by Teams or by phone during the administrative days in early September. Your child's teacher will be in contact with you in regards to class expectations and the education plan. Your child's school will provide you with the necessary information.

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The school year will begin with two staggered days, September 8 and September 9, in order for students to assimilate the new COVID-19 health and safety guidelines that will be in place. Schools will welcome 50% of students on September 8 and the other 50% on September 9. Your school principal will communicate which day your child will be invited.

We apologize for not being able to provide you with more information than what we have at this time and we thank you for your collaboration.

We wish you a restful summer!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alain Laberge". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alain Laberge
Superintendent

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