



June 17, 2020

**Memo from:** Scott Brandt, Superintendent of Schools

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The end of the school year is near and I can say that this has been the strangest school year in my 26 years as an educator.

So many people need to be acknowledged for their efforts since March 15th. Our students, parents, and staff persevered and made the best of a situation that was less than ideal. Although we know things were not perfect all the time, we are grateful for your support, understanding and partnership over the past three months. We like to believe it really has been a true team effort - thank you!

One of the questions I am very frequently asked is "What will next school year look like?". At this time we cannot give specific answers as the final decision on school reopening will be made by the Minister of Education and the Chief Medical Officer of Health. Much like you, we eagerly await the decision no later than August 1st. Below, we have included information and an internet link to information that may be helpful to you and your family.

### **Re-Entry Planning for the 2020-21 School Year**

Last week, the Minister of Education shared updated information on the province's school re-entry plan for the 2020-21 school year. To review the Minister's re-entry plan media information, click: [Alberta Education School Re-Entry Plan](#)

Three possible return to school options still exist:

1. Normal school operations are able to resume with health restrictions to ensure safety;
2. Schools are partially reopened, with increased levels of health restrictions; and
3. Teacher-directed at-home learning continues.

We are all hoping for option one, but must plan for all three possible options. Our work started in May and will continue going forward into the months of July and August. Our team has been working closely with our Facilities Department, Transportation Department, Occupational Health and Safety Coordinator, and school administrators. This work includes:

- Installation of plexiglass barriers;
- Procurement and installation of additional hand sanitizing stations;
- Bus safety measures and procedures;
- Bus capacity tracking and routing implications;
- Floor and ground decals for directional signage and physical distancing;

- Installation of touchless paper towel dispensers;
- Playground signage;
- Classroom mapping for physical distancing of student seating; and
- Now reviewing the 2020-21 School Re-entry Plan released last week to ensure we are considering all required measures.

It is too early for all of the details as every school is different and requires some of its own unique solutions. We also recognize that learning and teaching will need to continue to be flexible as we may move between the three options as the COVID-19 situation changes. Grasslands will continue to work hard to ensure our students receive high quality instruction and learning opportunities in whatever direction we receive from the Minister by August 1st. We will ensure the parameters expected by Alberta Education are in place and the safety of your children and our staff are our top priority when they return to our schools.

To support us in our planning for next school year, we are asking parents to complete a brief survey. Your feedback is important to us. [Click Here for the Parent survey.](#)

### **Learning at Home**

Parents are reminded that Grasslands has designated June 19th as the last day for teacher instruction and student learning at home. During the last week of June, parents and students will be returning loaned technology and textbooks, and will be receiving report cards. Schools have also been making arrangements to have teachers do a small farewell and thank you to the students as would be normally done each year.

Our school staff will be going on summer holidays after June 26th. If you have any questions or concerns with your child's report card please contact the school office before the end of the day on June 26th.

### **Summer Wishes**

We would also like to take this opportunity to wish all Grasslands' students and families a wonderful summer. With fewer COVID-19 restrictions, we hope your time together is enjoyable and allows you to do some of the usual summer activities. To our graduates, our best wishes for you whether you are heading off to work, furthering your education or beginning some other adventure. You have had one of the most unique years! Hopefully, it will help you be a little more resilient, resourceful and determined when the next challenge comes up in your life. Work hard, be kind and follow your dreams.

Have a safe and amazing summer!

Sincerely,

*Scott Brandt*

Scott Brandt - Superintendent