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# St. Mary's School Re-entry



Entire document can be found on our website at [www.stmarymh.ab.ca](http://www.stmarymh.ab.ca)

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We are making every effort at our school to make this transition back to school as seamless and safe as possible. This will require our returning students to relearn many new processes and procedures during the school day. It is imperative that we have all members of our community cooperate with all recommendations made by our public health department. If we all do our part we can enjoy a safe and exciting year.

## **Student Sickness**

Every student must conduct a daily Covid-19 self-assessment prior to coming to school every day. If your child has any of the Covid-19 symptoms they must stay home until they have received a negative Covid test and symptoms have subsided. If a student presents any symptoms at school they will be sent to the office where they will be provided a mask, parents will be contacted, and the students will wait in the infirmary. It is the expectation that your child will be picked up within the hour. We do not have the capacity to hold sick students at the school for extended periods of time.

## **Staggered Entry**

We expect there to be many new procedures and expectations for all of our students. To assist our students to become more comfortable in our school, students will only attend one day during the first three days of classes. Grade 7 Students will attend only on Monday August 31, Grade 8 on September 1st, and Grade 9 on Wednesday September 2nd. All students will attend on Thursday September 3rd for the first full day of classes.

## **Controlled Entry**

Following the morning bell all of our doors will be locked to control the flow of visitors to our facility. All contractors and vendors will be required to complete a Covid-19 symptom checklist prior to entering the building. If at any time parents/guardians require access to the building they need to schedule an appointment with the front office.

## **Extracurricular Activities**

St. Mary's extracurricular athletics will follow the guidance of ASAA, MHJHAA, and our school board. Currently we cannot participate in any leagues or competitions. There is a possibility of forming teams and holding practices, but this will be done with extreme caution to ensure we can safely carry out these activities. We are currently developing a plan to continue to offer the annual musical and other clubs that can be done in a safe manner for staff and students.

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## Student Expectations

Students will need to be prepared for the following changes:

- Bussed students will be assigned a seat on the bus and cannot move around the bus or trade spots. Seating on the bus will be determined by order of pick-up by the bus in the morning. Students will wear masks on the bus at all times.
- Students cannot arrive to the school earlier than 8:45 AM
- Students will have assigned entry and exit doors to the school and will enter directly through that door each morning and report to their home room.
- Students will wear masks when social distancing is not possible. As our classes are very full students can expect to wear masks during different parts of the day. When social distancing is possible students will not be required to wear their masks.
- Students will be in classroom cohorts and will not travel between classes. Students will stay in their home rooms and teachers will move to them.
- To start the year we will not be using lockers. All student materials will be in the classroom.

## Options and Fine Arts

Our option program has changed to trimesters. Homeroom classes will stay together for all options and will rotate through 2 prescribed options each trimester. Fine Arts programming will continue with extra considerations of safety protocols.

## Fine Arts Academy Band Classes (Instrumental Music)

All Fine Arts Academy students receive three periods of band class per week all with the same cohort of students as their academic classes. At this time, wind instrument playing can be done with proper safety measures in place.

- All school-wide cleaning, sanitizing, mask-wearing, and distancing protocols will continue to be followed in band class
- All students will receive and play their own instrument
- Percussionists will share percussion instruments but have their own sets of sticks and mallets. Any shared items will be sanitized between cohorts.
- Students will wear a mask while not playing their wind instruments
- Percussionists will wear masks at all times
- Chairs are spaced two meters apart in the band room; in some instances, chairs are spaced more than two meters apart to account for the length of the instrument being played
- Water keys and spit valves will be regularly emptied on to a cloth or disposable absorbent pad. These will be laundered or disposed of after each class by the band teacher.
- Playing wind instruments will be limited to 30 minutes followed by a minimum 10 minute break to allow for air exchange in the room between cohorts

### **Fine Arts Academy Choral Classes (Vocal Music)**

All Fine Arts Academy students receive two periods of choral class per week all with the same cohort of students as their academic classes. At this time, choral singing can be done with proper safety measures in place.

- All school-wide cleaning, sanitizing, mask-wearing, and distancing protocols will continue to be followed in choral class
- Singers will be arranged two meters apart and staggered so that they are not directly behind one another and not facing each other
- Teachers and students will remain masked both when singing and not singing
- All students will receive their own music folders and music scores
- Singing will be limited to 30 minutes followed by a minimum 10 minute break to allow for air exchange in the room between cohorts

### **General Music Classes**

This year, students who are not enrolled in the Fine Arts Academy will receive one trimester of general music class. This class will include music appreciation, percussion ensemble, and basic music literacy and theory. All of these activities follow the general school re-entry guidance and do not require additional considerations.

While these classes do not officially offer a wind instrument component, students still have an opportunity to rent a band instrument from the school and receive some guidance and instruction. Students who rent will take their instruments home and play and practice there while accessing Google Classroom for help and instructions.

### **Screening and Response Plan**

The Medicine Hat Board of Education and St. Mary's School screening and response plans remain in effect during all music classes.

### **Item Drop-Off**

If your child has forgotten their lunch or school materials at home, there will be a labelled drop area in the boot room at the front of the school. You can leave the labelled items and call the office. Office staff will ensure that your child receives these items.

### **Appointments, late/returning to school**

If your child needs to be picked up during the school day to attend a medical appointment, please come to the front boot room, call the office from your mobile device, and we will send your child to you. Office staff will need to ensure they can visually verify that your child has entered your care. If your child is late for school or is returning from an appointment, please call the front office and your child will be let into the building.

### **Lunch**

Microwaves will no longer be available for student use. Please pack lunches accordingly with healthy items that do not require reheating. There will be no access to vending machines, and Pizza Friday has been cancelled at this time. Students will have time to eat their lunch in their classrooms and will have staggered breaks to go outside, or attend in a different area of the school. We will limit classroom cohort interactions during this time.