



St. James–Assiniboia School Division

Great Schools for Growing and Learning

M.R. Wake
Superintendent

M.J. Friesen
Secretary-Treasurer / Chief Financial Officer

November 8, 2020

Dear Parents/Caregivers of students in Grades 6-8,

The purpose of this letter is to share next steps as we continue to navigate the Restricted (Orange) Level of the COVID-19 pandemic response plan.

During the time of critical level of COVID-19 transmission in the Winnipeg metro area, additional physical distancing measures will be implemented in the SJASD Middle Years schools.

In an abundance of caution, the students in **Grades 7 and 8 at all SJASD middle schools will begin alternate day, in-class attendance on November 16th, 2020**. Students would attend in-class learning based on the 6-day school cycle on days 1,3,5 or days 2,4,6. Each school will determine how students will be grouped for in-class attendance and communicate this to families by November 12th, 2020. Students with exceptional needs will be offered the opportunity to attend in-class learning every day.

This plan will be in place until at least December 18th, 2020. With this change, space will be made available for grade 6 students to remain in their current homeroom groups and move to larger spaces within the school. All students in grades 6, 7 & 8 attending in-class learning will have a **minimum** of 2 metre physical distancing in all learning environments.

Shifting grade 7 & 8 students to attending in-class learning on alternate days and moving grade 6 classes to larger spaces potentially limits the number of students and staff that would be required to quarantine/isolate in the event of a positive COVID-19 case in the school community. These next steps are introduced as a preventative measure in response to the increased community transmission of COVID-19. We will continue to monitor and seek feedback from families and schools prior to determining the date of return for all students to full time in-class learning.

Please be advised that programming will be adjusted for grade 7 & 8 students during this time. The priority for in-class learning will include ELA, Math, Social Studies, Science and daily Physical Education. For students in École Ness, priorities will also include FLA and French language acquisition. **All** Band and Choral programming will be suspended during this time. This may also result in some changes to the timetable for grade 6 students.

At-Home Learning

All students are expected to engage in learning on their at-home learning day. Grades 7 & 8 students will require technology for access to learning materials and real-time instruction from teachers. Families who require technology on loan from the school are to contact the school administrator.

For planning purposes, on Thursday, November 12th, 2020 all SJASD middle schools will be dismissed at 2:30pm. Bused students will have transportation arranged for this early dismissal. Support staff will be made available to accommodate families who may require student supervision. Please contact school administrator to make any supervision arrangements.

For further clarity:

Who	What	When
Grade 6	Every day in-class learning. Classes moved to larger spaces to accommodate a minimum of 2 metre physical distancing.	As soon as possible.
Grade 7 & 8 (currently attending in-class learning)	Will move to alternate day attendance for in-class learning based on the 6-day cycle. Priorities will be core subject areas. Learning will be facilitated using technology for the at-home learning day.	Beginning November 16 th
Medically Advised Remote Learners (Grades 6-8)	No changes. Families with any questions are to contact the assigned teacher or school administrator.	Students who are currently medically advised and enrolled in remote learning will remain in this program until at least January 15th, 2021. Re-entry to in-class learning may be an option after this date.
Optional Remote Learners (During Restricted [Orange] Level)	Families wishing to exit out of remote learning and re-enter into the alternate day attendance program are to contact school administrators no later than November 10 th (12:00 PM noon). Schools will confirm all optional remote learners prior to this date. Students returning to in-class learning must be without any COVID-19 symptoms for 14 days prior to re-entry.	Students who are currently enrolled in the optional remote learning program will transition to Divisional staff for remote learning on November 16 th , 2020. Students will continue in this program while in the Restricted (Orange) level. Families wishing to opt back to in-class learning can do so after January 15th 2021. This allows for appropriate staffing, physical distancing requirements, and the continuity of instruction and assessment.

Thank-you for your partnership as we navigate the complexity of COVID-19 in schools. Stay safe and stay well.



Mike Wake
Superintendent