



# BORDER LAND

## SCHOOL DIVISION

August 26, 2020

Border Land School Division Community,

As the start of school draws nearer, we want to provide you more information and respond to questions that are arising.

### **Masks**

There is a provincial health directive in place regarding masks in schools. Border Land School Division must follow all directives from the province. Given the directive:

- One reusable cloth mask has been ordered for every grade 4-12 student in BLSL. It will be important that families plan for the wash and care of any reusable mask.
- If needed, disposable masks will also be available in schools and on busses.
- Students in grades 4-12 must wear masks when they cannot be 2m apart.
- Students in grades 4-12 must wear masks on the school bus.
- Students under grade 4 are encouraged to wear a mask
- Masks are not required when playing outside at recess or in cohorts but must be put back on the face when students reenter the school.
- **All STAFF and VISITORS** must wear masks when they cannot be 2m physically distanced.
- Manitoba Education is creating videos to share with students about mask use.
- Manitoba Education is creating guidelines about mask free time in school.

### **Bussing**

Manitoba Public Health has provided school divisions with [Guidelines for Transportation](#). Parents are encouraged to drive children to and from school as possible. The BLSL Transportation Manager is following these guidelines to develop routes, passenger lists, and seating plans for the 2020-2021 school year. As these routes are finalized, you will receive notification about your bussing eligibility, pick up and drop off times.

Given the guidelines, BLSL is restricted in the number of children on busses. For this reason, there may be some students who will not receive bussing this year that may have in the past. Examples of this include students living less than 1.6 km away from school and those who

attend a school of choice. If this situation pertains to you, you will receive a letter and phone call to advise you of the change.

### **Extra-Curricular Sporting Events**

As the COVID-19 Pandemic evolves and we prepare for back to school, discussion about extracurricular sports programming is occurring. There is no prior experience to guide decision making in the context of a pandemic and at this time it is important to simplify divisional programming. Mitigating risk and maximizing student safety are priorities in planning for extracurricular sports. To reduce risk and maximize safety for students, Border Land School Division has decided to pause extracurricular sports competitions and practices until further notice. This athletic pause will be re-evaluated as we return to school and the pandemic evolves.

Next week staff will return to all schools in Border Land School Division. During those days, we will review plans and finalize details related to welcoming your children back into our schools. We know that there are many different thoughts and feelings as children get ready to return. We will support all students by listening to and addressing their concerns. We look forward to working together with you to have a smooth transition.

Thank you

Krista Curry  
Superintendent