



Eskasoni School Board

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Re: 2020-2021 School Year

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The Eskasoni School Board will work in consultation with our staff team, the local health center, MK community schools, the province of Nova Scotia as well as AANDC to create a safe reopening plan for schools. The reopening plan will be revisited and revised regularly as relevant information becomes known that informs changes to the plan. The health and safety of our students, staff, and community is our foremost concern and great care is being taken to create a safe and productive learning environment during these unprecedented times.

The success of the plan to reopen requires that all parties, from school staff, to parents, and students work towards keeping ourselves and one another safe. This starts with being very aware of and monitoring daily for symptoms of Covid-19. Families and staff will be provided with updated screening checklists for Covid-19. Families and staff must self screen every day to ensure that there are no symptoms present. Thermoscan (no-contact) temperature checks will occur at the entrances of the schools and those presenting with fever will not be permitted into the building. Schools will be open to only essential service providers. Parents dropping off or picking up students will be required to remain outside of the building.

On buses, all students and drivers must wear masks at all times. We ask that parents and guardians provide their children with non-medical (cloth) face masks as part of back to school shopping, however disposable masks will be available to students should they be needed. All staff and students will be provided with two (2) non-medical face masks at the start of each semester. In addition, disposable masks will be available on site. Parents with access to vehicles who feel more comfortable dropping off and picking up their children are encouraged to do so. Students riding the bus will be required to sit within their family bubble while on the bus and children will be spaced apart on the bus as much as possible.

All schools under the Eskasoni School Board will be reopening operating under a blended model to ensure that proper physical distancing can be observed in classrooms.

Classes will resume with a combination of in-classroom and at-home learning. In most cases, classes will be separated into two groups of no more than twelve (12) students per group. With limited exceptions, students will be in-classroom two (2) days per week and at-home three (3) days per week.

Classes will be divided to allow students to attend in person 2 days a week with teachers and receive materials for 3 days instruction from home. For example, each classroom will be divided into group A and B, group A will attend school in person on Mondays and Wednesdays. They will continue their learning at home on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Group B will attend school in person on Tuesdays and Thursdays. They will continue their learning at home on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. This will ensure that only half of our school population is in the building on any given day, allowing us to better maintain social distancing required to keep our school community safe.

Group	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
A	In-Class	Online	In-Class	Online	Online
B	Online	In-Class	Online	In-Class	Online

A tutorial hub space will be created in-community where parents can make appointments to receive support with materials and assignments for learning at home. Parents/Guardians can also be assured that they will be able to make contact with teachers during the week as their children will be in classrooms with teachers two days a week. Regular check-ins between school and home will be mandatory. Children and families will be provided with all materials required for learning at home, this will take the form of hands-on materials such as learning packages, and technology for online-learning experiences. Any technology required to facilitate online-learning will be provided in addition to materials for learning at home.

Teachers will spend the earliest part of the school year familiarizing students and families with ways to access online learning to ensure students are able to smoothly transition between in-person and at-home learning.

In addition to following curriculum guidelines, schools will immediately reinforce education on social distancing, hygiene, and proper wearing, handling, and storage of face masks. There will be an emphasis on helping students adjust to and function well under the new routines, guidelines and procedures. The schools will also be employing enhanced cleaning and disinfecting procedures. Additional cleaning staff are being hired to increase disinfecting of high touch surfaces throughout the day in addition to thorough cleaning and sanitization in the evenings.