Beautiful Plains SCHOOL DIVISION

Welcoming Our Students Back:
Restoring Safe School 2020/2021

MB Transportation Mask Mandate	Tuesday, September 01, 2020
MB 2020-21 Provincial Assessments	Wednesday, August 26, 2020
MB Mask Mandate for Public Schools	Thursday, August 20, 2020
MB Transportation update	Wednesday, August 19, 2020

Integrity is choosing courage over comfort; choosing what is right over what is fun, fast, or easy; and choosing to practice our values rather than simply profess them.

-Brene Brown

Beautiful Plains
SCHOOL DIVISION

Planning For The 2020/2021 School Year

Beautiful Plains School Division continues to plan for the re-opening of our schools this September. The planning principles are based on information provided by Manitoba Education and set forth by the Chief Public Health Officer for Manitoba. Throughout our planning, our number one priority is the safety and well-being of our students, staff and communities.

We want to continue to encourage our parents/guardians and community members to check our web-page (www.beautifulplainssd.ca) regularly for both provincial and divisional updates as we continue to plan with the changing situation around us.

The provincial government has indicated that currently school divisions should be planning for students to return to in class learning in September. This includes all students from Kindergarten to grade 8 attending school 5 days a week for full days and students in grades 9 to 12 having in class learning to the greatest extent possible. Recognizing that the scenario could change, we have made divisional and school plans that range from a full return to regular in school classes to remote and blended learning models based on Manitoba Education response levels.

We recognize that parents and students have a lot of questions about what school and learning will look like in the fall and we will continue to keep you informed as information is shared with us. The broad divisional plan that accompanies this letter lays out the divisional guidance to support individual school based planning. You can expect school specific plans to be shared by August 24th. The COVID pandemic highlights the need to be fluid and agile with our planning as information changes on a daily basis. Families are encouraged to have back up plans in place in the event your child becomes ill and cannot attend school.

I want to sincerely thank you for your continued patience and support as the staff, students and parents of BPSD work to navigate this unprecedented time of uncertainty. Our greatest hope is that you and your family continue to stay healthy.

Sincerely,

Jason Young
Superintendent/CEO

Welcoming Our Students Back: Restoring Safe Schools

Manitoba Education Re-Opening Response Levels

Beautiful Plains SCHOOL DIVISION

As we prepare to re-open schools on September 8, 2020 in Beautiful Plains School Division, we continue to prioritize the safety, health and well-being of our communities by doing our part to reduce the spread of COVID-19. With the advice from our Chief Medical Officer and Manitoba Education, BPSD is planning for a range of response levels to maximize health and mitigate risk proportionate to the level of COVID-19 infection determined by Manitoba Health.

As we continue to live in an unprecedented time with the pandemic, this plan assists in navigating responses to possible questions for the upcoming school year. **All response levels support continued learning for students in BPSD for the 20-21 academic school year.**

The provincial announcement on July 30 indicated that level 1 will be followed based on MB public health guidelines for September. Provincial announcements regarding any changes to levels will be posted on the BPSD website

MB Education Response Levels	
Level 1	• All K-12 students return for in-class learning. • Grade 9-12 students will be in-class to the greatest extent possible. Blended learning for high school students may vary from school to school
Level 2	• K-8 students are prioritized for in-class learning • Grade 9-12 will participate in teacher-led remote learning, with limited use of school facilities for specific programming and assessment.
Level 3	• Remote learning in place, • Schools are closed to the public with the exception of Kindergarten to Grade 6 students of critical workers

See MB K-12 Practice Guidance and Protocols for details on each response level. Additional information from MB education can be accessed in the COVID-19 section of our divisional website.

***Level #1** – In-Class Learning (September 2020)*

Institutional (operations)	**School facilities accommodate physical distancing, including increased sanitation, hand hygiene and other public health provisions.** • Physical distancing is required during all hours of school operation and after school activities. • Classrooms are to be configured with learning spaces 2 m apart. Cohorts of students may be spaced 1 m apart when 2 m is not attainable. • In classrooms or on buses where spacing expectations (1 m or 2 m) cannot be met, expectations are set to limit interaction between cohorts of students. • MB Sport Guidelines will be maintained for all athletic events. Sports with high degree of physical contact may be postponed. • Proper hand hygiene (frequent hand washing), and other public health protocols will always be expected. • Access to school buildings by visitors will require an appointment and/or by calling ahead. Sign-in to the building is required. • Schools shall refrain from scheduling assemblies and gatherings that exceed public health advice. Physical distancing must be maintained. • Staggering entries, exits, breaks, etc.; Crowding in hallways is avoided including entrances and other non-instructional spaces. • Repurposing spaces to ensure that all students can be in the buildings (ex. outdoor spaces, gyms, libraries, multi-purpose rooms etc.) • Cohorting is recommended but not required if 2 metre spacing

	between students is possible. • Permits for community evening and weekend facility use are suspended until further notice.
	Information about physical distancing, cleaning and other public health measures for in-class learning are provided and implemented throughout the schools. • All schools will continue with public health protocols including communicating to families in a timely and regular manner. Websites will be updated regularly. • Continue with signage posted throughout the schools regarding self-screening, hand washing, and physical distancing. (MB BPSD COVID-19 Posters) • MB Public health requires masks as an additional layer of protection for all staff and students in grades 4-12 where physical distancing of 2 meters cannot be maintained. Students and staff will be encouraged to bring masks and wear them at school when they can remove the mask independently. If a student or staff member does not have a mask, one will be provided for them. • For detailed information regarding the cleaning protocols in BPSD schools, please refer to MB School Boards re-entry guidelines document.
	Plan for adjustments to transportation routes and schedules for all stages of re-opening, including asking parents to transport their own children if required. • All bus drop off and pick up schedules will be reviewed to minimize congestion. • Parents who are able to bring their children to school do so on a volunteer basis are requested to provide information to BPSD Transportation Supervisor/division. • Out of province and international travel will remain subject to public health direction and Divisional discretion. • All staff and students must wear a mask when riding the bus. • If physical distancing cannot be accommodated, extra emphasis is put on limiting interaction between students. • Students loaded back to front and unloaded front to back on buses.

	• Expectation is that all students pre-screened at home prior to entering bus. Students who are sick must stay home. • Please refer to MB Transportation Guidelines for additional information.
Learning	**Action plans for students' recovery learning needs are addressed.** • All professional staff will review transition plans for incoming students and plan accordingly. • Each school has a classroom profiling process that is led by each school's student services team; students with recovery learning needs are identified and interventions will be in place to support students with high recovery learning needs recognizing that these needs will vary depending on subject area and gaps that exist. • A timetable may be set up so that students can work with teachers for a portion of the day in a smaller group setting for interventions to support learning gaps. • Teachers narrowing in on foundational outcomes to ensure more time is spent in these areas prioritizing literacy and numeracy as outlined by MB Education. • Achievement gaps are not new challenges to educators and our teachers recognize that we can't simply start with current grade outcomes without providing the foundation and support; additionally, recovery learning is not an activity that is done at the start of the year- it is woven into a school year as students' instructional needs are identified.
	Schedules are adapted to facilitate levels of physical distancing (outdoor classrooms, frequent and staggered hand-washing breaks, staggered recesses and lunch breaks, physical distancing measures in place in classrooms and bathrooms). • Our goal is to have students in class for instruction • K-8 operating at full capacity with the 1 meter minimum and maintaining cohorts of students with staggered entries, exits, recess, etc. • Grade 9-12 planning options being considered: Cohorts for regular daily interactions in core subjects and providing some options through remote or blended

	learning. Alternating students in physical space maintaining daily class contact for attendance in classes where needed (ex. Day 1- half students physically in class, other half students connected remotely and Day 2- switch). • As required, scheduling will be put into place for staggered handwashing and washroom breaks. • Lunch is eaten in home rooms; physical distancing will be expected. • Assigned areas on the playground exist for cohorts of students. Dismissal and re-entry are also planned for and monitored. Facilities have floor decaling/signage to assist with traffic flow. • Assigned areas on the playground exist for cohorts of students. Dismissal and re-entry are also planned for and monitored. • Considerations will be given to technology needs necessary for teaching and learning
	Blended in-class and remote learning models. • In class learning is expected. Blended learning is used to enhance choice, engagement, and learning outcomes.
School Staff	**Staff are oriented to new public health protocols that must be followed in the school, before resuming in-class learning. If volunteers are on site, in a limited way they will receive orientation when they begin.** • September 3/4 are scheduled for divisional staff orientation day. The appropriate plan as determined by Manitoba Education will be reviewed. The online BPSD COVID-19 screening tool can be used to inform staff orientation and include information on self-monitoring, managing a suspected case of COVID-19, managing shared spaces, etc. • Any students/staff showing symptoms in the building will be isolated immediately. Schools must identify a specific area of isolation. The isolation area will be equipped with PPE for safety. • All out-of-province staff work related travel is suspended for the remainder of the 2020 calendar year. Public health advice will assist in future planning. • All staff are self-screening daily using the tool and required to inform

	their supervisor if they cannot meet any of the requirements • Staff will have access to masks which will be recommended for use in the classrooms
	Health and safety training will focus learning on COVID-19 pandemic priority areas: recovery learning, collaborative planning, mental health and well-being, remote learning strategies and safety protocols.
Students and Families	**Students with disabilities and those who are vulnerable to disengage from school are identified. School teams are developing and implementing strategies to re-engage them and prioritize these students for five days a week in-class learning, where possible.** • Refer to MB Resources Supporting Students with Special Needs for principles and practical resources to assist with planning.
	Expectations for in-class attendance and participation in remote learning. • Students are expected to attend in-class learning unless sick. Please refer to the BPSD Student Attendance Expectations Document. • Communication with families and students will occur through email, online platforms, websites and letters home as appropriate. • Students who are not well must stay home and report reason for absence to school office.
	Comprehensive strategies for regular communication with families to raise awareness of the health and safety measures implemented at the school. Students will not attend school when sick or exhibiting symptoms of illness. • Refer to the BPSD COVID-19 screening tool • Communication regarding in-class learning may be increased or suspended on short notice in response to changing public health advice. • All schools will communicate start up expectations by Monday, August 24, 2020 to all families via communication protocols. • Ongoing communication will occur through email, online platforms, websites and letters home as appropriate.

***Level # 2** – Blended Learning (in-class and remote)*

Institutional (operations)	**School facilities are prepared to accommodate physical distancing, including increased sanitation, hand hygiene and other public health provisions. Follow the guidelines for re-opening school facilities. These will be updated regularly to reflect new public health orders and guidance.** • This scenario will be initiated based on MB public health advice. Under this scenario, physical distancing is required during all hours of school operation and after school activities. • Classrooms are configured with learning spaces 2 m apart. Cohorts of students may be spaced 1 m apart when 2 m is not attainable. • In classrooms or on buses where spacing expectations (1 m or 2 m) cannot be met, expectations are set to limit interaction between cohorts of students. • MB Sport Guidelines will be maintained for all athletic events. Sports with high degree of physical contact may be postponed. • Proper hand hygiene (frequent hand washing), and other public health protocols will always be expected. • Access to school buildings by visitors will require an appointment and/or by calling ahead. Sign in to the building is required. • Schools shall refrain from scheduling assemblies and gatherings that exceed public health advice. Physical distancing must be maintained. • Staggering entries, exits, breaks, etc.; Crowding in hallways is avoided including entrances and other non-instructional spaces. • Repurposing spaces (ex. outdoor spaces, gyms, libraries, multi-purpose rooms etc.) • Cohorting is recommended but not required if 2 meter spacing between students is possible. • Permits for community evening and weekend facility use are

	suspended until further notice
	Information about physical distancing, cleaning and other public health measures are posted to help schools prepare for in-class learning. • All schools will continue with public health protocols including communicating to families in a timely and regular manner. Websites will be updated regularly. • Continue with signage posted throughout the schools regarding self-screening, hand washing, and physical distancing. (MB COVID-19 Posters). • MB Public health requires masks as an additional layer of protection for all staff and students in grades 4 -12 where physical distancing of 2 meters cannot be maintained. Students and staff will be encouraged to bring masks and wear them at school when they can remove the mask independently. If a student or staff member does not have a mask, one will be provided for them. • For detailed information regarding the cleaning protocols in BPSD schools, please refer to MB School Boards re-entry guidelines document..
	Plan for adjustments to transportation routes and schedules for all stages of re-opening, including asking parents to transport their own children where required. MB Guidelines for Transportation to Schools can assist in planning. • All bus drop off and pick up schedules will be reviewed to minimize congestion. • Parents who are able to bring their children to school (K-8) do so on a volunteer basis are requested to provide information to BPSD Transportation Supervisor/division. • Out of province and international travel will remain subject to public health direction and Divisional discretion. • All staff and students must wear a mask when riding the bus. • If physical distancing cannot be accommodated, extra emphasis is put on limiting interaction between students.
Learning	**Action plans for students' recovery learning needs identified in the June 2020 report card.** • All professional staff will review transition plans for incoming students and plan accordingly.

	• Each school has a classroom profiling process that is led by each school's student services team; students with recovery learning needs are identified and interventions will be in place to support students with high recovery learning needs recognizing that these needs will vary depending on subject area and gaps that exist. • Teachers narrowing in on foundational outcomes to ensure more time is spent in these areas prioritizing literacy and numeracy as outlined by MB Education. • Achievement gaps are not new challenges to educators and our teachers recognize that we can't simply start with current grade outcomes without providing the foundation and support; additionally, recovery learning is not an activity that is done at the start of the year- it is woven into a school year as students' instructional needs are identified.
	Schedules are adapted to facilitate levels of physical distancing (outdoor classrooms, frequent and staggered hand-washing breaks, staggered recesses and lunch breaks, physical distancing measures in place in classrooms and bathrooms). • K-8 and students with special needs are prioritized for in-class learning with the 1 meter minimum and maintaining cohorts of students with staggered entries, exits, recess, etc. • Grade 9-12 will participate in teacher-led remote learning, with limited use of schools facilities for specific programming and assessment. • As required, scheduling will be put into place for staggered handwashing and washroom breaks. • Assigned areas on the playground exist for cohorts of students. Dismissal and re-entry are also planned for and monitored. Lunch is eaten in homerooms; physical distancing will be expected. • All facilities have appropriate floor decaling/signage to assist with traffic flow.
	Plan for blended in-class and remote learning models with access to learning resources for educators available on the Manitoba Education website. • When appropriate, individualized home learning plans will be developed, administered and monitored. Learning plans will include requirements for learning outdoors, cross curricular learning and prioritizing literacy and numeracy; combination of asynchronous and synchronous classes will be planned. • K-4 Remote Learning Platforms: See-saw, Dojo, Facebook, Zoom (schools should consider consistent platforms for parent ease)

	• 5-8 Remote Learning Platforms: Google Classroom • 9-12 Remote Learning Platforms: Google Classroom, Brightspace • Considerations will be given to technology needs necessary for teaching and learning.
School Staff	**Staff are oriented to new public health protocols that must be followed in the school, before resuming in-class learning. If volunteers are on site, in a limited way they will receive orientation when they begin.** • September 3/4 are scheduled for divisional staff orientation day. The appropriate plan as determined by Manitoba Education will be reviewed. The online BPSD COVID-19 screening tool can be used to inform staff orientation and include information on self-monitoring, managing a suspected case of COVID-19, managing shared spaces, etc. • Any students/staff showing symptoms in the building will be isolated immediately. Schools must identify a specific area of isolation. The isolation area will be equipped with PPE equipment for safety. • All out-of-province staff work related travel is suspended for the remainder of the 2020 calendar year. Public health advice will assist in future planning. • Staff will have access to masks which will be recommended for use in the classrooms.
	Health and safety training will focus learning on COVID-19 pandemic priority areas: recovery learning, collaborative planning, mental health and well-being, remote learning strategies and safety protocols.
Students and Families	**Students with disabilities and those who are vulnerable to disengage from school are identified. School teams are developing and implementing strategies to re-engage them and prioritize these students for five days a week in-class learning, where possible.** • Refer to MB Resources Supporting Students with Special Needs for principles and practical resources to assist with planning.
	Expectations for in-class attendance and participation in remote learning. • All students are expected to attend in learning whether in class or remote. • Please refer to the BPSD Student Attendance Expectations

	• Communication with families and students will occur through email, online platforms, websites and letters home as appropriate. • Students who are not well must stay home and report reason for absence to school office.
	Comprehensive strategies for regular communication with families to raise awareness of the health and safety measures implemented at the school. Students will not attend school when sick or exhibiting symptoms of illness. • Refer to the online BPSD COVID-19 screening tool • In-class learning may be suspended or increased on short notice in response to changing public health advice. • All schools will communicate start up expectations by Monday August 24, 2020 to all families via communication protocols. • Ongoing communication with families and students will occur through email, online platforms, websites and letters home as appropriate.

***Level #3** – Remote Learning (with exceptions)*

Institutional (operations)	**In the event of moderate to widespread transmission, in-class learning will be suspended, but school facilities may be used for specific programming following the guidelines for BPSD Pandemic Limited Use of school facilities document. The Division will make decisions around the use of school facilities based on local needs and provincial direction.** • This scenario will be initiated based on public health advice. • Under this scenario, physical distancing (2 m) is required during all hours of school operation and after school activities. • All extra-curricular activities will be cancelled. • All outside user groups activities will be cancelled. • Proper hand hygiene (frequent hand washing), and other public health protocols will always be expected. • Permits for community evening and weekend facility use are suspended.
	Information about physical distancing, cleaning and other public health measures to help schools prepare for in-class learning are posted. • All schools continue with public health protocols including communicating to families in a timely manner. Websites and social media accounts will be updated regularly. • MB Public health requires masks as an additional layer of protection for all staff and students in grades 4-12 where physical distancing of 2 meters cannot be maintained. Students and staff will be encouraged to bring masks and wear them at school when they can remove the mask independently. If a student or staff member does not have a mask, one will be provided for them. • Continue with signage posted throughout the schools regarding self-screening, hand washing, and physical distancing.
	Adjustments to transportation routes and schedules for all stages of re-opening, including asking parents to transport

	their own children where possible. • When in-class learning is suspended student bus transportation is also suspended for all purposes.
Learning	**Action plans for students' recovery learning needs are addressed.** • All professional staff review transition plans for incoming students and plan accordingly in a remote learning environment with the exception of K-6 students of critical workers who will attend school. • Each school has a classroom profiling process that is led by each school's student services team; students with recovery learning needs are identified and interventions will be in place to support students with high recovery learning needs recognizing that these needs will vary depending on subject area and gaps that exist. • Teachers narrow in on foundational outcomes to ensure more time is spent in these areas prioritizing literacy and numeracy as outlined by MB Education. • Achievement gaps are not new challenges to educators and our teachers recognize that we can't simply start with current grade outcomes without providing the foundation and support; additionally, recovery learning is not an activity that is done at the start of the year- it is woven into a school year as students' instructional needs are identified.
	Schedules are adapted to facilitate levels of physical distancing (outdoor classrooms, frequent and staggered hand-washing breaks, staggered recesses and lunch breaks, physical distancing measures in place in classrooms and bathrooms). • Remote learning in place • Schools are closed to the public with the exception of K-6 students of critical workers.
	Blended in-class and remote learning models with access to learning resources for educators available on the Manitoba Education website. • When appropriate, individualized home learning plans will be developed, administered and monitored. Learning plans include requirements for learning outdoors, cross curricular learning and prioritizing literacy and numeracy; combination of asynchronous and synchronous classes are planned for. • Regular facilitated contact with students occurs to assist in keeping

	them engaged in remote learning. • Access to learning resources including technology and connectivity will be provided to families where needed and when possible. BPSD currently has the capacity to lend devices to any students who require devices in the home for remote and blended learning. • Student appointments including possible small groups for assessment, planning and special programming may be scheduled as needed. • K-4 Remote Learning Platforms: See-saw, Dojo or Facebook (school will consider consistent platforms for parent ease). • 5-8 Remote Learning Platforms: Google Classroom. • 9-12 Remote Learning Platforms: Google Classroom, Brightspace.
School Staff	**Staff are oriented to new public health protocols that must be followed in the school, before resuming in-class learning. If volunteers are on site, in a limited way they will receive orientation when they begin.** • The BPSD COVID-19 screening tool can be used to inform staff orientation and include information on self-monitoring, managing a suspected case of COVID-19, managing shared spaces, etc. • Staff will have access to masks which will be recommended for use in the classrooms
	Health and safety training will focus learning on COVID-19 pandemic priority areas: recovery learning, collaborative planning, mental health and well-being, remote learning strategies and safety protocols.
Students and Families	**Students with disabilities and those who are vulnerable to disengage from school are identified. School teams are developing and implementing strategies to re-engage them and prioritize these students for five days a week in-class learning, where possible.** • Schools teams establish individualized plans that are inclusive of a 5 day learning schedule. • MB Resources Supporting Students with Special Needs provide principles and practical resources to assist with planning.

	Expectations for attendance and participation in remote learning are communicated with families. ● Students are expected to attend and fully participate remote learning or in-class when needed. Please refer to the BPSD Student Attendance Expectations Document. ● Communication with families and students will occur through email, online platforms, websites and letters home as appropriate.
	Strategies for regular communication with families to raise awareness of the health and safety measures implemented at the school, and ensure the understanding that students do not attend school when sick or exhibiting symptoms of illness. • Refer to the BPSD COVID-19 screening tool . • Ongoing communication with families and students occurs through email, online platforms, websites and letters home as appropriate.

Additional Information

Beautiful Plains School Division Priorities

- Well-Being of students, families and staff
- Maintaining connections between school staff and students
- Prioritizing literacy and numeracy focusing on essential outcomes

Definitions for Response Level Planning

Physical Distancing Measures – Resuming in-class learning still requires physical distancing. Schools consider strategies for how to manage foot traffic flow in entrances and hallways to avoid congregation. Schools limit nonessential visitors and stagger drop-offs, pick-ups, class times and breaks to the greatest extent possible. Schools also refrain from scheduling assemblies and gatherings that exceed public health advice.

Cohorts – In classrooms, on buses and during activities when physical distancing may not be possible, emphasis is put on other public health measures and limiting interaction between groups. It is important to limit potential exposures by keeping groups of students (e.g. classes) together and avoiding interactions with other groups. In the event that there is a case in a class, this practice can drastically reduce the potential number of exposed staff and students.

Blended Learning – Teacher-directed remote learning will be an essential component of K-12 education throughout the pandemic. Asynchronous (working independently on their own) and synchronous (working with a teacher in real time) options can be considered. Remote and blended in-class and remote learning plans may need to be implemented on short notice. Remote learning plans will also need to be developed for students with underlying health conditions that prohibit them from returning to in-class learning (before broad access to a vaccine) and students in 14-day quarantine or isolation. Some students will require support to obtain access to devices and Internet for participating in remote learning. Mechanisms to maintain ongoing contact with students who are participating in remote learning are critical to keeping students engaged. There will also need to be planning for other factors that affect learning and the well-being of students, staff, and families.

School Attendance

Unless an underlying health condition prevents a student from being at school, regular attendance is mandatory. Students are also expected to engage fully in remote learning.

Contact Tracing

If a student or staff member reports that they have received a positive test for COVID-19:

- The principal will immediately advise the Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent.
- The Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent will contact public health officials, seek advice, and collaborate with divisional and school colleagues to implement the recommendations of public health officials.

Visitors to schools will upon entry to each work site, sign-in on the Entry Log with the date, name, and entry time. Upon request by public health officials, schools will provide contact information for staff who would be considered "close contacts" of any individual that received a positive test result. Public health officials are responsible for communicating with "close contacts" and for advising the wider school community. Schools will not communicate such information without specific direction from their Superintendent and public health officials

Masks

MB Public health requires masks as an additional layer of protection for all staff and students in grades 4-12 where physical distancing of 2 meters cannot be maintained. Students and staff will be encouraged to bring masks and wear them at school when they can remove the mask independently. If a student or staff member does not have a mask, one will be provided for them. All staff and students must wear masks to board the bus and for the entirety of the bus ride each day.

2020-21 School Calendar Dates

Manitoba Education communicated that there are three additional days added prior to the Labour Day weekend which means the school year will start on Wednesday, September 2, 2020 for teachers and staff. During this time, schools are preparing physical spaces, educating staff on public health protocol updates, and engaging collaboratively on approaches to recovery learning as needed.

Students will return to class on Tuesday September 8, 2020. Additional Dates include:
September 2- PD for Teachers
September 3- PD/Admin for Teachers and EAs
September 4- PD/Admin for Teachers, EAs
December 18- January 3 Winter Break
March 26- April 5 Spring Break
June 28- Last Day of Classes for Students

Extra-Curricular

Plans for extra-curricular activities and other gatherings will be developed in consultation with the chief medical officer ensuring capacity limits and health measures are followed. All out-of-province extra-curricular travel is suspended for the remainder of the 2020 calendar year unless specific permission is provided by the Superintendent/CEO. Public health advice will assist in future planning. The rational for travel suspension includes:

- the obvious concern for student and staff safety and well-being
- Continued uncertainty about predicting the spread, impact, and potential second wave occurrences of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Travel restrictions and quarantine requirements vary across regions and countries.
- Significant and unpredictable insurance issues regarding both medical and liability insurance for travelers and the Division.
- Unpredictable cost projections due to uncertainty regarding the availability and cost of transportation, variability of currencies and exchange rates.
- Reducing the financial impact on families by cancelling trips with as much advance notice as possible.

2020-21 Manitoba Provincial Assessments

An update from Manitoba Education on the provincial tests and assessments schedule for the 2020-2021 school year can be found at MB Welcoming Our Students Back: Practice Guidance and Protocols

Grade 3 and 4 Assessment and Middle Years Assessment

The provincial data collection associated with the Grade 3 Assessment in Reading, Lecture and Numeracy and Grade 4 Assessment in French Immersion Lecture, as well as the Middle Years Assessment of Key Competencies in Mathematics, Reading Comprehension, Expository Writing, and Student Engagement will be suspended for the 2020-2021 school year.

Schools and school divisions are encouraged to continue to use the assessments as one of many tools to help identify students' strengths and needs in key competency areas in order to guide instructional planning.

Grade 12 Tests

Grade 12 provincial tests are scheduled to proceed as normal. Schools will be notified if the public health situation warrants a change to the provincial tests. In the event of cancellation, other forms of assessment will be used to determine students' marks.

Report cards will be provided to all students, including situations where remote learning is required.

Student and Staff Well-Being

Student and staff well-being is a priority for us as we navigate through this pandemic together. If parents have any concerns regarding their child, please contact the school and we will work with families to provide the resources and assistance as best we can. Any staff members having difficulty can access the EAP program for additional services as needed as well as reach out to their colleagues, supervisor and/or the division office for assistance. For general information on mental health and well-being, our divisional website has a list of online resources that are being updated regularly.