

September 1, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Here are some important details to help understand how this first week of school will work. We're trying to be clear on everything, please ask questions if we miss anything.

Wednesday is **not** our first student day and we will stagger entry for students (as per Pembina Hills Board release last week). Thursday - Gr. 1,3,5,7 & 9 & Fri. - Gr. 2,4,6 & 8. The first full day for all Gr. 1-9 students will be on Tues., Sept. 8.

One group of Kindergarten students will be here on Wednesday, September 2nd, for Orientation, the rest of Kindergarten students will be coming on Thursday, September 3rd. The kindergarten teachers have sent out information for the class groups.

Unfortunately there will not be a Welcome Back Pancake Breakfast sponsored by our Parent Council (NPCSC/NCES) however, they will be providing store bought individually wrapped cookies for each child on their first day back (either Thurs. Or Fri.). Based on the mandates from the government, we are unable to have mass assemblies at this time. We apologize for having to cancel the pancake breakfast and are sad to miss it this year. Please remember to feed your child breakfast at home!

Some questions we have been asked:

**Can I bring my child's supplies the first day of school?** We recognize that especially in k-3, it's difficult for students to bring all of their supplies on the first day and many parents are wanting to help bring them (which you'd normally do if there was a pancake breakfast and assembly). We **are** allowing parents to come and assist younger children if they would like to. Please note: parents are required to wear a mask in the school and all visitors must sign in, even if they're only in the school for a short period of time.

We are asking parents to remain spaced out in the hallways. Teachers will limit the number of parents in the classroom at one time and extra staff will hang out in the halls to help with traffic flow. We don't want this to be rigid or awkward, simply just safe and efficient. We'd ask parents to quickly drop the items in the class and leave relatively soon so you don't take too long. Teachers will work with students to unpack all of the supplies and get their desks set up.

**Can my child bring food to be heated in the microwave?** Yes, the teachers will manage the use of the microwave in their classrooms to keep it safe and orderly.

Please note, even on a normal year, if too many bring microwave meals it slows the whole class down so we always encourage parents to send non-microwave meals as well. If you're concerned about safety, please contact your teacher to find out how they're keeping things safe and smooth with microwave use. They each have a plan.

**Can I send Birthday treats to the classroom?** Yes, but they need to be store-bought individually wrapped food items. This is so we're in compliance with the Alberta Government laws. Our apologies for any inconvenience.

**What product are you using for sanitizers & the fogger that will be used for PE equipment, etc.?** The maintenance department oversees this. They heard concerns in the summer and worked to find a natural, non-toxic, non-WHMIS sanitizer. This also addressed concerns staff had brought up with toxic chemicals being used. With this natural sanitizer, we addressed the chemical issues and health concerns.

**Is the school providing masks for my child?** Yes, we have received 2 cloth masks for all our students. We have smaller sized ones for our younger students and larger for Gr. 4-9 & staff. Only grades 4-9 are required to wear masks. K-3 is totally optional and whatever families choose to wear them in k-3 will be supported by the school. The 4-9 students are only required to wear masks in the hallway, or in the classroom when there is a lot of movement or close group work. Teachers are planning for mask off time (to have a break) and masks on when required. We're really looking for balance.

Parents are allowed to provide cloth masks of their own if they want. Students need to have clean masks each day, so if they only have the two provided by the government, they'll have to wash them very frequently.

If a student forgets a mask, we do have disposables for one day usage. More information about masks can be found by clicking on the appropriate links on the Pemina Hills website

<https://www.pembinahills.ca/schools-programs/covid-19-information/returning-to-school-september-2020/>

If possible, we encourage you to send a personal size hand sanitizer for each student to use at their desk before putting on the mask, as well as using before taking off the mask.

**Do I need to keep all of my children home if only one has symptoms?** No. Although this was originally in the Alberta Health Services (AHS) checklist, they have updated it to only the person with symptoms needs to stay home. The only exception is if there are any confirmed COVID cases in the home, then parents need to keep all the students

home. We're really hoping we continue to be relatively COVID free in the area as we generally have since March. Please make sure to use the [updated checklist](#) that was released last week.

**What if my child has a pre-existing medical condition that could cause COVID symptoms (such as asthma)?** This information should already be entered into Powerschool as we enter this upon receiving the information during the student registration process. Our school office staff will send another form to have parents fill out up to date information for any pre-existing medical conditions. We'd like this information to be returned soon so we can have an accurate record on file.

I want to reiterate that we are looking forward to a very fun and enjoyable year. Being in "Scenario 1", it is "near normal" with health measures in place. We will enforce all health measures to keep everyone safe and carry on with *normal and enjoyable* school to keep this a place students look forward to coming to everyday. Although it may take a couple of weeks to work out any glitches, we will have routines and systems in place so that everything goes smoothly and makes it a pleasant experience for all. Any questions or concerns should be directed to Mr. Seatter [brett.seatter@pembinahills.ca](mailto:brett.seatter@pembinahills.ca) so he can coordinate with staff to find proactive solutions.

Please continue to pray for our school and our community that we are able to have a healthy, successful, and enjoyable school year. We are excited to have kids back in the building!!

Sincerely,

Brett Seatter  
Principal NPCCS