

## **BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION**

## Office of the Superintendent / Chief Executive Officer

Dr. Marc D. Casavant, Superintendent / Chief Executive Officer Mr. Mathew Gustafson, Assistant Superintendent Mrs. Elaine McFadzen, Assistant Superintendent

July 14, 2020

## Dear Parents/Guardians and Staff:

I want to provide you with an update as to the status of our plans for returning in the fall. If you want to read the Manitoba Education plan you can click on their Restoring Safe Schools document that was made public on June 25. In this document you will find the three scenarios for which school divisions have been asked to plan. These plans are complex as we work through things such as transportation, programming requirements, public health orders, accommodations, how instruction is delivered, how students will attend and arrive at schools, etc. These are challenging times for everyone and I ask for your patience as we work through this together in a timely and safe fashion.

In early August, Manitoba Education will identify which of the three scenarios will be used for the return to school in September. Around the same time we would expect the Chief Public Health Officer to define the Health Orders that we must follow for the return to school plan. It would be my expectation that within two weeks of these two announcements the Brandon School Division will announce the specifics to our return to school plan for the fall.

I recognize you may have a lot of questions about the fall and what your child's education might look like, and I want to assure you that we are working with Manitoba Education and the Chief Public Health Officer as we plan for the return of students and staff in the fall.

The return to school in the fall will require a collaborative effort to keep everyone safe and we ask all families to have back-up plans for when their child may become ill. It comes without saying that staff and students will be asked to stay home if they are ill, and to follow any protocols that the Chief Medical Officer or Manitoba Education prescribe in these instances. I will have more to share on this when our plans are finalized.

At this time there is no requirement for Personal Protective Equipment to be worn while students and staff are at school. However, students and staff are free to utilize Personal Protective Equipment if they so choose. As per the Chief Medical Officer, we will continue to implement plans around physical distancing, handwashing, and cleansing high traffic surfaces.

It is a pleasure to serve you in my position as Superintendent/CEO of the Brandon School Division, and on behalf of Senior Administration and the Board of Trustees I wish you all a safe and relaxing summer vacation. I will update you in August with our next steps.

Sincerely,

Dr. Marc D. Casavant, Superintendent/Chief Executive Officer

Accepting the Challenge