



## County Central High School

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### *Exceptional Education*

**Principal: Ms. Leanne Hellman, B.Sc., B.Ed., M.A., M.Sc.**

**Vice-principal: Mr. Donauvon Monts, B.Ed.**

August 5th, 2020

Dear Parents & Guardians:

I hope that this letter finds you well, and that our students have been enjoying their summer break. I know that many of you have been waiting patiently for information regarding our plans for re-opening in September. As you may have noted yesterday, the guidance being provided to schools has been changing throughout the summer, and we've been adapting our plans in response to new information as it comes out.

First and foremost, I would like to convey how excited we are to be reopening the school and how much we are looking forward to seeing our students again. We are committed to ensuring that learning continues and that the safety of our students, staff, and families comes first. We are doing everything that we can to plan for the safe return of students and staff, but we're also planning in such a way as to be ready and responsive to changing circumstances. Palliser has been incredibly helpful in this regard and has created a school re-entry handbook to guide us as we move forward.

The handbook, which is a comprehensive document outlining all of the measures the school and the Division are putting in place, will be shared with families shortly; in the meantime I'm hoping that the following highlights will help to reassure you that we are preparing to have your children back in classes. Essentially, our plans revolve around the principles of following expert

advice, keeping the virus out of the building, and preventing spread of the virus. Some of the measure we have put in place include (but are not limited to) the following:

- The school will be thoroughly sanitized prior to students arriving in September, and there will be ongoing cleaning of high-touch surfaces throughout the school day with more intensive cleaning taking place outside of school hours.
- All students, staff, and visitors will be required to complete the COVID-19 screening tool before leaving their homes each day. Visitors to the school will be permitted by appointment only and will also have to complete the self-screening tool before entering the building. Anyone who has symptoms or who has had contact with the virus will not be allowed to enter the building. We will send a copy of the AHS screening tool to all students and their families and will have copies posted at all entrances.
- Students arriving in the morning will have a designated entrance and will move directly to their first period classrooms to avoid congregating in the hallways and milling about.
- Students and staff will be asked to wash/sanitize their hands before leaving their homes in the morning, upon arrival at the school, before entering a classroom, and when leaving a classroom. Essentially, we will have hand sanitizing stations throughout the building to accommodate the need for frequent hand sanitizing throughout the day.
- Students and staff will be required to wear non-medical masks during arrival, when in the hallways, during breaks, and during departure, as well as when working closely with others in the classroom.
- Classrooms will all be set up with desks separated as much as possible. Desks will be in rows and students will have assigned seating. Students will not be seated facing each other.
- Hallways and stairwells will be marked for single-file, physically distant, directional travel.

- Students will not have access to lockers for the time being.
- Should a student or staff member become ill during the school day, they will be immediately isolated. A parent or guardian will be asked to come and pick up their child. All members of our community will be required to adhere to the Alberta Health Services orders regarding isolation and testing.
- Students are welcome to bring their own laptops if they so wish. Shared Chromebooks will be cleaned before and after each use.
- Staff will be utilizing tools such as Google Classroom to help students stay on track with their learning should they need to isolate for a period of time.
- Students will not be permitted to share or borrow any materials, supplies, or any food.

As per the announcement from the Province yesterday, the government will be providing two reusable masks to each student and each staff member, as well as one reusable face shield per staff member, some plexiglass barriers, contactless thermometers, and hand sanitizer. Mr. Monts and I are working on reworking the bell schedule a bit to allow separate lunch breaks for our junior and senior high students, and we are outlining daily procedures in straightforward terms to help students know exactly where to go and what to do throughout each day in order to stay safe. To help our students ease into the new routines and protocols, we are planning to stagger the start of school - a schedule will be shared with you in the coming weeks. It is our hope that a staggered re-entry schedule will give staff ample time to educate students about procedures while looking after the regular start-up activities (i.e. course changes, textbook sign out) in a less crowded setting, and will allow us to provide an orientation for new students - especially our Grade 7s.

As mentioned, a comprehensive handbook for reopening will be shared with you to provide more details. We will continue to send information with you as it becomes available, and I am accessible to you should you have questions or would like to talk about the return to school plan.

I recognize that there is some anxiety amongst students, parents, and staff regarding the return to in-person instruction, and I want you to know that we understand how people are feeling. Please get in touch with me if there is anything I can do or any information that I can provide that would help you or your child feel better about returning to school.

Please note that you will soon be receiving a letter and survey asking you to indicate your preferences about returning to school in September. Information gathered from this survey will help us plan in case there are students who wish to continue with online learning or who may not be able to return to in-class instruction for medical reasons. We appreciate your completing the survey prior to August 14th, as we will need time to make appropriate arrangements.

At this point, one of the most helpful things you can do as parents and guardians is to ensure that you complete the online verification form for your child as soon as it has been sent out, and to confirm that the contact information, emergency contact information, and medical information is all accurate and up to date (these pieces of information are integral to the successful implementation of our school re-entry plan). It will also be helpful to reassure students about returning to school, and to review proper hand-washing protocols, respiratory protocols, and the importance of physical distancing. Please continue to check your emails regularly for more details about our school re-entry plan. It is my hope that - by working together and being exceptionally careful and diligent - we can avoid students, staff, and families becoming ill.

Sincerely,

Leanne Hellman