



New Norway School

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Principal: Mr. R. Payne Assistant Principal: Mr. S. Searle

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Dear Spartan Families:

As most of you are aware, the Alberta Government has increased restrictions and guidelines to deal with the increase in COVID-19 cases throughout the province. Further to the update from Superintendent Marler we distributed yesterday, here is some additional information about the impact on schools:

Home schools will be supporting their students whether it is in person, online, or through paper delivery.

Grade 7-12 key messages

- Return to At Home learning from Monday, November 30th to Friday, January 8th (except during the Christmas break).
- The week of January 4th-8th will be At Home learning for ALL students in Kindergarten to Grade 12.
- The current plan is that all students will return to in-class learning on Monday, January 11th.
- Diploma exams for high school students are optional for the rest of the school year. Students and their families can choose whether to write an exam or receive an exemption for the January, April, June and August 2021 exams. If students decide to write a diploma exam, it will be worth 30% of their final mark.
- Practices, etc., for all junior / senior sports teams have been cancelled for all BRSD schools.
- Students will continue to participate in ALL of their classes remotely. (This includes Jr. High CTS courses taken at ECCHS.)
- Students will follow the same timetable that they currently have each day. Extra paper copies of the Grades 7-12 second quarter timetable have been provided to students and will also be posted to our school website.
- Students will be provided full instruction based on the current timetable, along with assessment and feedback.
- Marks will continue to be gathered for final reporting. Please note that during this temporary remote learning adjustment, marks can go up **or down** (unlike the emergency learning scenario in the spring).
- The primary mode of communication will be Google Tools. This will mostly include email, Google Classroom, and Google Meets. Teachers may use additional apps and resources to support student learning.
- Teachers will be available at their assigned class times to support students. This will include direct instruction through Google Meet when required and posting assignments in Google Classroom. Students will be able to ask questions through Google Meet or emails.
- Classes will continue to be assessed. The type and frequency of assessments will be determined by the teacher of each subject.
- All students will need to have access to a device. The preference is that students will use their own whenever possible. However, if it is an absolute necessity because there is no access in the home, please email Mrs. Schielke jschielke@brsd.ab.ca and she will make the arrangements for your child to borrow a device from the school.

- If the connection to the internet is not available or reliable at home, paper/print materials can be available upon request for drop off and pick up at the school. Please communicate this need directly with your child's teachers.
- We are asking that students bring home all of their materials. We will do a classroom and locker cleanout prior to the break as well.
- Prior to the announcement, teachers have been ensuring that students are connected to Google Classroom and have an understanding of what will be expected of them should a change like this occur. We are prepared.

Grade K-6 key messages

- Kindergarten-Grade 6 will continue to attend in-person classes as usual until the Christmas break begins on December 19th.
- The week of January 4th-8th will be At Home learning for ALL students in Kindergarten to Grade 12
- The current plan is that all students will return to in-class learning on Monday, January 11th.
- Teachers will be sending home paper packages on or before Dec. 18. The week of January 4th-8th, teachers will be at school and available to touch base with and support students/families (through Google Classroom, email, Google Meets, phone calls, etc.).
- We are asking that students bring home all of their materials and do a classroom and locker cleanout prior to the Christmas break.

Please note that At Home Learning will not look like it did in the spring of 2020. It is essential to each child's learning that they keep up with their classes and stay connected to their teacher throughout the period of at-home learning.

Please notify your child's teacher if unexpected events or illness prevent class participation - just as you would for in-person instruction. We ask that communication with teachers respects reasonable office hours (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.) and hope that you understand that due to their many commitments they may not be able to respond immediately to your query.

Students will not transition to the BRSD At Home Learning (AHL) program for the timeframe of the temporary transition to remote learning. If a student is transitioning to AHL, they will be expected to remain in AHL for the rest of the quarter.

We recognize that this can be a difficult time for students and families. Staff is available to support students throughout the coming weeks. Stacey McLennan, our Family School Liaison Worker, is also available to support students or families should the need arise.

You can expect to hear from your child's teacher soon. If you have specific questions, please do not hesitate to reach out. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work through this transition and hopefully return to in-school learning again in January.

This is a dynamic situation, and there may be more information or changes that occur in the days ahead. We will continue to keep you updated as quickly as possible.

Yours in education,

Richard Payne
Principal

Steve Searle
Assistant Principal