



# New Norway School

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

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August 25, 2021

Hello New Norway families!

We hope everyone has had an opportunity to rest and recharge the last two months. As the summer winds-down we are looking forward to returning to school and working with your children again in September.

As mentioned in the final newsletter in June, there are a few staff changes for 2021-22. The teaching and support staff at New Norway this year is as follows:

Principal - Mr. Payne

Assistant Principal - Mr. Searle

Kindergarten - Mrs. Gutmann

Grade 1 - Ms. Tronsgard

Grade 2 - Ms Cava

Grade 3 - Ms. Ng

Grade 4 - Mrs. Fleck

Grade 5 - Mrs. King

Grade 6 - Mr. Anderson

Elementary music - Mrs. Metcalfe

Grade 7 - Mr. Kluthe

Grade 8 - Ms Berg

Grade 9 - Mr. Lindstrand

Grade 10 - Mrs. Shostak

Grade 11 - Mr. Searle

Grade 12 - Ms. Read

Administrative Assistants - Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Calvin

Learning Commons Facilitator - Mrs. Schielke

Educational Assistants - Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Kellgren and Mrs. Rostad

We're sure that everyone has been looking forward to a return to a more "normal" school and work environment, and there are very few provincially mandated measures in place. However, given the recent rise in case numbers throughout Alberta and right here in our own areas, we are also aware that the COVID-19 pandemic is not completely behind us yet.

Our school division has been working hard to find a balance between returning as many activities and events as possible, and also continuing to keep students, staff and community members safe. BRSD is implementing strategies that we believe will make it possible to safely return more activities to our schools, while also mitigating risk of illness as much as we can. These strategies are outlined in the BRSD back-to-school plan that has been posted on the division website, and can be accessed via this link: <https://www.brsd.ab.ca/welcome-back-to-school-2021-2022> We encourage you to review the document carefully so you know what to expect when classes resume on September 7th.

In addition to the division-wide strategies in the back-to-school plan, the following practices will be followed at New Norway School:

### Recesses/breaks

In response to Student Voice Surveys and conversations last year, the longer mid-morning and mid-afternoon breaks instituted last year for secondary students will continue.

Since cohorting is no longer required, recess breaks will not be staggered this year.

### Extracurricular events/activities

We are excited that traditional extracurricular sports and other events will be resuming at New Norway School with parent spectators in attendance. Please refer to the district plan for current directives.

### Visitors

Please refer to the district plan (pg. 8). If you believe your child will need in-person assistance in the morning of the first day of school, please call the school office by the end of the day Friday (Sept 3rd) to make an appointment.

### Microwaves

As detailed in the BRSD Back-to-School plan, microwaves are once again permitted. Homeroom teachers will determine grade and age appropriate procedures for their use and will share that with students in the first couple days. We ask that you refrain from sending food requiring heating for the first week of classes. Please remember that microwaves are intended for warming (i.e., not cooking) food, and that microwave popcorn is not permitted. We continue to encourage the use of Thermos containers to bring warm food from home to avoid line-ups.

### Field Trips

Under the current guidelines, New Norway students will be able to participate in co-curricular field trips this school year. No firm plans are in place at present, but as long as health guidelines allow it, we intend to plan to resume giving our students these in-person opportunities. Stay tuned!

### Doors / Dismissal

Grade K-3 students will enter and exit through the east doors.

Grades 4-6 students will enter and exit through the south doors.

Secondary students will enter and exit through the south or north-facing doors by the gym.

Staggered dismissal at the end of the day is no longer required, and buses will be waved-on as a group after loading rather than individually to improve pedestrian safety.

### Assemblies/Guest Speakers/Special Events

We are very excited to be able to conduct assemblies like only Spartan's can and invite guest speakers and performers back into our building. In order to do this safely, all guidelines outlined in the BRSD Back to School plan will be adhered to.

We are very happy that we are able to reinstate many activities and opportunities in the coming year, but our top priority is to ensure that the school is a safe and healthy environment in which students feel comfortable to learn and staff feel comfortable to work. The division feels strongly that it is important to balance restrictions and opportunities for students, and we are. If you still have questions after reviewing the BRSD Back-to-School Plan, please direct them to Diane Hutchinson, Director of Communications, [dhutchinson@brsd.ab.ca](mailto:dhutchinson@brsd.ab.ca) If wanting more detail about how the plan will be implemented at New Norway School, please don't hesitate to contact Mr. Payne or Mr. Searle at 780-855-3936.

Mr. Payne

Mr. Searle