



Return to School Plan August 2020

Welcome back! Hopefully you all had an opportunity to enjoy some beautiful Manitoba summer and managed to stay healthy and well during this time. September is just around the corner and we are really looking forward to having our students back in school.

Hanover schools will reopen for students on September 9, 2020 and staff is busy preparing for their arrival. This document provides details of our return to school plan in correlation to the HSD plan that was distributed last week.

SECTION 1: SCHOOL DAY STRUCTURE/LEARNING PLANS

School Attendance and Participation

NHS students will attend school following a 50% in/out model.

- Our student population will be split into two alphabetical tracks (groups) by last name.
 - Track A is A-J
 - Track B is K-Z
- Tracks will attend school every other day. Students will follow the regular timetable each day they are in school, moving from their scheduled classes period by period.
- Students will be assessed on their work, reflective of their performance at school as well as their learning at home.
- All courses will continue to be offered as scheduled except choir. Choir will be put on hold for the month of September, at which time we will review the feasibility of reinstating it.

NHS will follow a day 1, 1, 2, 2, cycle:

- School will begin on September 9 for Track A students as a day 1.
- We will then repeat day 1 with Track B on September 10.
- Sept 11 and 14 will be day 2 and so on.
- This rotation allows students to access all courses that run on alternating days throughout the year.
- The NHS online school calendar and HSD Parent Portal will clearly outline this rotation/schedule for the year.

Students are expected to participate in “at home learning” on the days they are not in school. Students will have access to each of their courses through Google Classroom and will be required to log in each day they are at home to check for new messages and assignments. Students will also be able to access their materials and assignments in situations where they are absent or the need arises to transition to 100% remote learning.

Welcome and Orientation Days

Track A (A-J) - Wednesday, September 9 (day 1)

Track B (K-Z) - Thursday, September 10 (day 1)

The first day of school for each Track will focus on welcoming students back and orienting them to a new way of “doing school”. We ask that students all arrive for a 9:00 start, even if they would normally have a first period spare. We will return to our regular class schedule on Friday, September 11.

Lockers

HSD has implemented a “no locker” policy for the start of the school year. Students will be required to carry their supplies and belongings with them throughout the day.

Lunch

Lunch will be eaten in designated classrooms only.

- The multi-purpose room, or other common gathering areas, will not be accessible.
- Students may leave school property during the lunch hour but will need to report to their designated classroom upon their return.
- Physical distancing guidelines of 2m must be followed at all times.

The canteen will remain closed and hot lunches will not be available until further notice.

Spares

Students on spare will need to report to the multi-purpose area or learning commons where they will be under direct supervision and appropriately distanced from others. Students may also go home during their spares if that is an option.

Learning Commons

The learning commons will be open and accessible for students to borrow library materials and receive chromebook support. Students using this space during a spare will need to adhere to physical distancing guidelines at all times.

Extra-curricular Activities

All extra-curricular activities have been put on pause to begin the school year. This includes all school sports and clubs. HSD will assess the situation after September 14th and advise schools of the next steps. All community use of schools has also been suspended until further notice.

Welcoming Students and Families

Meet the Teacher Event: Restrictions regarding visitor access and events in public spaces prevent us from offering and hosting our meet the teacher event in the usual format.

- Our teachers will create a virtual greeting and introduction which will be uploaded to our school’s YouTube channel on Thursday, September 3rd. We will send out a link for easy access and you may watch these at your convenience.
- You will also have the opportunity to meet your child’s teachers in-person during scheduled blocks of time on Tuesday, September 8th, if you so wish. We will provide more details on how to register late next week.

School Visits: School visits should be minimized to the greatest extent possible. Online communication and telephone calls should be used to interact with school staff, where possible, rather than in person.

SECTION 2: MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Mental health and well-being is critical to overall student success.

- We will provide students with opportunities to adjust to new school routines and expectations.
- Learning at NHS will include a focus on building students' social-emotional learning skills, so they can increase resilience, manage their stress, and develop positive relationships.
- Teachers will engage in regular check-ins with their students and gauge their well-being in an effort to help students learn to the greatest extent possible.

NHS will use best practice guidelines for returning to school as recommended by Kevin Cameron's work on Trauma Response:

Listen - School staff will provide students with an opportunity to share their experiences and express feelings of worry, anxiety, fear, or other concerns about their safety. We will work to establish rapport and trust as quickly as possible.

Protect - School staff will aim to establish feelings of both physical and emotional safety. This will be accomplished by providing a calm daily routine and offering information about what is being done to keep everyone safe.

Connect - We will help students establish social relationships and stay connected to others in order to experience social support. Restoring and building connections even in the online learning environment promotes stability, recovery, and predictability in people's lives.

Model - NHS acknowledges the disruption to school and many other aspects of daily life. We understand the need to 'get back to normal' and will demonstrate a positive and optimistic approach to a new normal. School staff will work to help students develop effective coping strategies in response to their stress despite the fear or loss they may experience.

Teach - School staff will help students become familiar with the range of normal reactions that can occur as a result of the global pandemic we're in and discuss constructive ways of adapting and coping to new challenges and changes.

NHS Student Care Team:

Deanna Wiebe - School Counsellor

Brad Mehling - Learning Support Teacher

Graham Sereda - Vice Principal/Learning Support

Kimberley Funk- Principal

Feel free to contact any of the team members at school by email or phone. We will be happy to assist you.

SECTION 3: COMMUNICATION

Our goal is to provide on-going communication and answer any questions you might have about your child's experience at school. As the situation is ever-changing, we will strive to provide you with clear, accurate, and transparent communication as new information comes our way.

NHS Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 - 4:30

Phone: 204-388-9761

Email: nhs@hsd.ca

Website: nhs.hsd.ca

Teachers will communicate with their students primarily through the school email and Google Classroom. Students need to check their school email daily for new messages.

NHS, along with HSD, will continue to work with Manitoba Health to stay informed about the status of COVID-19 transmission in our community.

The official sources for the most up-to-date and accurate information in regards to Covid-19 can be found at <https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/index.html>.

SECTION 4: PUBLIC HEALTH ORDERS AND GUIDANCE

All staff, students, and visitors must adhere to self-screening, physical distancing, and recommended hygiene practices. Anyone with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 should not enter the school.

Self-Screening!

Students are required to self-screen each day before they come to school. Parents and guardians are responsible to ensure that self-screening measures have been taken prior to their child arriving at school.

Self-Screening Poster - https://www.gov.mb.ca/asset_library/en/coronavirus/COVID-19-poster-1.pdf

On-line Screening Tool - <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/screening-tool/>

Students are to stay home if they are sick or have Covid-like symptoms. Be aware that a chronic stable cough, sneeze, runny nose or nasal congestion that is unchanged and clearly linked to a known medical condition such as asthma or allergies, is not an absolute requirement for staying at home.

If a student becomes ill or develops symptoms during the school day, they will be isolated and parents/caregivers will be called. The student will need to be picked up promptly if they are unable to get home on their own.

Students with symptoms should be tested. If the test is negative for COVID-19, they can return 24 hours after symptoms resolve. If individuals do not get tested, they should isolate for 14 days from symptom onset, and they may return if symptoms have resolved at that time.

An up-to-date list of symptoms can be found at: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/about/index.html>

Masks

Masks are mandatory where physical distancing is not possible. This will come into play in high traffic areas such as hallways, common areas and on buses.

- Every student will need to provide their own non-medical mask to use while at school.

- Masks will be worn by all staff and students during transition times between classes and during any high traffic times such as entering and exiting the building, and wherever 2m distancing is not possible.
- Masks are mandatory while riding a school bus. Students must have their mask in place prior to getting on the bus and it must remain in place until they have exited the bus and it is appropriate to remove it.

When students are in classrooms, physically distanced 2m apart, they may remove their masks if they so choose. Teachers can instruct without a mask if they are appropriately distanced from their students. When classroom members cannot be 2m apart masks must be worn.

Physical Distancing Measures

Physical distancing will be practiced to the fullest extent possible in all parts of the school throughout the school day.

- Two-meter physical distancing will be maintained wherever possible.
- Classrooms will be set up to ensure students are spaced 2m apart.
- Traffic flow throughout the school will be managed by signs, floor markings and direct teacher supervision.
- Hugs, handshakes and other direct physical contact will be avoided.
- The number of students in the bathroom at one time will be limited. There will be no congregating or hanging out in the bathrooms.

General Hygiene Measures

Hygiene measures will be reviewed with students on a regular basis.

- **Hand hygiene:** Perform hand hygiene often, with soap and warm water, for at least 20 seconds, or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer—especially after coughing, blowing noses, sneezing, and when handling food.
- **Cough and sneeze etiquette:** Cough and sneeze into your arm or a tissue. If using a tissue, immediately dispose of it and perform hand hygiene afterwards.
- **No sharing:** Students are not to share food, water bottles, masks or other personal belongings.
- **Stay home when sick:** Students should stay home if they are sick or tell staff if they are not feeling well at school so arrangements can be made for them to go home.
- **Keep clean:** Do not touch your face—particularly your eyes, nose and mouth.
- **Stay healthy:** Stay healthy by eating healthy foods, keeping physically active and getting enough sleep and fresh air.

Cleaning and Sanitizing

Hand sanitizer will be available in all classrooms and key points throughout the school.

Increased cleaning and disinfecting will occur around the school and throughout the day.

- Table surfaces and high contact touchable areas will be sanitized between each class period and following lunch.
- Shared equipment will be sanitized after each use (ie. gym equipment, keyboards, cameras, instruments, etc.)

Contact Tracing and Outbreak Management

In the event of the confirmation of a case of COVID-19 within the school, Manitoba health will lead the response and ensure appropriate supports are in place to coordinate the response.

Public health will contact students, staff and families if they have been in close contact with a confirmed or probable case, and confirm whether they need to self-isolate or self-monitor, and when they can return to school.

The 2020-21 school year will be anything but normal with all these new guidelines and safety protocols in place, but we are confident that school will be a safe and positive place for our students to learn. Things are going to work out - it might feel and look different but we will all figure this out together! We have a supportive community and a strong school team who will work diligently to make this year as successful as possible.

All the best to you and your family as we enter into a new school year!

Kimberley Funk, Principal
Graham Sereda, Vice Principal