

August 24, 2021

Dear families,

We are so excited to welcome your children to school for the start of the 2021-2022 school year! School starts on September 2, 2021 with in-person learning every day for grade 1-12 students while our Kindergarten and Prekindergarten students will start soon after. We know that we are still living with Covid and that means we will have some extra precautions in our schools, but some things will be more like they were prior to the pandemic. Please stay connected to your school in the coming days and weeks to learn about back to school routines in your local school.

Saskatchewan Rivers Public School Division has revised its Covid Response Plan and the new plan is available at [www.srsd119.ca](http://www.srsd119.ca). You will see that we have taken the advice of medical experts and will start the school year requiring masks indoors in all schools for PreK-grade 12 students, staff and visitors. Masks will also be required on all school buses. Masks will not be required for outdoor activities, but the added layer of protection provided by masks indoors will allow for extracurricular clubs, sports and activities to resume with appropriate protocols and enable parents and invited guests to return to in-person connections in schools. Within the school, there will be a return to pre-pandemic operations in many other ways as well.

We will start the school year with masks indoors, and some other protective measures, but we will review the plan on an ongoing basis. Changes to the plan will consider experiences of students, families and staff, and will continue to rely on local Health advice, and on data related to transmission risk, Covid case rates, vaccine rates and local epidemiological evidence.

You know that children and adults will anticipate and experience the start of the school year in many different ways. Some will be very excited and considering the opportunities while others will be more concerned and considering the challenges. Please be patient and supportive of each other and enable all of us to find the positive path forward. Continue to talk with your children about the start of school, encourage conversation about their excitements and worries, model calmness and openness and practice procedures that will reduce the spread of COVID-19.

As always, please feel free to share your concerns, suggestions and questions with us. Many of your questions might be best answered by your child's teacher or principal, but feel free to connect with me, the Senior Admin team or your local school board trustee. We are looking forward to a great school year.

Yours in Education,



Robert Bratvold  
Director of Education