

September 4, 2020
Updated October 26, 2020

ÉCOLE MORDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL



School Re-opening Plan

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School Re-Opening Plan

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Western School Division School Re-Opening Plan

The comprehensive Western School Division School Re-Opening Plan is available by [CLICKING HERE](#) or visiting www.westernsd.mb.ca.

Return to In-Class Learning Grades 5-8 at ÉMMS

ÉMMS aims to provide a safe and enjoyable return to in-class learning for all students. The connections established between home and school proved very powerful during the Remote Learning Phase of 2020 and will be the foundation of success in 2020-21. All members of the Blazers Family are expected to work together to create a great culture and a positive school experience.

All ÉMMS students will return to school full time. The Province expects all students to either attend school or register for Home-schooling. If the situation changes and the Government directs school divisions to offer blended (combination of in-class and at-home) or remote (at-home) learning, we will be prepared to do so quickly. Students who require medical exemptions will be required to provide documentation and, once approved, will be set up with appropriate programming.

There are many “unknowns” as we head into the school year. ÉMMS staff have tried to anticipate as many challenges as possible and plan for them. However, many new challenges will arise and we will have planned for some challenges that prove to be less of an issue than originally thought. Adjustments to this plan and to the operations of our school will be ongoing to ensure our time and resources are focused in the right direction to support student and staff safety.

Key Elements

Physical Distancing – The WSD has increased our teaching staff by two teachers to allow us to shrink classes and meet minimum distancing standards (one meter or three feet in classrooms). We have converted the French/Drama/Art room and the Music room into classrooms to accommodate these new homerooms. We have also had to cap class size for each room in the building based on available square footage. This means some students were moved to new homerooms to get all classes under the cap for their space.

Excess furniture has been removed from classrooms to create space for students to spread out. Available desks have replaced tables where possible. The Western School Division continues to explore purchasing more furniture as needed along with any other options that may provide extra safety for students.

Masks – The Province has mandated masks for all students at ÉMMS in common areas and any situation where two meters of distance cannot be maintained. ÉMMS has very few indoor spaces that will allow for masks to be removed. Students should expect to be wearing a mask

for the large majority of their time in school. Teachers will ensure that students have an opportunity to remove their masks as needed. Exemptions to the provincial mandate will be considered as per the WSD School Re-Opening Plan. Support will be provided for students who do not have access to masks.

https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/covid/docs/mask_guidance.pdf

Cohorts – Classes are grouped together into “cohorts” with one other class (sometimes more). These cohorts align with the Phys. Ed. schedule and teaching partners. Students will stay in these cohorts throughout the day, including on the playground where zones will be marked out. It is important for students to limit their exposure to students from other cohorts to assist with halting the spread of the virus and with contact tracing should it become necessary.

Hand Hygiene – Teachers will regularly ensure students wash their hands for 20 seconds and practice proper hygiene throughout the day. This includes:

- At the start of the day and before going home
- After going to the washroom
- Before preparing food
- Before and after eating
- After getting hands dirty
- After wiping noses or handling dirty tissues
- After coughing, sneezing, or blowing nose
- After cleaning tasks (staff)

<https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/docs/ipc/hand.pdf>

Screening – Parents and caregivers are responsible for ensuring their children are not displaying symptoms before sending them to school or on the bus. Staff are responsible for self-screening. Staff may assist with screening when students did not self-screen at home.

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

Shared/Common Space – Access to shared spaces will be limited and monitored according to Public Health requirements and the WSD Re-Opening Plan. This includes the Library Resource Centre, the hallways, any offices, and the gymnasium.

Transportation – The WSD has contacted every family in the division and discussed this issue. Families who qualify for bussing based on legislation will be provided with divisional transportation as needed. Parents are encouraged to transport their children to school if possible to allow for greater distancing on buses.

Programming

Course Offerings - Due to distancing and cohort requirements established by the Province, there will be disruptions to some elective programming at ÉMMS until further notice. Programming at all grade levels will consist of:

- All core courses (Math, English, Social Studies, Science, Phys. Ed./Health).
- Two periods of Music per cycle.
- Basic French (unless staffing and cohorts do not allow it).

French Immersion – French language instruction will continue at all grade levels with the same disruptions to elective courses as listed above.

Programming Flexibility – ÉMMS will be prepared to shift programming back to “normal” at any given time during the school year and a full selection of Options and Electives could begin should the health situation warrant such a change.

Support Programming – Student Services will operate at full capacity throughout the pandemic. This includes Resource and Guidance services. Students receiving services and staff providing services will follow all health regulations and will be provided with “Personal Protective Equipment” as needed.

Recovery Learning – The early portion of the school year will focus on developing a clear understanding of where students are at in their learning. Teachers will use a wide variety of strategies to determine this and target instruction accordingly. Information regarding student progress and participation levels during remote learning has been shared with appropriate staff in preparation to support student growth.

As per The WSD Re-Opening Plan, Student assessment and transition planning shall emphasize and respond to recovery learning needs identified in June 2020 report cards and transition material provided by past teachers.

- Teachers shall review report cards and liaise with the students' former teacher to understand gaps in learning.
- The first few weeks of school will be spent reviewing content and identifying current knowledge to establish a clear picture of where students are in their learning.

Student Assessment – Teachers will follow the WSD Assessment Procedures throughout the school year. Report Cards will be prepared at the end of each term according to provincial requirements regardless of whether students are learning in-class or remotely.

Assessment and Reporting:

- Teachers must prepare to assess student learning regardless of the scenario.
- Teachers will provide regular and timely feedback to students and parents on student achievement.
- Provincial assessments have been cancelled at the Middle Years level for this academic year.

Depending on the COVID-19 situation at the time:

- Report cards will be available in print format but may also be available digitally.
- Student Involved Conferences may occur either in person or via a divisionally approved online platform.

Blended and Remote Learning – ÉMMS will be prepared to shift from In-Class to Blended to Remote learning and back again quickly and efficiently. Microsoft Teams will provide the backbone of this transition. Teachers will create a Team for their classroom and train students on how to use it during the first portion of the school year. Families will be supported with technology equipment loans as needed, if Blended or Remote learning become a reality.

The Manitoba Government has indicated that individual classrooms could be forced into Remote Learning on short notice if students or staff within the cohort test positive. If cases are spreading within the school, the Province may order the whole school to switch to Remote Learning. Manitoba Public Health will make decisions regarding the implementation and scope of Remote Learning.

Logistical Items

Student Movement – Each cohort will be assigned a door to enter and exit the building and a bathroom to use as needed. Student movement throughout the building will be limited to protect against potential spread of the virus and to assist with contact tracing. At ÉMMS, there are not enough doors or washrooms to provide each cohort with their own. As such, frequent cleaning of doors and washrooms will take place.

Staggered Recess and Noon Hour – The Province has mandated staggered break times for students to avoid congestion. Break-times will be determined by cohort and cannot be coordinated around family need. Families are welcome to sign their children out from class if break times do not align between siblings. ÉMMS understands the unfortunate reality of this scenario.

Lunch hour – The lunch hour will run in shifts from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. Assignment of Lunch Hour by classroom/cohort is as follows:

Time>	11:30 am – 12:30 pm	11:45 am – 12:45 pm	12:05 pm – 1:05 pm
	<i>Cohort A</i>	<i>Cohort B</i>	<i>Cohort C</i>
Grade 5	Mrs. Wiens Mme Harra Mr. Noton Mrs. Meekis	Mr. McGillivray Ms. Verrier/Mrs. Rowley Mr. Kaczmarek	Ms. Bergmann Ms. Wiebe
Grade 6	Mr. Jacobs Mr. Ly Ms. Neufeld	Mrs. Gray Miss. Bumstead	Mme Smart/Mme Rapley Mr. Tanguay
Grade 7	Ms. Chewings Mr. Wiens	Mr. Edie Mrs. Loewen	Miss. Baril-Bissett Mme Andrews Mme Bartsch Ms. Jaska
Grade 8	Mrs. Brook Mrs. Bart	Mr. Minnelli Mr. Hutton	Ms. Dyck M. Sibilleau Mr. Elias

Time Allocations for Lunch Break

Cohort A		Cohort B		Cohort C	
Eat:	11:30	Eat:	11:45	Eat:	12:05
Leave/Hallway:	11:55-12:00	Leave/Hallway:	12:10-12:15	Leave/Hallway:	12:30-12:35
Return/Hallway:	12:25-12:30	Return/Hallway:	12:40-12:45	Return/Hallway:	1:00-1:05

Recess – Cohorts will go outside in one of three slots for recess. Staff coordinated each cohort’s recess slots around Phys. Ed. and Music as much as possible. Homeroom teachers will share specific slots with students when school starts.

AM Recess Break

1		2		3	
Leave	10:10	Leave	10:15	Leave	10:25
Return	10:25	Return	10:30	Return	10:40

PM Recess Break

1		2		3	
Leave	2:10	Leave	2:15	Leave	2:25
Return	2:25	Return	2:30	Return	2:40

Playground Zones – During recess and noon hour breaks, cohorts will be assigned to a specific “zone” on the playground. Cohorts will rotate through the zones equitably throughout the cycle to ensure everyone has access to the various equipment/fields.

Phys. Ed. Change Rooms – Change rooms are closed until further notice. Students are asked to dress for physical activity on days they are scheduled to have Phys. Ed. Unfortunately, distancing and sanitation requirements make it impossible to move students through the change rooms in a timely enough manner to allow for Phys. Ed. programming to take place. Students are asked to dress for activity on days they have Phys. Ed. scheduled.

Washrooms – Each classroom is assigned a specific washroom. Students are to use only their assigned washroom throughout the day. Teachers will allow washroom breaks during class to avoid congestion at break times and supervisors will ensure distancing during break times.

Water Fountains – All water fountains are closed until further notice. Bottle filling stations will remain open for use. Students are asked to bring their own water bottle and to avoid touching the fountain while filling bottles.

Lunch/Cafeteria/Food Service – In order to reduce congestion, students are encouraged to go home for lunch whenever possible. Students who stay for lunch will eat in their classrooms with their classmates under the supervision of staff who are circulating. WSD is examining the possibility of an order/delivery food service for ÉMMS. If this proves possible, information will be shared. The Breakfast Program will operate following all Public Health requirements. Our “Sharing and Caring” lunch program is on pause at this time.

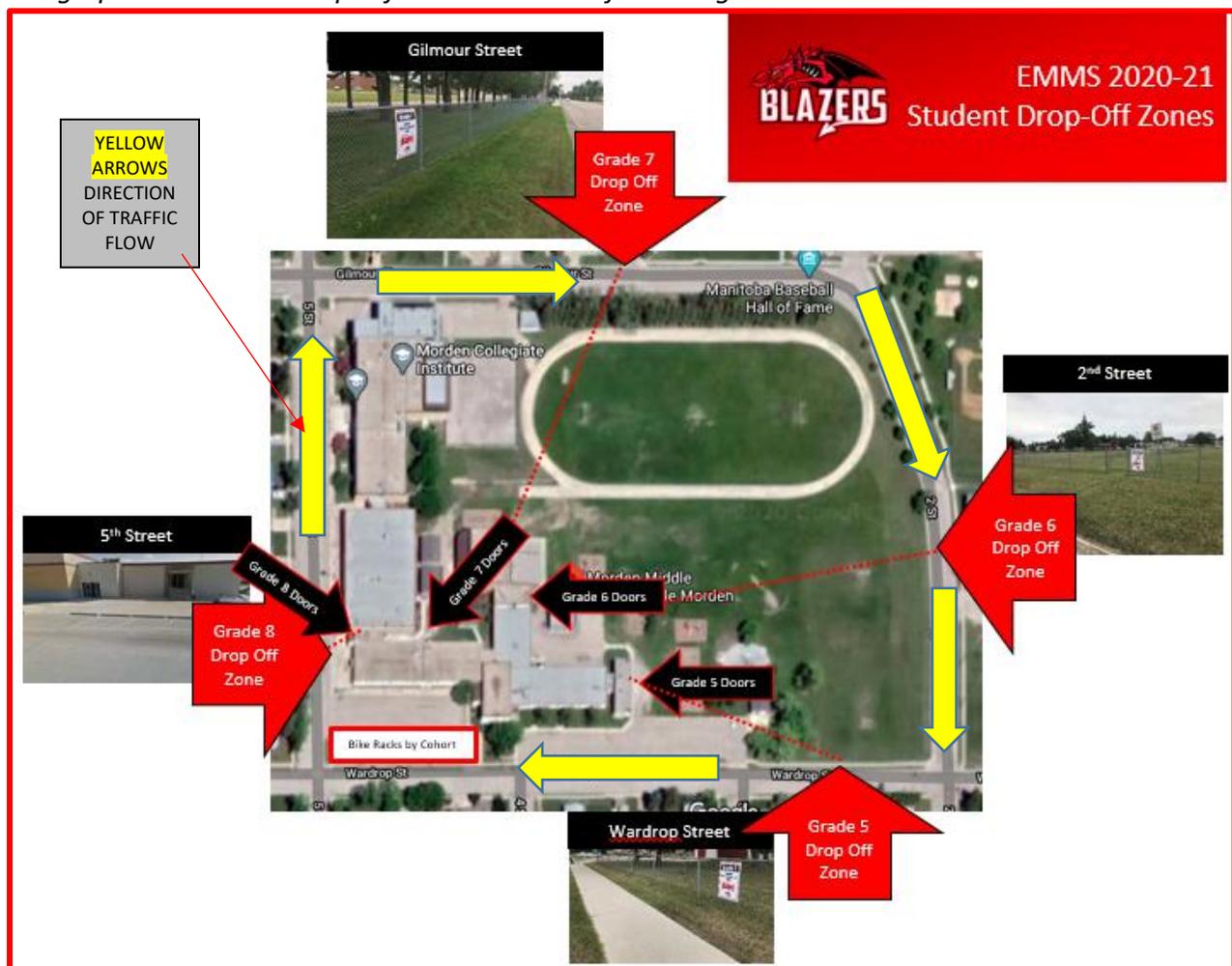
Bike Racks - Bike racks will remain in their traditional location near the bus loop on Wardrop St. However, bike racks are labelled by cohort and students will only use the rack(s) assigned to

their cohort. Students must maintain proper social distancing in this area. After parking bikes, students should proceed directly to their designated entry doors, taking care to not mix with students from other cohorts.

Drop-Off and Pick-Up – This year, there is a separate drop-off/pick up zone for each grade. The zones are designed to help maintain social distancing, reduce the chances of cohorts mixing, and help ease possible traffic congestion in front of the school. If a family has students in multiple grades, it is expected that each student is dropped off in the appropriate zone whenever possible. To ensure student safety, students are required to use crosswalks when crossing streets. Drop-off and pick up should happen on the school side of the street for safety purposes. Upon drop off, students will proceed directly to the designated entry door for their grade, taking care to not mix with students from other cohorts. For safety purposes, please consider the suggestions below:

- Drive “clockwise” around the school to your designated drop-off zone(s).
- Let your child out on the school side curb as close to their zone as possible.
- Having your child exit the passenger side of the car is strongly recommended.
- Be careful about pulling back into traffic.
- Watch for kids exiting cars on the driver’s side (please do not allow your kids to do this).

The graphic indicates the specific zone locations for each grade.



Entering School – As students arrive and enter the school, it is mandatory that they follow all health regulations. This includes:

- Self-Screen for COVID-19 symptoms as per public health guidelines.
- Enter through the assigned door for their cohort.
- Report directly to their classroom.
- Hand sanitizer must be applied upon entry into the school.
- Wear a mask until such time that a staff member identifies it can be removed.

Assigned Entry/Exit Doors – Each grade has been assigned a specific set of doors, which they will use to enter and exit the building. Students will use these doors regardless of where they have been dropped off. Having doors assigned to each grade prevents congestion of students at certain entry points and helps reduce the chances of cohorts coming into contact with each other. While using these entry points, students will maintain proper social distancing. Doors are assigned as follows:

Assigned Door	
Grade 5*	East Doors closest to Playground and Parking Lot.
Grade 6*	North Doors by Gym/Music Room/Portables.
Grade 7	Upper West Doors on 5 th street or playground doors near Grade 7 Portables.
Grade 8	Lower West Doors on 5 th street.

**Mr. Kaczmarek's Grade 5 class will use the Grade 6 doors due to location (Music Room)*

Lockers/Student Belongings – Lockers are unavailable for students this year. Having students share lockers and congregate in hallways is not viable. Students will have their belongings with them in the classroom. Portable classrooms may use their lockers/cubbies if every student has their own. Staff will manage traffic flow to ensure safety.

Library – Library books will be available to students through a delivery system. Students will browse and select books through our online catalogue and staff will deliver bags of books to classrooms.

School Visitations – Visitors in the school will be limited to the front doors and front office area. If picking up a child during class, we ask that parents wait in the vehicle after letting the office know you have arrived. Notification can be done via phone or by stopping briefly in the office.

Signage – Critical signage is posted throughout the school and around the property as outlined in the WSD School Re-Opening Plan. Signage will include floor markers, reminders about hygiene, self-screening prompts, and any other relevant information. All members of the Blazers family are expected to honour signage and behave appropriately.

WE ARE BLAZERS!