



# École Morden Middle School

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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](http://www.westernsd.mb.ca).

### Return to In-Class Learning Grades 5-8

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 provided with appropriate programming.

### 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.

**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. Exemptions will be considered as per the WSD School Re-Opening Plan.

**Cohorts** – Classes are grouped together into “cohorts” with one other class (sometimes two). These cohorts align with the Phys. Ed. schedule and teaching partners. Students will stay in these cohorts throughout the day, including on the playground. The Provincial Government, in their return to school plan, established restrictions on cohort size and cohort mixing.

**Hygiene** – Teachers will regularly ensure students wash their hands and practice proper hygiene throughout the day as described in the WSD Re-Opening Plan.

**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.

**Shared/Common Space** – Access to shared spaces will be limited and monitored according to Public Health requirements and the WSD Re-Opening Plan.

**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 as listed above.

**Flexibility** - If the situation warrants it and the Province loosens some restrictions, programming could shift back to “normal” at any given time during the school year and a full selection of Options and Electives will begin.

**Support Programming** – Student Services will operate at full capacity throughout the pandemic. This includes Resource and Guidance services.

**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.

**Student Assessment and Reporting** – 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. The Government has cancelled Provincial Assessments at the Middle Years level for this academic year.

**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 month of the school year. Families will be supported with technology equipment loans as needed if Blended or Remote learning become a reality.

### 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 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.

**Cafeteria/Food Service** – Students will eat in their classrooms with their classmates. 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.

**Drop-Off and Pick-Up** – ÉMMS is working to establish “Drop-off/Pick-up Zones” around the playground on Gilmour and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. Parents would be expected to circle the block in a clockwise direction (keeping vehicles on the school side of the streets), stopping near the appropriate fence gate to let kids in and out of the vehicle. This is intended to reduce congestion and allow for distancing. Paths will be cleared in winter as needed. More information will be shared as it is finalized.

**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.

**Signage** – Critical signage will be posted throughout the school 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!**