

September 7, 2021

(Subject to Change as Needed)

ÉCOLE MORDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL



Return to School Plan

2021-22

Principal: Mr. Garth Shindle
Vice Principal: Mr. Jordan Pauls
Vice Principal: Ms. Ashley Zylstra

School Re-Opening Plan

Updated: September 7, 2021

Western School Division School Re-Opening Plan

The comprehensive Western School Division Return to School Plan for 2021-22 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 have proved to be very powerful throughout the Pandemic and will be the foundation of success in 2021-22. 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 learn in-person full time. The Manitoba Government expects all students to either attend school in-person or register for Home-schooling unless they or a family member are immunocompromised. Students who require remote learning for medical reasons will need to complete a request for accommodation and provide appropriate documentation. Once approved, their programming will be provided by the Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre in Winnipeg. The school will contingency plan for possible changes in health directives and will communicate those plans whenever necessary.

There are once again many “unknowns” as we head into the school year. ÉMMS staff have tried to anticipate as many challenges as possible and plan accordingly. However, many new challenges will likely arise again this year. 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 – Heading into the school year, our classes will be in a single room with average class size at around 21.5 students per class. This will allow us to distance students at one meter between seats in almost all classrooms. Outside of the classroom, students are expected to keep two meters of distance to the greatest extent possible. Common areas will be managed to help make distancing easier and staggered entrance and exits around break times will be used to alleviate congestion. Excess furniture has been removed from classrooms to create as much space as possible for students to spread out.

Masks – The Province has mandated masks for all students at ÉMMS. 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 throughout each day within regulations. Exemptions to the provincial mandate will be considered as per the WSD Return to School 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 – Grade 5/6 students will be in cohorts of approximately 75 students. Cohorts will have Phys. Ed. and Choir periods at the same time and will be in common areas for recesses and lunch together. Grade 7/8 students are not required to operate in cohorts.

Hand Hygiene – Teachers will regularly ensure students wash their hands 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

Programming

Course Offerings – We are returning to regular course offerings, including all Arts Options and Exploratory courses at the Grade 7/8 level.

Programming Flexibility – ÉMMS will be prepared to change programming to reflect the latest health restrictions.

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.

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 will resume this year at the Middle Years level.

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, depending on any restrictions in place at that time.

Remote Learning – ÉMMS will be prepared to shift from In-Class to Remote learning and back again as quickly and efficiently as possible. 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.

Manitoba Public Health will make decisions regarding the implementation and scope of Remote Learning.

Logistical Items

Student Movement – Each grade is assigned a drop-off/pick-up zone, a door to enter and exit the building, and a bathroom to use as needed.

Staggered Recess and Noon Hour – In order to avoid congestion in common areas and to keep cohorts separate, dismissal for recess and noon hour will be staggered by five minutes between cohorts for Grades 5/6. Grade 7/8 classes will run on the traditional schedule.

Playground Zones – During recess and noon hour breaks, Grade 5/6 cohorts will be assigned to a specific “zone” on the playground. Cohorts will rotate through the zones equitably to ensure everyone has access to the various equipment/fields. Grade 7/8 students will have their own zone.

Phys. Ed. Change Rooms – Change rooms will be open and in use pending new restrictions. Students will have the option of dressing in active wear for school and avoiding the changeroom on Phys. Ed. days if preferred. Masks must be worn in change rooms.

Washrooms – Each grade 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. Grade 5/6 students who stay for lunch will eat in their classrooms under the supervision of circulating staff. Grade 7/8 students who stay for lunch will

eat in the cafeteria. Food service will not be available to start the year. If/when that changes, families will be notified.

Bike Racks - Bike racks will remain in their traditional location near the bus loop on Wardrop St. Racks will be labelled by cohort and students should only use the rack(s) assigned to their cohort. Students must try to maintain proper social distancing in this area.

Entering School – Students can utilize the playground until the 8:45 am bell. After the bell, students are to report to their classroom. 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.
- Apply hand sanitizer.
- Wear a mask until such time that a staff member identifies it can be removed.

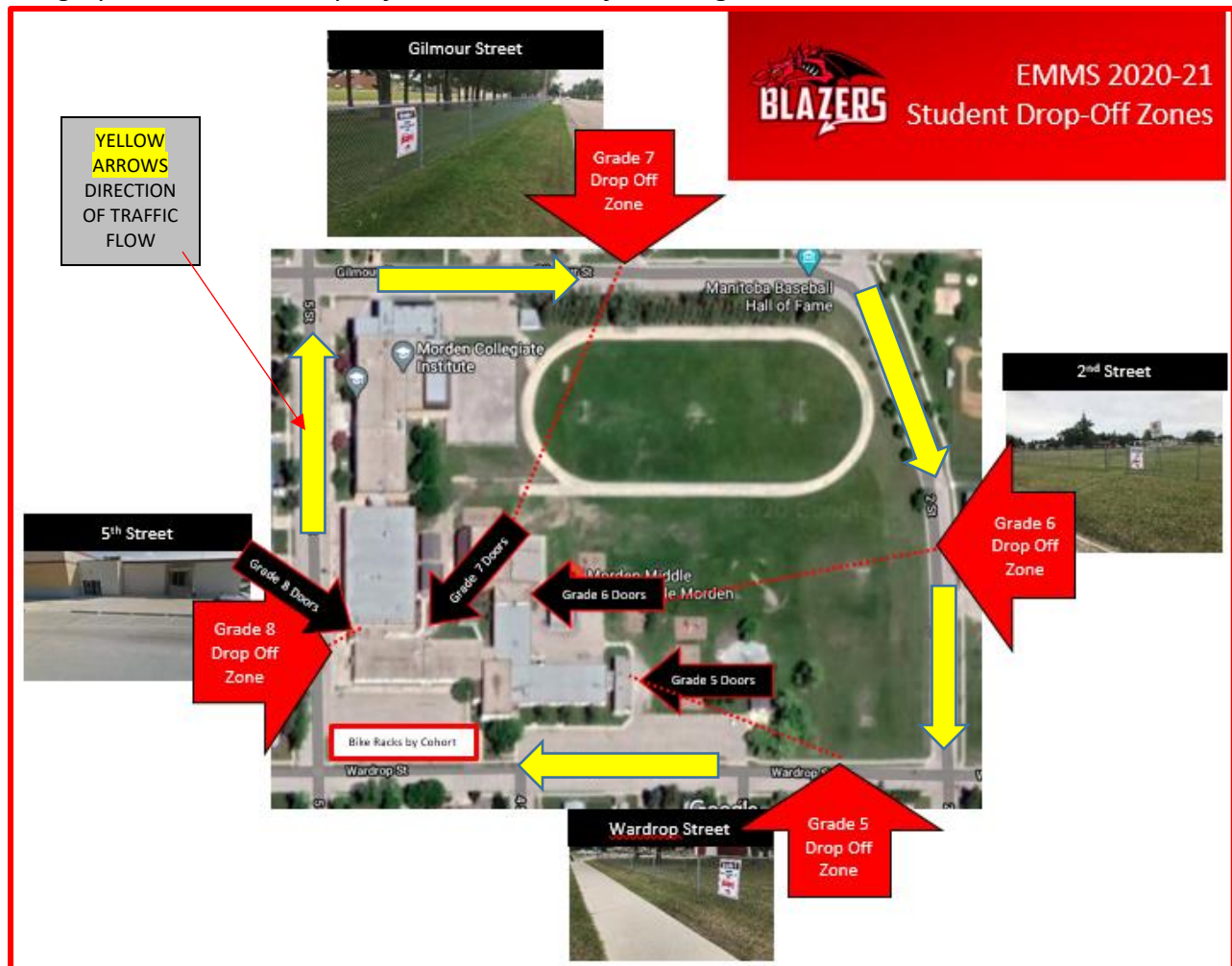
Assigned Entry/Exit Doors – Each grade has been assigned a specific set of doors, which they will use to enter and exit the building. Students will use these doors regardless of where they have been dropped off. Having doors assigned to each grade prevents congestion of students at certain entry points 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. |

Drop-Off and Pick-Up – We will maintain 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, 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.



Lockers/Student Belongings – Lockers will be optional for student use. Students who want to use a locker will have to share one with a classmate. Parents should notify their child’s teacher if they do not want their child using a shared locker (students will keep belongings at their desk like last year).

Library – The Library will be open for student and class use.

School Visitations – Visitors in the school will be limited to the front doors and front office area during the school day. 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!