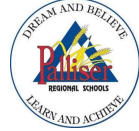




Learn,  
to shape God's world.



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## MS Update - August 17, 2020

Hello CCS Families!

I hope this update finds all of you keeping well and in good spirits. As you know, an email was sent home earlier this month with information and a survey about school re-entry. Thank you to all who have completed it. If you have not completed it yet, please take a moment to do so. We appreciate your feedback and I hope to provide answers to some of the questions that came up. If you have any other questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to [email me](#) for clarification!

Thank you for your flexibility and patience as we navigate through this new school year.

Dayle Vienneau  
Vice Principal

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### What will junior high sports look like?

Sports, as with everything, will definitely have a different look this year. At this time, the ISAA has announced that there will be no games/tournaments being played between schools. We are currently looking into the safety measures required for us to be able to practice/play within the cohorts at our own school (ie: Grade 8 plays against Grade 8). Stay tuned for more information as we learn more.

### Why are Grade 9 classes no longer following the semester system?

In previous years, our Grade 9 core classes ran on the semester system in an effort to reduce anxiety and pressure for our students (ie: they would write two PATs each semester instead of four at the end of the year). The semester system allows students to focus on only two core courses at a time, however, the pace of the course is much quicker. As we enter into a year where students may be transitioning between being in-class and working online or may not feel well, we wanted to ensure that they would not quickly fall behind if they miss a class. Fortunately, students will only be writing two PATs this year (ELA and Math) as per Alberta Education, so the end of the year will continue to look similar to how it usually does. Our teachers are confident that full-year courses will offer the pace, the time, and the learning opportunities that will help our students review and move forward with their learning in the best way this year.

### Will students have access to in-class work when they are required to isolate at home due to illness? Will they be able to remain caught up on their learning?

CCS will be offering both remote and in-class learning this year. Both formats will be taught by the same teacher which will allow them to work at the same pace. Google classroom and

our CCS Learn webpage will continue to be used by our teachers. Students will be able to switch between the two formats if they are unable to be in the school physically. This will allow them to continue to participate and remain caught up on their learning.

**Will there be any live online learning options available for students who decide to participate in remote learning?**

Yes, our core teachers (math, LA, science, social) will be providing two live lessons (alongside check ins) throughout each week. Students will receive a schedule as to when these classes will take place.

**Will there be a need for personal computers at school to reduce the risk of sharing technology?**

Using a personal computer at school to reduce sharing will definitely be an asset, but is not required. We have a class set of chromebooks within each MS classroom and will be assigning each student to a chromebook. These will be wiped down/sanitized regularly and kept in the classroom. If your child has a personal computer and would rather use that, they are welcome to bring it each day.

**Will there be flexibility for students to remain home when the risk is higher and attend school when it is lower?**

By participating in the remote learning program through CCS, there is more flexibility to move between in-person learning and online learning. We are asking for at least one week's notice for students to transition from one to the other (with the exception of illness or the need to self-isolate, of course) so that the teacher can help make the transition as smooth as possible.

**What happens if a child or staff member tests positive for Covid-19?**

Should this situation arise, our admin team will immediately be contacting Palliser and AHS. We will be following their guidance with regards to contact tracing and informing the individuals who will also be required to self-isolate.

**If cohorts remain in the same class for the duration of morning/afternoon classes, will there be opportunities to stretch/move around the room between classes?**

Yes! We fully understand the need for stretching/brain breaks/body breaks within the classroom (teachers need them too!). We are currently brainstorming different ways to safely integrate elements of movement and socializing with peers throughout the morning and afternoon. Teachers also take student requests for friends into account when creating homeroom lists. We try to ensure that each student has at least one person from their list of friends in their homeroom. They will also have opportunities to socialize with friends in other classes of the same grade during lunch recess (outside while following social distancing protocols).

**What are the class sizes?**

Grade 7 - 4 cohorts of approximately 20-21 students  
Grade 8 - 3 cohorts of approximately 26-27 students  
Grade 9 - 3 cohorts of approximately 23-24 students

**Will my child be required to wear a mask in the classroom?**

As per our government mandate, students will be required to wear masks in any common areas, hallways, bathrooms, and any classroom where physical distancing is not possible. We are working hard to create opportunities where it will be safe for students to work in their desks without a mask. Unfortunately, we do have a few classroom situations where this may not be possible and masks will be required.

**How will lunch time and lockers be handled to accommodate physical distancing/cohort groups?**

Our schedule has a new look to it this year. Instead of a 6 block schedule, we will be working with a 7 block schedule. This new format will allow us to stagger lunch breaks for each grade. We also have a schedule in place of which grades will be going outside and which grades will be eating so that there are fewer students in hallways, outside, eating, etc. at one time.

Unfortunately, we will not be able to offer the use of lockers at this time. Students will keep their backpacks and coats with them at their desk in their homeroom classroom.

**Will extra curricular classes be offered?**

Yes. Students will participate in options, Bible, and health alongside their core classes. Our option classes will have a different look to them as we are required to maintain our cohort structure. Each month, each cohort/class will have a new option teacher and will focus on a new class (ie: art, photography, foods). These classes will consist of online and in-person components allowing for students to choose to stay at school and work on them or go home at lunch (on certain days) to work on them there. More information will be provided on the set up of the schedules for each class.

**Will CCS consider offering 2-3 days in school and 2-3 days online in an effort to maintain smaller class sizes and allow for physical distancing?**

Currently, we are unable to offer this option as the government has mandated the province to be in Scenario 1 - near normal re-entry with all students returning every day. In an effort to allow some room for movement, we are creating a schedule where MS students will have the opportunity to go home at lunch three days per week and work on their elective/option courses online. If students are unable to go home, they will remain with their cohort to work on their elective/option courses online in the classroom (with support and lessons planned by their teacher). This will allow for the opportunity for fewer students to be in the building (allowing for more physical distancing to occur) and for students who leave to have the ability to work in a new space. Should the government mandate that we move into Scenario 2, CCS has a plan in place to make that as smooth a transition as possible.