



Warren Elementary School

300 Hanlan Street Box 610 Warren, MB R0C 3E0

Phone: 204- 322-5576 Email: we@isd21.mb.ca

Dear Parents Guardians and Staff,

On September 9th, 2021 we will be welcoming our students back to Warren Elementary school for the 2021-2022 School year. Our goal as always is to provide a safe and welcoming atmosphere for our students. The attached plan outlines the procedures and expectations we have developed in accordance with the [Manitoba K-12 Restoring Safe Public Schools Guidelines](#). This years restrictions have been eased and our hope is that if we all work together we will stay healthy this year, I hope that our cautious and careful planning will help our students, staff and parents feel safe and supported.

All members of the Warren Elementary School community are encouraged to visit the divisional website regularly at www.interlakesd.ca for updates, and to view current information from the province at www.gov.mb.ca/covid19 .

In order to keep us all safe, we would like to remind everyone about the importance of implementing the basics:

- Stay home when you sick
- Wash your hands
- Wear a mask

Remote learning will be available for students who are medically advised not to return to in-class learning due to COVID-19 related factors. The Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre will provide remote learning for students in Kindergarten to Grade 8. For further information about remote learning and to register your child, please contact Mr. John Bock, ISD Program Support, via email at: jbock@isd21.mb.ca

Our school plan reflects a cautious and careful approach to create a safe learning environment for our students. With restrictions being eased we look forward to more opportunities for our students. Many things will continue to be different this year and some events will not be possible; however, we are committed to finding new ways to make Warren Elementary School a fun place to learn together!

Our collective efforts to follow the public health measures will help ensure that our students have a safe and enjoyable school year. The First Day of regular classes will be September 9th or September 15th for our new Kindergarten Students. Our annual open house and welcome barbecue has been cancelled however we welcome you to contact your child's teacher to contact them about any questions or concerns. As always if you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Sincerely,

Mr. C. Gamble, Principal

Our 2021-2022 reopening Plan has been organized into three sections:

1. **Teaching and Learning** *Where and how will in-class learning take place?*
2. **Building Operations** *How will we enhance cleaning and operations so we are safe at school?*
3. **Family Preparedness** *What is my responsibility as a parent, guardian or caregiver?*

Teaching and Learning: Preparedness and Procedures

1. Cohorts at Warren Elementary School

Our school will consist of three cohorts (groups) of students (see below). Although your child will be spending the majority of their time with their own class and classroom teacher, the cohort model keeps groups of students together to limit interaction. Cohort size will not exceed 75 students and students will stay within their cohort spaces to the best of their ability. Students will enter and exit the building from the previously designated entrances.

Entrances

k-3 Bus loupe entrance (North-WEST)
7-8 Garden Entrance (North-EAST)
4-6 Asphalt pad Entrance (South)

2. Self contained classrooms

To minimize risk, classes will be encouraged to keep contained to their classrooms and to have learning experiences outdoors as much as possible. Students will be allowed to travel to and from the gymnasium, library, and music room for classes. Our Canteen may open later this year however current restrictions require that a staff member runs the service.

3. Recovery Learning and Transition planning

Teaching and learning needs will be addressed with communication and collaboration between: last year's teacher, the current teacher, our early literacy support teacher and resource teachers.

Our first priority in our return to school is always to focus on classroom routines, the rebuilding of community and relationships. Our teachers will use their existing assessment processes along with the information provided on recovery needs on the June 2021 report card. Parents and Guardians are also welcome to contact teachers with additional information and questions about programming.

4. Outdoor Learning, Physical Education and Recess

Outdoor learning and use of our playground for Physical Education classes is strongly encouraged at Warren Elementary School.

When students arrive at school each morning, they will play outdoors until we begin a staggered entrance at 8:47am at their designated entrance.

To allow for more space at recess for physical distancing we will have k-4 students have their nutrition breaks first then go outside, and our Grade 5-8's will go outside first and come back in for their nutrition break. This was an effective measure to reduce crowding last year and our students appreciated having access to more things on the playground.

All students will be required to go outside during their assigned time and respectfully encouraged to practice physical distancing. If your child has been screened at home as healthy to attend school, the expectation is that they will participate in the outdoor portions of the school day. Masks will not be required outdoors.

To further separate students entry will be staggered to increase physical distancing and students will be given hand sanitizer upon entry into their classroom.

5. Extra Curricular activities

Extra-curricular programs and activities including sports and field trips are now allowed and must follow public health recommendations.

Building Operations: Preparedness and Procedures

1. Cleaning and Disinfecting

Warren Elementary has increased the frequency and intensity of cleaning, disinfecting and sanitizing, particularly on high-touch surfaces and in common-shared areas. Public health has determined that COVID-19 transmission from surfaces is low, however we will continue to clean and disinfect high touch surfaces and washrooms, frequently. Sanitizing pumps will be available in every space and their use encouraged by all staff.

2. Physical Distancing

We will be implementing strategies to minimize hallway congestion and congestion in washrooms. When teaching, learning, or playing outdoors, cohorts must only use their assigned doors.

Our staff will supervise and stagger entry at each cohort entrance to ensure physical distancing and proper sanitization.

Students will keep personal belongings (such as their lunch and water-bottle) in a backpack with them when possible. Water fountains will be turned off but bottle filling stations will remain open. Students and staff will use distanced and cohort-assigned coat hooks and shoe racks as provided. Coat hangers and shoe racks will be marked to show students proper placement of personal items.

3. Ventilation

Our Ventilation system has been set to frequently introduce fresh air. Staff members are encouraged to keep windows and doors open and to hold classes outdoors when practical and possible. We will be getting new windows in our grades 4-6 classrooms that will now open increasing ventilation in those areas all of our other classrooms have windows that open.

We recognize that strict physical distancing at all times, particularly with young children, is not practical in the school setting and that everyone is learning the new way of doing things. Staff will do their best to adhere to these guidelines while using a safe and caring approach with students.

Provincial Recommendations for Social Distancing in Schools:

- Schools should encourage physical distancing to the greatest extent possible
- Schools will manage the flow of people in common areas, including hallways and washrooms to minimize crowding and allow for ease of people passing through. They will implement the practice of staggered entrance and exit times, or use of separate entrances (if feasible)
- Schools will be prepared to implement physical distancing requirements of 1-2 meters when recommended or directed by public health officials.

4. Handwashing

Students and staff are required to practice proper handwashing (for at least 20 seconds) or sanitizing at the beginning and end of the school day, after using the washroom, after getting hands dirty, after wiping noses or handling dirty tissues, after coughing/sneezing/blowing nose, before and after nutrition breaks, and other activities that may include handling of equipment outside of their classroom. Students will be given hand sanitizer while entering the school and once they are in their classrooms, teachers will send small groups of students to their designated sinks to thoroughly wash their hands. Hand Sanitization supplies and information on proper hand washing will be provided by the school and will be closely supervised by staff.

5. Masks

Provincially, masks are required for all staff and for students in grades k-12. Parents are asked to supply masks, however there are masks available at school if needed. Masks are required at all times while indoors (including the gym) however students may remove their masks to eat and drink or when outdoors for classes or recess. Masks must also be worn on School Busses to and from school each day.

6. Learning materials and manipulatives

Students can now share toys and manipulatives in classrooms if proper hand hygiene is used before and after play. Our library and Music room are open for use again.

7. Music and singing indoors

Indoor singing and wind instruments are permitted. Sharing instruments is permitted if they are cleaned between use.

8. Transportation

Our school transportation will return to pre-COVID policies and practices with additional cleaning used. Students will sit in assigned seats and will wear masks for the duration of their travel.

9. Protocols for staff and Students Exhibiting Symptoms at school

Should a student become ill or exhibit symptoms at school, the parent or guardian will be notified and required to arrange for immediate pickup. Warren Elementary requires all parents to have an “urgent pickup plan” in place. Parents are asked to create a family plan that ensures they, or the emergency contact person on file at the school, is available to promptly respond to a call and or pick up request from the school. Parents will be provided with a Family Worksheet to initiate or assist with planning.

Should a staff member become ill or exhibit symptoms at school, they will immediately isolate themselves and go home to monitor symptoms. Staff are strongly advised to contact **Health Links-Info Santé (1-888-315-9257)** for direction.

Family Preparedness

10. Attendance and in-school Participation

All students will be expected to attend and participate in classroom learning and outdoor activities. Should you keep your child home due to illness or otherwise, please notify the school. Now more than ever, families are encouraged to communicate with the school via the means teachers have established (Phone, Remind 101, or email). As a school we will continue to use school messenger to send texts, emails, and phone messages.

11. At-home Screening and Monitoring

It is the responsibility of each staff member and parent to self screen (or screen their child) before coming to school. If feeling symptoms, or unwell, please see the COVID-19 Shared Health Screening Tool at: <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/screening-tool/>

12. Picking up or Dropping off your Child

In the event that your child arrives late or you need to pick up your child early please notify the office of your arrival by calling (204) 322-5576 or by ringing the front door bell. You will be instructed to proceed to the appropriately assigned cohort entrance and your child will meet you there. For safety reasons, please always check in with the office first. Parents are asked to familiarize themselves with your child(rens) cohort colour and door, and to meet them outside at the end of the day. Parent entrance in the building is to be avoided whenever possible but if it is necessary parents will be asked to wear a mask and sanitize their hands upon entry into the school.

13. Visiting the school and volunteering

Visitors please report to the front office by ringing the buzzer at the front door and their visit will be recorded to help with potential contact tracing. Visitors must comply with all public health recommendations and orders at the time of their visit including indoor mask wearing, and hand sanitizing.

14. Role of Public Health and Access to information

In the event of confirmation of a case of COVID-19 connected with our school, **public health will take the lead.** They will advise staff and students on next steps, self monitoring or isolation, and when return to school is safe.

15. Mental Health and Well-being Support

Our Resource and Guidance teachers will be visiting each classroom to conduct check-ins regularly with our classes. The focus of the Guidance program delivered once per cycle per class will be on student wellness for the first two months of the year. There are community and divisional resources available for anyone needing assistance with their mental health. We are all in this together and it is important that communication about student wellbeing is shared so that we can provide supports.

Ask for help if you or anyone in your family needs it. Parents are encouraged to seek support through the principal, Guidance councillors, or through our divisional social worker. All of these caring and trained individuals can be reached through email, phone or a note sent with your child to school.

Chris Gamble, Principal cgamble@isd21.mb.ca

Steffani MacMillan , Guidance k-4 smacmillan@isd21.mb.ca

Amanda Okeke Guidance 5-8 aokeke@isd21.mb.ca

Need Help Now and don't want to go through the school?

Manitoba Farm, Rural & Northern Support Services

Supportline.ca- online counselling
1-866-367-3276 (Hours Monday-Friday 10am-9pm)

Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority

CRISIS LINES

24 hour crisis lin:1-204-482-5419 or 1-866-427-8628
Mobile Crisis Services: 204-482-5376 or 1-877-499-8770

Adult 2:00pm-2:00am
Youth 17 and under 1:30pm-9:00pm
Crisis Stabilization Unit: 204-482-5361 or 1-888-482-5361
Community Mental Health intake: 204-785-7752 or 1-866-757-6205

16. Working Together (Communication, newsletters, parent and student survey)

Ongoing safe and respectful communication is needed now more than ever. Please know that we will be sending out parent and student surveys this fall and keeping in close contact with all families via our website, school calendar and newsletters.