



# École Constable Edward Finney School September 2020



**Returning to School – Fall 2020**



**SEVEN OAKS**  
SCHOOL DIVISION  
*community begins here*

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**August 31, 2020**

Dear Finney Families,

Welcome back! We hope you and your children were able to spend time together and enjoy the summer.

We were pleased to receive confirmation in August that the province planned to have students across Manitoba back in school in September. The work we did in June has put our school in a strong position to welcome students back to our building. At the same time, you may have questions about what the return to school will look like. Please know that the well-being of our students, staff and families is our first priority. We have spent considerable time and effort during the last few weeks planning and preparing for the upcoming school year.

Please review the following information, and feel free to contact us at 204-694-8688 during the week of **August 31-September 4** with any immediate questions you may have. Orientation meetings with your child's teacher, taking place on **September 8 and 9**, will be an opportunity to ask your child's teacher specific questions about classroom plans, procedures and preparations.

### **What will school be like for Finney students?**

- Classroom life will be as close to normal as we can make it. We have arranged furniture so there is more physical distancing, and handwashing will occur multiple times each day. Students in Grades 4 and 5 will wear masks when they cannot maintain safe physical distancing. We will be cleaning high-touch surfaces frequently, going outside more, and bringing fresh air in through open windows whenever possible.

Masks for Grades 4 & 5 students, hand sanitizer, hand soap and necessary cleaning supplies will all be provided at the school. Families may choose to send younger children to school with masks if they wish, however please do not send hand sanitizer to school with your child.

We will be restricting contact between classes by using a "cohort" system while outside (schedule below). In most cases the cohort will be limited to each student's homeroom class while inside the school. We will minimize visitors, and each will be required to self-screen and adhere to physical distancing and hygiene practices.

- We will not be holding large gatherings like assemblies and concerts. We have organized entry and exit to avoid crowding - please speak with your child's teacher during your orientation meeting about how this procedure will occur for your child. We have staggered lunch, recess and activity breaks and designated playing zones so that we can limit contact.

### **Cohort Schedule**

#### **Blue Pod (Rms 15,16,17,18,19,20,22)**

Morning recess 9:45-10:10, Lunch 11:45-12:05, Afternoon recess 12:05-12:35

#### **Red Pod (Rms 3,4,5,6,7,8)**

Morning recess 10:15-10:40, Lunch 12:20-12:40, Afternoon recess 12:40-1:10

#### **Brown Pod (Rms 9,10,11,12,13,14)**

Morning recess 10:45-11:10, Lunch 12:55-1:15, Afternoon recess 1:15-1:45

- Teachers will be teaching and reinforcing the basics of keeping safe (staying home if you are symptomatic, physical distancing, handwashing, wearing a mask, mask care, cough etiquette). Students and staff will need to self-screen at home, before going to the school. Parents and caregivers are responsible for their own child's self-screening. School staff may also conduct screening at school. If a child becomes symptomatic during the school day, he/she will be isolated and parents will be contacted immediately for pick-up. Please ensure the school has your current contact information and an emergency contact for this purpose. If your child is experiencing symptoms, please call Health Links at 204-788-8200 or 1-888-315-9257 to determine next steps. An updated list of symptoms can be found at <https://manitoba.ca/covid19/updates/about.html>.
- Teachers will be focusing on where students are at and developing learning plans. As the year progresses teachers will focus on the essential skills students need to progress academically and socially. Currently, virtual/remote learning is not an option. Public Health has determined that it is safe to resume in-class learning while following guidance for screening, enhanced hand hygiene, physical distancing, the use of cohorts and outbreak management.

### **What happens if a child tests positive? Will we be notified as parents?**

- In the event of confirmation of a case of COVID-19 connected with a class, Manitoba Public Health will lead the response and provide guidance. Public Health will advise staff and students if they have been in close contact, if they need to self-isolate or self-monitor and when they can safely return to school. Public Health will take the circumstances of each individual situation into consideration and provide direction on a case-by-case basis.

### **Will there be gym and music classes?**

- Physical education will continue with necessary modifications for physical distancing. Whenever possible, gym classes will occur outside. Choir will not take place, but music classes will occur with necessary modifications for cleaning musical instruments and for physical distancing.

### **How will my child get to and from school?**

- School buses will be running in September for those students who are eligible for school bus transportation, but their capacity will be limited. It will be helpful if parents transport their own children whenever possible. Students living in walking distance should walk to school.

### **Thank you for your partnership**

We know from our experiences throughout the 2019-2020 academic year that school is so much more than a building. We thank you again for your ongoing support and your patience: As you have seen, safety protocols for schools have changed and evolved throughout the pandemic. As a result, the details outlined in this plan are subject to change as revised requirements and guidelines are issued by Manitoba Education and Manitoba Health. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any further questions you may have.