

Mount Slesse Middle School

September 2020 Opening Plans for Parents

August 26, 2020



The safety and well-being of students and staff at Mount Slesse are our top priority. Please read the following information about the steps we are taking to lower our risk.

Health Measures

- All staff and students must stay home and seek assessment by a health-care provider if they experience any symptoms of common cold, influenza, or COVID-19.
- Parents or caregivers must assess themselves and their children daily for symptoms. See the following documents to help you assess yourself and your child daily.
 - Daily Health Check form (attached to email)
 - [BC COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool](#)
- If a student presents symptoms while at school, they will be caringly escorted by an administrator to an isolated First Aid Room then sent home as soon as possible; please make sure that MSMS has updated contact information.
- Hand Hygiene
 - Teachers will teach students about proper hand washing etiquette.
 - Hand washing will become part of daily class routines.
 - Students are expected to wash hands upon arrival at school, when entering a new space, transitioning between activities, and at the end of day.
- Respiratory Etiquette
 - Teachers will teach students about proper respiratory etiquette such as coughing into one's elbow.

Extra Cleaning

- Desks used by single students (not shared) will be cleaned at least every 24 hours.
- Frequently-touched surfaces will be cleaned at least twice every 24 hours.
 - These include door knobs, light switches, toilet handles, tables, desks and chairs used by multiple students, keyboards and equipment.
- Any surface that is visibly dirty will be cleaned.
- Equipment that is porous and/or not easily cleaned, will not be used.
- PHE equipment that has been used will be put aside in a 'Used Equipment' area until it can be properly cleaned.
- Equipment such as computer keyboards, shop tools, science equipment, art brushes, laminated learning resources, and home economics ware will be cleaned by students after each use using appropriate cleaning materials for each specific equipment type.
- Spray bottles of appropriate cleaner will be in each classroom.
- There is no evidence that COVID-19 virus is transmitted via textbooks, books, and paper-based products so no additional cleaning requirements are called for.

Cohorts

- Students are organized into Cohorts.
- Cohorts will be no larger than 60 students (2 Core Divisions).
- Cohorts will be made up of the Core Divisions of Teaching Partners (e.g. 601 & 602).
- Within a cohort, students will be taught to avoid physical contact and maintain physical distancing; however, a two-metre physical distance between cohort members is not required.
- Seating plans will be used within the two classrooms belonging to a cohort so that only 2 students use the same desk during a day.
- Teachers are encouraged to take students outside for learning as much as possible – students must dress for any weather.
- Teachers will minimize group activities and avoid activities that require physical contact.
- MSMS will minimize the number of adults who interact with cohorts that they are not a part of; however, some staff members serve multiple cohorts; these staff must wear masks and maintain a physical distance of 2 metres from students and other staff as much as is practical to do so while supporting learning and a positive, healthy, and safe environment. These staff include:
 - Exploratory Teachers, Band Teacher, Prep Cover-Off Teachers, Admin, Librarian, Counsellors, LATs, CYCW, Aboriginal Enhancement Teacher, and Aboriginal EA.
 - As much as possible, EAs will be assigned to be a part of specific cohorts – where EA assignments cross cohorts, individualized plans for distancing must be made.
- Classes that involve students from more than one cohort such as Band, Leadership, Yearbook, and Exploratories (Art, Computer, Foods, French, and Technology) have historically served students from multiple classes.
 - These classes will be organized as much as possible to have the fewest number of cohorts represented, preferably one cohort and no more than two cohorts
 - In those classes where two cohorts are present, spaces and desks will be marked by signage and floor markings to physically divide students from different cohorts. For example, if students from two cohorts are in the same Band classroom, the Band classroom will be divided into two spaces that are at least 2 metres apart and clearly defined.

Masks

- Students and staff are asked to wear face masks in common spaces and anytime they cannot physically distance from other people who are not in their cohort.
- Students and staff wearing face masks must still seek to maintain physical distance from people outside of their cohort.
- Students with medical complexities, immune suppression, and/or receiving delegated care, and the staff working closely with them, will be planned for individually.

Changerooms

- Changing into PHE strip will be temporarily optional due to space constraints in the changerooms.
 - Limited numbers of students may change in the changerooms or designated washrooms.
- PHE participation is not optional - students must dress for physical activity both for PHE, for increased outdoor activities with their class, and for being outdoors for break/lunch.

Lockers

- Most teachers from indoor classrooms will use lockers. Most teachers from portables will use cloakrooms instead of lockers.
- Students bring belongings into Core Classrooms in the morning.
- During the first 10 minutes of the day, Core Teachers will allow small numbers of students to place their belongings (spread out by locker location, e.g. 7 students at a time that use every fourth locker).
- Locker locations are organized based on cohort groupings.
- Please consider not bringing valuables to school.

Traffic Flow and Hand Washing

- To aid with traffic volume and lessening contact points, students and staff will be asked to enter and exit the school using one of six specific locations – your child's entrance location, class, and hand washing station will be emailed before school begins.
- Doors will be open and labelled with signs indicating which Core Divisions should use those doors.
- Upon entering, staff and students will use the appropriate hand washing stations to wash their hands thoroughly then wait in Core classroom.
- Students are not permitted to use lockers before school – they will be guided to their lockers by their teachers in small, spaced-out groups. Many portable classrooms will not use lockers and will use class cloakrooms instead.
- Students will be led to various locations in the school such as the library, gym, and Exploratory classes by their teachers and within their cohort.
- Teachers will teach students about always walking on right hand side of hallway.
- General student traffic and congregating in hallways will not be permitted.
- Students and staff may only use the washrooms in their wing of the school. Portable classroom students will use the North washrooms and can additionally use hand sanitizer stations in each portable classroom.
- Students and families will be emailed their Core Division and Teacher before the first day of school so that they may learn where to enter MSMS and wash hands in advance and without large gatherings looking at posted class lists.

Break Time

- To spread people out further, we will stagger when students and staff take their break.
- Break times are scheduled to create the least disruption in class time and are also based on geographic location in our school.
- Unless severe inclement weather, students are asked to take their break period outside.
- In severe inclement weather, students may remain in their cohort classrooms.
- Students must be taught to dress appropriately for any weather.
- MSMS gyms will be closed at break time due to staggering.

Lunch Time

- Students and staff will eat together and relationally connect in their Core Classroom during Connect & Eating Period.
- Most students will spend free lunch period outside; students must be taught to wear or bring clothing that is appropriate for the weather.
- In severely inclement weather, students can remain in their cohort classrooms.
- To spread people out further, MSMS will stagger our students and staff into two different Free Lunch Periods: Early or Late Lunch.
 - Groups are assigned either Early or Late Lunch according to a schedule that minimizes disruptions to learning times and access to gym or Exploratories.
 - Early and Late Lunch schedules are scheduled by geographic location to minimize the number of students in hallways and using exits.
- MSMS will be exploring opportunities for lunch-time library access, cohort intramurals, cohort gym access, and potentially other indoor choices.

Outdoor Spaces

- Some outdoor spaces will be scheduled by cohorts and some will be free to use by anyone. For example, our Gaga Pit, Hockey Court, and Main Basketball Court will be scheduled based on cohorts. Our other basketball hoops, playground structures, and fields will be open for all to use with appropriate physical distancing.
- Students must be taught, and need to maintain, 2 meters physical distance from students that are not in their cohort.
- Sports equipment can be shared with students (e.g. a football) but students must be taught to wash hands upon return into the building and used equipment must be placed in the “Used Equipment” area for cleaning before next use.

School Gatherings

- MSMS will not hold school gatherings that exceed the maximum cohort number of 60 students.
- Assembly content will be filmed and shared virtually, typically through a MS Teams meeting that that plays assembly content on classroom screens.

Busses

- Students must wear masks in all common spaces including bus line-ups and on the bus.
- An announcement will be made prior to the bell-- and staff will reinforce the message-- that bus students are to put on their masks and wash their hands.
- Early arriving bus students will be dismissed before the bell and non- or late-bus students will be dismissed at the regular time.

Food Services

- At the beginning of the day, students will have an opportunity to complete order forms for break and/or lunch food from our food service provider or free lunch soup from Bowls of Hope.
- Students place order and money (if needed) in a clearly labelled bag then one runner takes the pre-order bag to the cafeteria.
- Just before break and lunch (as per group schedule), a runner will pick up the pre-orders for their cohort.
- Vending machines will not be used.

Extracurricular Activities

- Extracurricular activities including sports, arts or special interest clubs can occur if physical distance can be maintained between members of different cohorts and reduced physical contact is practiced by those within the same cohort.
- Inter-school events including competitions, tournaments and festivals are not occurring at this time. We will update families if this information changes.

W.E.B. – Where Everybody Belongs – Gr 6 Orientation

- Each Grade 6 student will have an opportunity to participate in one W.E.B. Orientation.
- Your child will be assigned one of three different W.E.B. Orientation times based on cohorts. Unfortunately, time changes cannot be accommodated.
- W.E.B. Orientation will be on Thursday September 3rd. You will receive an email with your child's timeframe, either:
 - 9:00am – 10:00am,
 - 11:00am – 12:00pm, or
 - 1:00pm – 2:00pm
- Parents will not be permitted in the building for W.E.B. Orientation.
- Details will be sent home regarding where your child will meet their W.E.B. Leader.
- At W.E.B. Orientation your child will meet supportive and trained Grade 8 W.E.B. Leaders who will look out for them all year. They will also see their classroom, tour our school, and play physically distanced games. Please note that classroom changes may occur up until mid-September.

W.E.B. – Where Everybody Belongs – Gr 8 Leader Training

- W.E.B. Leaders will be contacted for details about a required but fun four-hour training session on one of two days, either:
 - Tuesday September 1st 8:30am – 12:30pm, or
 - Wednesday September 2nd 8:30am – 12:30pm
- Unfortunately, dates cannot be changed because they are organized based on W.E.B. Team groupings.

Consistent Teaching – Help from Home Needed

- MSMS will teach students some common expectations around COVID. Please support us by also consistently reminding your children of these expectations.
 - Everyone enters and exits the school using their designated door.
 - Everyone goes directly to their hand washing station and washes their hands for at least 20 seconds when they enter the building.
 - Students must wait for their teacher before entering hallways or using lockers.
 - Encourage physical distancing as much as possible within their cohort and at least 2 metres outside their cohort.
 - Students must wear masks in common spaces, hallways, bus line-ups, busses, and any time they interact with people outside their cohort.
 - Avoid close greetings (e.g. high fives, hugs).
 - **Dress for outdoor breaks/lunches, outdoor learning, and physical activity every day. Dress for any weather conditions.**

Thank you for being on this journey with us.

We are confident that with our combined efforts, we can reduce our risk.

Be Kind and Be Safe Timberwolves!