



Mount Slesse Middle School

September 2021 Opening Plans for Parents

August 30, 2021

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 open safely.

Health Measures

- We are so excited to be having students back at school for full-time learning using the [Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#).
- 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 links to help you assess yourself and your child daily.
 - Parents/caregivers and students can use the [K to 12 Health Check App](#)
 - Staff and other adults can refer to BCCDC's [When to get tested for COVID-19](#)
 - Staff, students and parents/caregivers can also use the BCCDC online [Self-Assessment Tool](#), call 8-1-1 or their health care provider.
- 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 and sanitizing will become part of daily class routines.
 - Students are expected to wash or sanitize 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

- Student desks will be sanitized 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 will be sanitized after class use.
- 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.

Masks

- Students and staff are asked to wear a non-medical face mask, a face covering, or a face shield with mask in school at all times.
- There are some exceptions to the mask mandate:
 - to a person who cannot tolerate wearing a mask for health or behavioural reasons;
 - to a person who is unable to put on or remove a mask without the assistance of another person;
 - the mask is removed temporarily for the purposes of identifying the person wearing it;
 - the mask is removed temporarily to engage in an educational activity that cannot be performed while wearing a mask (e.g., playing a wind instrument, engaging in high-intensity physical activity)
 - if a person is eating or drinking;
 - while outside;
 - while alone in a personal office
 - if a person is behind a barrier;
 - while providing a service to a person with a disability or diverse ability (including but not limited to a hearing impairment) where visual cues, facial expressions and/or lip-reading movements are important.

Cohorts

- Students are no longer required to be organized into cohorts. However, at middle schools, students are naturally groups into teaching teams and groups.
- Teachers are encouraged to take students outside for learning as much as possible – students must dress for any weather.

Changerooms

- Students are expected to change out of their regular school clothes into different clothing that is appropriate for Physical and Health Education (PHE). This could include: shorts, t-shirts, sweatshirts, sweatpants, and/or leggings. Students should have a pair of runners at school for PHE and change into them each PHE class.
- 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.

Outdoor Spaces

- All outdoor spaces are open and free to use during Break or Lunch.
- Masks are not required outside.

Lockers and Cell Phones

- All classes will be using lockers this year.
- Students will be allowed to use their lockers in the morning but must go to their handwashing station and wait in their Core classrooms as we do not want groups forming in the hallways.
- Cell phones are to be handed in to Core Class teachers at the start of each day. Cell phones will be locked up by Core teachers and are not allowed to be stored in lockers.
- Locker locations are organized based on Core Classes.
- 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.
- Teachers will teach students about always walking on right hand side of hallway.
- To limit large gatherings, students will not be allowed to congregate in hallways.
- 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.
- Half of our divisions will be on the Early Break Schedule and half will be on the Late Break Schedule. Parents will be notified which divisions are on which schedule.
- 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.
- 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.
- Half of our divisions will be on the Early Break Schedule and half will be on the Late Break Schedule. Parents will be notified which divisions are on which schedule.
- Students will have opportunity to participate in intramural sports as well as other activities during lunch time.

School Gatherings

- We are allowed to hold assemblies this year with all staff and students masked.
- To ensure adequate spacing we will not be holding full school assemblies at this time. Instead, we will hold assemblies with smaller groups of students and staff.
- We will also sometimes hold assemblies virtually.

Busses

- Students must wear masks on busses.

Food Services

- Many students bring snacks and lunch to eat from home; however, MSMS also has a cafeteria food service provider.
- 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.
 - 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 are no longer used at MSMS.
- Students needing food can always access food at MSMS.
 - Breakfast program in cafeteria before school – enter main doors starting 8am and proceed directly to cafeteria
 - Snacks are available upon request at any time from the foods room, Child & Youth Care Worker, Counselling Center, Indigenous Support Room, or office
 - Bowls of Hope soup is served daily from our Indigenous Support Room.

Sports and Extracurricular Activities

- Sports and extracurricular activities are allowed to occur at this time as long as they follow the guidelines of the [Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#).
- When students have early-morning sports practices, they are to enter the North Hallway or the gym directly from the outside.
- When there are not early morning practices, we will have open-gym time starting at 8am. Students can enter the gym directly from the outside when we have open-gym time.

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

- Each Grade 6 student will have an opportunity to participate in W.E.B. Orientation.
- W.E.B. Orientation will be on Thursday September 2nd from 8:30am to 12:30pm – here is your [W.E.B. Orientation Invitation](#).
- Parents will not be permitted in the building for W.E.B. Orientation.
- 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 cooperative games. Please note that classroom assignments are not guaranteed.

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 wear masks indoors and on busses.
 - 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.**
- Parents can also help by reviewing our Code of Conduct found in your child's School Planner. Some new expectations have been added this year:
 - **Cell Phones** – students are expected to hand in their cell phones to their Core Teacher at the beginning of each day. Cell phones will be locked up by Core Teachers. Cell phones are no longer to be stored in lockers. If you need to reach your child, our office staff will gladly ensure they get your message.
 - **Hats** – in most spaces in our school, students are now allowed to wear hats. Students may be asked to remove their hats by their teacher and will not wear hats during indoor PHE, Technology (shop), or Foods.

*Thank you for being on this journey with us.
We are confident that with our combined efforts, we will have an amazing year.
Be Kind and Be Safe Timberwolves!*