Hello Mount Slesse Families,

Thank you so much for your patience as we worked this week to plan for your children returning to in-person learning on Monday January 10th. We are really looking forward to seeing your amazing children and welcoming them back.

Before we share our re-opening procedures, we are excited to share that we will be hosting a **Virtual Parent Evening on Internet Safety with the** [**White Hatter**](https://www.thewhitehatter.ca/) **on Thursday January 13th at 6pm**. Here is the information:

Thurs Jan 13th - Internet Safety for Parents and Caregivers: 6pm-8pm

LINK:  <https://app.sli.do/event/8isWBGkU5FDQhKkaP79SWw>

PASSWORD:  Middle2022

On the day and time of the presentation, all a participant needs to do is click on this link, enter the password and they will be allowed access to the SLIDO/VIMEO platform where we will be hosting our live event.    It is strongly recommended that parents’ bookmark/save the link and password that you will send them, and sign into the event 10 minutes prior to the scheduled event going live, as we will be starting promptly at the designated time.

Students will get their own virtual White Hatter presentation during the day on Thursday January 13th while at school.

In terms of re-opening, most things will be very similar to when we left in December; however, we will be re-visiting and tightening-up our safety protocols. Here is what you and your children can expect:

**Before Students Come to School**

All students need to conduct a [Daily Health Check](https://www.k12dailycheck.gov.bc.ca/healthcheck?execution=e1s1) at home before they come to school. Please do not send your child to school if they have any symptoms.

**What Do I Do If My Child is Sick?**

1. **Transition to self-management**: with exception of specific high-risk settings and populations, individuals who test positive for COVID-19 will be expected to isolate for the appropriate period of time and notify their close contacts. This includes school-associated cases. Information on self-management, i.e. what to do if you test positive, is found here: <https://www.fraserhealth.ca/health-topics-a-to-z/coronavirus/positive#.Yc6L_iDMI2w>.
2. **School notifications**: as Fraser Health is no longer able to follow-up on individual school-associated cases, they will no longer notify schools about school exposures and therefore, they will not be able to post school exposures on their website next week. This means you will no longer receive the Fraser Health notification letters you were receiving before the break. Instead, families are asked to self-report when they know they have COVID-19. The self-reporting form can be found at this link: <https://reportcovidresults.bccdc.ca/>

**Masks**

All staff and students (except those who are exempt) are asked to continue to wear their masks in all indoor spaces except when physically exerting in Physical Education. Please send your child with a 3-layer mask (and spare mask if possible) each day. We will supply masks to anyone who needs one but appreciate all the help we can get from families.

**Entrance**

When students arrive in the morning, they will still be using their designated entrance. Doors will open to students at 8:10am. Students will be naturally staggered as they will arrive at various times between 8:10am and 8:25am. When they enter the building, they will not go directly to their locker as we do not want crowding or intermingling in our hallways. Instead, they will mask-up and go directly to their classroom where they will wash or sanitize their hands. They will wait in their classroom until they receive direction from their teachers regarding if and how they will access their lockers.

**Lockers**

To minimize crowding/gathering in our hallways, lockers may or may not be in use for some classes. For those that are using lockers, access to lockers will be staggered and monitored by staff to reduce crowding.

**Cell Phones**

As has been the practice since September, students will continue to hand in cell phones to their teacher at the beginning of each day. This is the common practice amongst middle schools in our district. Phones will be placed in envelopes in a secure container and locked for the day. Should you need to reach your child, please contact our main school number at 604-824-7481.

**Breaks and Lunches**

At MSMS, we already have staggered breaks and lunches with half of our classes on the ‘early’ schedule and half on the ‘late’ schedule. In addition to that, teachers will now be helping students to exit to breaks and lunches in an orderly and systematic fashion to increase staggering further.

**Breakfast Program and Food Services**

For now, our Breakfast Program will be switching to a ‘grab and go’ format. Students wishing to have breakfast will access the exterior door of our foods room to get their food ‘to go’. After getting their food, students will go to their designated entrance from outside, not from inside the hallways.

Our cafeteria service will continue to operate – yay! For those that wish, snacks and lunch are available for pre-order in the morning. A runner from each class will collect any orders for the appropriate time. Students cannot line-up to get food on the spot, only pre-orders are being used at this time.

**Exiting**

Teachers will help students access their lockers (where applicable) and exit the building in a staggered fashion at the end of day to reduce crowding.

**Bussing**

Students must continue to wear their masks on the bus. This means that they cannot eat during the bus ride. Students should only take their own designated bus.

**Extracurricular Activities, Sports, and Intramurals**

Under the guidelines, extracurricular activities including sports and intramurals can continue. However, we are not allowed to participate in tournaments or have spectators at sports events at this time. Only players, coaches, and officials will be allowed at sports games, practices, or at intramural events.

**Potential Closures**

There are three types of covid-related school closures that could potentially happen in the future. Schools could temporarily close due to large numbers of covid cases (health closure), low staffing numbers (functional closure), or low staffing numbers in our transportation department (transportation closure). When our district officials make any type of closure, we will do our very best to give you as much notice and information as we can.

**Continuity of Learning Plans**

In the event of a class or school closure in the future, our teachers have prepared plans to keep a continuity of learning by providing instruction online. Most teachers have reached out to families with their initial plans. You can expect to hear from your child’s teacher no later than Monday. With the exception of one or two classes, the vast majority of teachers will be conducting lessons, sharing assignments, receiving assignments, giving feedback, and having support sessions using Microsoft Teams. All students have access to Teams which is in the Microsoft Office Suite. Please [click here](https://sd33.bc.ca/sites/sd33.bc.ca/files/2018-02/Office%20365-%20Students.pdf) to learn how to download this onto your home device. Your child’s teacher can help you if your child does not know their login credentials. Also, please reach out to your child’s teacher if you have technology constraints.

Thank you again for being on this journey with us. We know it has been challenging but also believe we can get through this next phase together.

Feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Take care!