

God Calls Us



EACH BY NAME

## Re-Entry Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for Parents

August 21, 2020

### 1. How do I select the method of educational delivery I wish for my child to have? (in-person or at-home/online).

SWIFT messages have been emailed to parents outlining this process within PowerSchool. Please check there for detailed descriptions of the process to be completed for each child. We have extended this date to August 28; however, for appropriate staffing and planning purposes, **we ask that parents make that determination as soon as possible**. Please contact your principal to facilitate either your initial choice or a change in stance, at this time.

#### a. Why can only one parent make the choice?

- i. There are limits within PowerSchool whereby once a parent entry is made to student information, that is what remains. If there are custodial issues, those must be resolved outside of the school and a choice in the best interests of the child ultimately determined and communicated to the school.

#### b. What if we change our mind before school starts? How do we make the change?

- i. Please provide a written request (email is fine) to your principal, indicating that you wish to change your stance and that all parents/guardians agree with this change. It would be preferable if all parents/guardians were part of that communication. From there, the principal will coordinate the change within PowerSchool. We are already experiencing many parents wanting to go from an online setting to the in-person school setting; please understand that there are significant staffing challenges with last minute changes.

### 2. What, exactly, will the online offering look like for my child?

Please see the supplied second link within this Swift K-12 message describing the online learning option.



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### 3. When will I see the school-specific re-entry plan to help me make my decision?

The school-specific re-entry plans will be aligned with the Division Re-Entry Plan, and therefore much of the guidance has already been shared with respect to the overall commitment to risk mitigation. The specifics to be included from each school will include such things as which doors/entrances students may be assigned to, details about lockers, processes for parent entry by appointment, staggering of lunch and/or recess, etc. These plans will be shared by your school principal no later than Monday, August 24, and will be posted to their school websites as early as Monday, August 24, for your review. Please understand that the physical setting will appear very similar to what you left in March, if you are a returning student, with the exception of directional and hygiene signage, increased access to hand sanitizer, the removal of difficult-to-clean infrastructure such as soft furnishing, area rugs and plush toys, etc.

### 4. What will the first week of school (September 2 – 4) look like?

Parents are asked to follow the Re-Entry Plan for their child's school for specifics regarding September 2 & 3. School is cancelled for all 100 Voices to grade 9 students on Friday, September 4. High School students will continue to have classes as per their schedule.

### 5. When will staff and students need to wear face masks?

All staff are expected to wear a mask where physical distancing of 2m is not consistently possible. Exceptions may be considered when working with individuals with a hearing impairment or when working in a context that supports 2m physical distancing or other protective measures are in place. As per Alberta Health Services (AHS) guidelines, a face shield does not replace a face mask, but may be used as an additional measure in conjunction with a face mask.

All students, K-12, riding on ETS or Yellow bus must wear a face mask.

Students in grades 4-12 must wear face masks whenever physical distancing of 2m is not possible. This will include:

- In hallways and common areas,
- In classroom contexts in which there is a high degree of close interaction, food preparation (Home Economics) or other physical safety conditions cannot be appropriately maintained.

Students in grades 100 Voices to 3 are strongly encouraged to wear a face mask, if they are physically, developmentally and psychologically able to. Parents of students with unique sensory challenges should meet with school administration to discuss exemptions and alternative strategies to this mandate.

A visual representation has been added as a link within this Swift K-12 message.

### 6. How will my choice to participate in online learning impact my child's bussing options?

To simplify this process for families, your child's stop and name will not be cancelled or removed from the system. This means that:

- your child's stop and name will remain in place;
- it will not be necessary to re-apply for transportation should you resume in-person learning at school;



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- there will not be any time delay. Students can start to use their stop immediately should your child resume in-person learning at school;
- your child's stop and name will remain in place;
- it will not be necessary to re-apply for transportation should you resume in-person learning at school;
- there will not be any time delay. Students can start to use their stop immediately should your child resume in-person learning at school.

Since cancellations will not be processed, this also allows transportation resources to focus on the new students and applications so that stops are added as quickly as possible to accommodate families who have submitted late or new applications.

The weekly Swift message will continue to be sent every Friday advising parents that their route may have changed as new families need this information. Parents should disregard these messages if they have already sent a cancellation – it is not necessary to send another email or to call Transportation Services.

## 7. Will the Division consider allowing my child to participate in extra-curricular opportunities if we choose online learning as our method of educational delivery?

The choice to provide online options was made in direct response to the concerns parents have with respect to the health and safety of their child as a result of COVID-19 or the heightened risks to vulnerable family members within the home. The primary purpose of our Division is the education of our students, with safety as a heightened focus during COVID. That being said, the Division will now allow any student registered at a particular school to have access to all extracurricular offerings that can safely be offered, including athletics, only insofar as the guidance from the Chief Medical Officer allows these activities to occur. At present, interscholastic athletics are on hold until further notice Provincially. Similarly, band offerings have restrictions that prevent their full complement of instrument sections, and so are also limited at this time. However, at such time that interscholastic athletics and/or band are to be reinstated, ALL students enrolled for schooling in either stance will be able to participate, according to the timelines and participation restrictions in place.



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