



Life Well Learned.

## **MBCI Re-opening Plan** **September 2020**

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year! We are excited to welcome students back to campus for in-person learning. During the coming weeks we will continue the process of adapting routines and schedules in adherence with public health protocols and government guidelines. The level of detail we are able to provide will increase as we get closer to September 8.

The following information provides an initial “big picture” view of the changes we have made to ensure a safe return to in-person learning. We hope it begins to answer your questions about what the coming school year will look like.

We are confident that our staff and campus are equipped for the year ahead. We remain focused on providing a learning environment in which students are equipped to learn, love, and engage with the world, and we know that, in these exceptional circumstances, meaningful education and safety go hand in hand.

We are committed to including health and safety routines as part of our MBCI culture. Looking beyond the protocols, however, we are excited that a return to on-campus, in-person learning offers MBCI staff the best opportunity to care for students in a holistic way.

It is possible for circumstances relating to COVID-19 to change, with the potential for new restrictions to come into effect. We are anticipating this possibility, using our learning from the past school year to plan accordingly.

We remain committed to regular communication with our MBCI families and will continue to provide all necessary information by email.

Thank you for your partnership as we engage, together, in the education of your children.

### **Week of September 8-11**

The first days and weeks of the school year will be an important time of combining teaching and learning with training for new habits.

- We will stagger students' return to school, inviting individual cohorts to attend a time of orientation and training on safety protocols and daily movements through campus.
- Since students have been out of school for several months, the return to school will also include intentional time to build relationships, reinforce the kind of culture we want to build at MBCI, and find our bearings together within COVID safety routines.

- More specific information with the dates and times for your child's orientation will be sent out next week.

### **Distancing and Health Measures**

- Students will be organized into grade-based cohorts.
- Within these grade cohorts, we are able to adhere to physical distancing measures within classrooms due to our commitment to small class sizes.
- We are organizing our campus into grade-based wings that allow us to decrease student movement and interaction in shared spaces.
- We will be using separate entrances and exits around the campus for each cohort and staggering movements throughout the school day, including lunch periods.

### **Learning and Scheduling**

#### Edsby

- MBCI staff will continue to use Edsby as our learning communication platform for 2020-2021.
- We ask all students and families to engage with this online tool.
- Student timetables will be available through Edsby by September 2.
- All new students and parents/guardians will receive instructions on how to activate their accounts.

#### Course Schedules and Semester Model for High School

- Government guidelines ask that we limit the number of student/teacher contacts and decrease student movement on campus during the school day.
- To adhere with this expectation, students in grades 9 to 12 will follow a semester model, attending the same classes daily September through January, before beginning different classes January through June.
- This decision also prepares us well to pivot to online learning if necessary, with a manageable workload for all high school students.

#### Electives

- We are pleased that elective courses will continue, with adaptations made to physical education, drama, traditional choral music and band.
- Our spacious gyms, library, drama room, Jubilee Place auditorium, multi-purpose room and cafeterias provide room for us to adhere to physical distancing requirements and engage students in meaningful learning.

#### Course Changes

- Class size limitations, course scheduling, and COVID-safe practices have implications for course changes, and may limit the ability for students to make changes from those courses currently selected.



- We want to place students in their courses of choice, but will need to make final decisions about changes based on safety guidelines.

## Grade 12

- Our Grade 12 enrolment exceeds the maximum cohort limit allowed by the province and therefore requires a different approach to distancing and scheduling.
- Grade 12 students will be divided into two cohorts with careful consideration of course needs and balanced schedules.
- Cohorts will be re-created for second semester to allow for greater community over the course of the year.
- Grade 12 students will be on campus on alternating days of the cycle, alternating between in-person classes on campus, and live-streaming classes from home.
- This decision was made in order to provide the required distance between students and, most importantly, the quality of teaching and learning we are able to provide.
- We understand that there may be concerns for some grade 12 students regarding off-campus learning for a variety of reasons, such as wifi access, learning needs, mental health and transportation. We are providing the option for grade 12s to remain on-campus each day where students would alternate between in-class learning days, and live-streaming days from a separate “learning zone” in the school. We will provide more information on this option directly to grade 12 families when we have more details in place, and invite response.

## **Attendance and Engagement**

- All students are expected to participate fully in their classes, even when off-campus learning is required.
- With the current re-opening plan, all students are expected to attend on-campus learning.
- Should a student need to isolate, quarantine, or cannot attend for other medical reasons, the student will be able to access on-campus lessons through live streaming.
- MBCI will provide off-campus learning for students who have been medically advised not to return to in-class learning due to COVID related risk factors. For students in this position, a medical letter from a doctor is required and should be submitted to the Principal.
- Students who are ill or exhibiting COVID-like symptoms will be supported through on-line classes and learning plans through Edsby.

## **Assessment and Exams**

- Students will be assessed on their work and receive progress reports throughout the school year.



- Exams for grades 9 through 12 will take place at the end of semester one in January and then again at the end of semester two in June.
- Grade 12 Provincial exams are scheduled to proceed as normal for 2020-2021.

### **Student Support**

- Our Student Support Team will continue to facilitate an ongoing system for identifying student learning and wellness needs, and work with teachers to develop programming and supports for each student.
- Recovery learning took place in June with in-person teacher support under the limited use guidelines of our facilities.
- As we return to in-class learning and join students together – new and returning – we are committed and prepared for supporting all students with activating previous knowledge and understanding as well as integrating newly learned technology skills with effective in-class learning strategies.

### **Co-Curricular Programs**

Student involvement in our co-curricular opportunities is an important part of the development of the MBCI Habits of a Graduate and the positive experience of being at MBCI.

- We are committed to providing these opportunities in modified formats, as we are able, throughout the school year.
- Communication regarding athletics and music will be provided directly by our Athletic Director and Music Director.

### **Food Service/Water**

- More information will follow relating to food service. We are currently considering our food service options within the safety guidelines.
- All students are encouraged to bring their own water bottles to school.

### **Masks and Sanitization**

- Masks are required at MBCI for all staff and students when physical distancing of 2 meters is not possible. This will include use of shared spaces, moving within the classroom and hallway spaces throughout the school day.
- While we anticipate supply of non-medical masks by the Province, please add the purchase of non-medical masks to your back to school preparations.
- Students will be required to wear a mask when travelling on MBCI transportation.
- Enhanced cleaning protocols for high-touch surfaces, classrooms and washrooms will be in place.



- Increased hand hygiene will be encouraged and practiced. Sanitizer will be available at all school entrances and hallways.
- Additional signage is planned for our building to encourage and remind staff and students of physical distancing, traffic flow, sanitization practices and regular screening.

### **Screening**

- Staff and students will need to self-screen at home, before going to school.
- We rely on parents and caregivers to conduct daily screening with their student(s) and to help us continue to provide a safe and healthy school environment.

**If your child has any symptoms of COVID-19 or is experiencing flu-like symptoms they must stay at home. Should you notice symptoms and need more information, please contact Health Links.**

Please visit the MB Health online screening tool if necessary.  
<https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/screening-tool/>

### **Lockers**

- Locker use will be limited. Students should be prepared to keep their necessary supplies with them through the day. Distance between classes has been decreased which will help with this. More information on lockers to come.

### **Visitors and Volunteers**

- We need to keep visitors and volunteers to a minimum.
- All visitors and volunteers will be asked to self-screen and adhere to physical distancing and hygiene practices in place at MBCI, including wearing non-medical masks.
- Where possible, on-line communication, video and phone should be used rather than in-person visits.

### **Transportation**

- As recommended by Public Health, parents are encouraged to transport their own children to school if possible.
- Those families who have signed up for our transportation program will receive separate communication and protocol information.

### **Contact Tracing and Possible Cases of COVID-19**



- If we become aware of a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 on campus, we will notify Public Health immediately.
- Public Health officials will determine the necessary action and/or protocols.

**Resources:**

For further information about the government's plan for restoring safe schools in Manitoba, please see the following links:

<https://engagemb.ca/welcoming-our-students-back-restoring-safe-schools>

<https://manitoba.ca/covid19/restoring/sports-guidelines.html>

[https://www.gov.mb.ca/asset\\_library/en/covid/k-12-reopeningplan-guidance.pdf](https://www.gov.mb.ca/asset_library/en/covid/k-12-reopeningplan-guidance.pdf)

[https://www.gov.mb.ca/asset\\_library/en/covid/k-12-reopeningplan-guideforparents.pdf](https://www.gov.mb.ca/asset_library/en/covid/k-12-reopeningplan-guideforparents.pdf)

