

Sgoil MhicFhraise a' Chaolais
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Principal: Theresa MacNeil



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Dear Families:

We at Rankin hope you and your family are enjoying a safe summer. School is back in session for all students on September 8, and after almost 6 months apart, we are excited to welcome you back.

With COVID-19 rates at low levels, students will return to school following the full opening model outlined in Nova Scotia's Back to School Plan. To learn more about the plan visit www.novascotia.ca/backtoschool.

How we support your child's return to school is our priority. COVID-19 may have changed what our school day will look like, but it has not changed the quality of education your child will receive.

We know you have a lot of questions. The answers we give now, may change depending on the public health guidance in place to support a return to in class instruction. If the conditions change, our approach will change, including a possible move to either a blended learning or at-home learning model. The direction to move to a different learning model would come from Public Health. Should this or any other change take place, we will let you know as soon as possible.

As you may have already heard, there are some key changes coming to school in September. This includes:

- Mask use for all students who ride a school bus.
- Mask use for all students in grades 4 to 12 and all staff, when they are unable to physically distance
- Enhanced cleaning in our schools
- Increased hand washing and sanitizing as students enter and exit school and throughout the day.

While these measures will become commonplace in schools across our province, I want to provide you more details about what your child's day will look like here at Rankin.

Bus routes and pick up and drop off times remain the same for the start of this year. Students are asked to sit with siblings on the bus.

All students must have their own mask to wear on the bus and in the school (for Gr4-12).

Students will receive two masks with their name on them once parents have signed the media release form, (which they will get on the first day of school) and return it to the classroom teacher. Until then they must supply their own mask.

All grade 4-12 students and all staff will be wearing masks throughout the day. The building is set up to allow physical distancing as much as is possible, sanitization stations are set up and disinfecting schedules for the cleaning staff/custodian and teachers are in place. The students are asked to follow the floor markings when moving throughout the building.

When arriving at school all students will go to their designated classroom and sanitize their hands. Grade 9-12 will go to their first class of the day. P-8 students will have all classes in the same room with the exception of physical education which will be outdoors as much as possible. Teachers will come to the students P-8. Grade 9-12 will move class to class.

Students P-5 will have the usual outdoor or indoor recess but will remain in their class groupings in designated areas (their classroom indoors and marked area outdoors). Each middle school and highschool class will remain together in their classrooms or outdoors with their teacher for recess break. All students will eat lunch in their classrooms. Grade 9-12 will eat in the room they are in just before lunch.

All students are asked to "pack in and pack out". This means students are asked to take their garbage and any uneaten food home in their lunch bags. This will help reduce the odour and garbage in the classroom throughout the day. Students must bring a water bottle.

Students are not permitted to share materials like school supplies and food or toys.

The breakfast program and the milk program will be available again this year but not during the first few days.

We will be encouraging many breaks throughout the day to allow us to get outdoors, social distance and remove masks. Learning outdoors will be encouraged when possible. This is going to be new for all of us and will take time for us to get into the routine. We will work with all students to make these adjustments manageable.

I look forward to sharing more information with you ahead of September 8. I want to assure you that together, we've got this. Working together, we can all help students feel safe and supported when they return to school. Let's keep the lines of communication open to make this a positive year. Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Theresa MacNeil

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