

## Welcome Back!

Whether you will be working online or coming into school, we are so excited to have you in our community! The classrooms have been empty for far too long and we are ready to invite everyone back in.

Be ready for the school to have a whole new look to it. The moment you enter, you will notice new signage signalling which direction you can travel in a hallway and reminders about your masks and proper hand washing. You will also notice other changes around the school that allow for fewer touch points, more sanitizing opportunities, and new procedures and protocols in place. These are all structured around keeping us all safe and healthy. At this time, we are unable to use lockers or microwaves, and cannot offer programs such as extracurricular athletics or band/choir as of yet. Our hot lunch program with Chef Chris will also be starting up at a later date. All these programs and privileges will be revisited and reintroduced in a safe manner once we get approval from AHS and our district as the school year starts.

Over the past few months, we have learned that the only constant to Covid-19 is change. Our admin and teachers have been working hard to create new experiences, new schedule structures, and new approaches to make this year great.

## **Remote Learning Program**

Our staff are currently working to finalize the details of our remote learning program (more information, including a class schedule, will be coming out next week). In essence, this program will focus on the four core classes (Math, LA, Science, Social), and PE.

- Students will have 2 live classes for each core class every week (total of 8 live teaching sessions with their small group of online peers). Additional check ins will occur throughout the week through feedback on assignments, emails, and/or one-on-one meetings.
- We will continue to use <u>ccslearn</u> site to provide an overview of what the plans are for each class at the start of each week. This will be a helpful tool for all students (remote and in person)!
- Teachers will also use Google classroom as a platform for students to find their assignments and submit their work.
- An introduction to each course will take place during the week of September 2-4 with full classes commencing the week of September 8.
- Remote learning will require parental support and the use of available/reliable technology at home.

## In Person Learning Program

For students who plan to attend school in person, the first week of classes (September 2-4) will be a staggered start. This means that you need to attend school only on the day noted below. This will provide the opportunity for each grade to acclimate to the new environment and protocols within the building prior to all students attending at once. This program will consist of the four core classes (Math, LA, Science, and Social), Bible, PE, Health, and options. Due to circumstances, we have postponed our second languages program and modified many of our option classes. We will revisit these in January to see if any changes can be made for the second semester. Regular classes will begin on September 8.

- Staggered Entry Schedule
  - September 2 Grade 7 (full day)
  - September 3 Grade 8 (full day)
  - September 4 Grade 9 (regular dismissal at noon)
- On the attached schedule, you will notice that we placed as many of our core classes in the morning as we could. Many of you mentioned that you would like the opportunity for your child to come home for lunch and work on elective courses at home. We want to support this request and were able to create the opportunities noted below for that to take place. Please remember that if students would like to take advantage of this opportunity, they are still responsible for completing the work for each class at home. Should teachers notice that no work is being completed, this option will no longer be available for your child.
  - o Grade 7 Monday and Wednesday afternoon
  - o Grade 8 Tuesday and Thursday afternoon
  - o Grade 9 Monday and Wednesday afternoon
  - All students are dismissed at noon on Fridays
- Doors open at 8:15am with our first class beginning at 8:35am. Lunch breaks take place either during Block 4 (11:40am 12:35pm) or Block 5 (12:40pm 1:35pm). The day will end at 3:35pm.
- Each homeroom class will be their own cohort. Staggered lunch breaks, smaller PE classes (students are expected to bring runners but are not expected to change into a gym strip as change rooms are not accessible at this time), seating plans, masks, increased opportunities for handwashing and disinfecting, and teachers switching classrooms instead of students, allows us to provide a safer environment for everyone in the building.
- There are no microwaves or vending machines available on campus at this time.
- No Skip the Dishes or other food delivery system that brings food into the school is permitted at this time.
- Students and staff will be required to wear a mask upon entry, when in hallways or common areas, and when moving around the classroom. Classrooms are set up to allow for as much social distancing between students as possible with all students facing the same direction. With this set up, we are able to allow students to remove their masks while they are sitting down and working.
- Should we have an identified case of Covid-19 within the school, we will be contacting AHS and Palliser School Division immediately and will be following their advice. Please do not send your child to school if they feel or show any symptoms of being ill. Should your child begin to show symptoms at school, they will be isolated immediately and we will call home to make arrangements for them to be picked up. One confirmed case does not mean that an entire class will need to isolate themselves. Within our

- cohorts, we are implementing seating plans and mini-cohorts that will allow for contact tracing to occur more quickly and this will also help minimize the number of individuals who may be impacted. AHS will be advising us on a case by case basis.
- Stay tuned for more information on how to inform us if your child has a pre-existing condition, such as allergies. Students will be required to have one negative test for Covid-19 to verify their pre-existing condition.

## This Year...

Our theme verse for this year comes from Philippians 2:3b-4, "In humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests, but each of you to the interests of others." This verse resonates well with all of us as we plan for our new year. This pandemic has impacted us all in so many ways. We are sad for the loss of important and exciting events we had planned, teams we hoped to participate in, trips we hoped to take, and family we wanted to see. Ending the year online did not allow for the closure we all craved. All the extra protocols and unknowns bring new anxieties and questions. While we do not know what this year will look like, we can promise you that we will do our best to keep our students safe. We will do our best to find the joy while acknowledging what has been lost. Our prayer as a staff is that you will find ways to connect with this verse and find opportunities where we can help take care of each other. If you ever have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at <a href="mailto:dayle.vienneau@pallisersd.ab.ca">dayle.vienneau@pallisersd.ab.ca</a>.

Blessings,

Dayle Vienneau Vice Principal CCS Secondary

\*Special note for Grade 7 families - we know that you will have a fantastic year! Please join us at our Grade 7 Information Night through <u>Zoom</u> at 7:00pm on Monday, August 31.