
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.

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.

Grade 10-12 Remote Learning Program

Our HS staff are currently working to finalize the details of our remote learning program (more information regarding the specifics of the remote learning option will be coming out after we meet Monday). Here is what we do know:

- Students will receive virtual teacher instruction for each core class every week. Sessions will be instructional in nature and will serve to support the same curricular objectives being covered in class. This is to minimize the impact of moving between our remote and in-school learning options.
- Additional check ins will occur throughout the week through feedback on assignments, emails, opportunities to engage with live classes, and one-on-one meetings.
- We will continue to use [ccslearn](#) 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 via email correspondence during the week of September 2-4 with full classes commencing the week of September 8.
- Remote learning may require parental support and the use of available/reliable technology at home.
- The remote learning workload will be similar to that of the 'in-school' option to ensure success in a student's current and future studies. It will be more than what was experienced this past spring.

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. Regular classes will begin on September 8.

- Staggered Entry Schedule
 - September 2 - Grade 10 & 12 (full day of orientation and classes)
 - September 3 - Grade 11 (full day of orientation and classes)
- Grade 12 (your typical Thursday of scheduled courses)

- This year's timetable runs on 7 blocks per day on Monday to Thursday and three blocks on Friday. The same timetable exists for the whole building which allows for maximum flexibility and alternating lunch times. See it [here](#).
- When asked about what students enjoyed about their time away from school last spring, most answered 'flexibility'. So, we took advantage of a seven block timetable to create more sections of a core class where possible. This allowed us to reduce class sizes to increase one on one teacher support and increase the level of safety in each classroom to adhere to distancing guidelines.
- When students don't have classes in session, they must work in their assigned grade area which they will learn about next week, or go home. We love you but home is encouraged at this time if it is an easy option to reduce the number of students in the building.
- Because many options are limited and human resources are being devoted to supporting all students, both at home and in school, the number of possible options available has been reduced. However, we still feel students have access to a variety of option classes using resources in house and/or our online partners.
- For those who have submitted a course selection form, a list of enrolled classes is available via your PowerSchool app. *Troubleshooting information* [here](#) in the FAQs.
- Doors open at 8:15am with our first class beginning at 8:35am. Lunch breaks take place during an open block in a student's schedule. The day will end at 3:35pm.
- The campus is open meaning you can leave for lunch. There are no microwaves or vending machines available 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.
- Extended phone use is not allowed in school. Specifics of permitted use can be found in our updated handbook coming next week.
- No Skip the Dishes or other food delivery system that brings food into the school is permitted at this time.
- 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 upon observation of symptoms consistent with COVID-19..

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 jadan.barthel@pallisersd.ab.ca

Take care,

Jadan Barthel

Principal
CCS Secondary