

**Lawrence Grassi Middle School
Re-Entry Plan 2020/2021
A Guide for Parents**



Revised October 5th and November 1st 2020

Lawrence Grassi Middle School Re-Entry Plan for Parents 2020-2021

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Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome back to school! We are very excited to be returning to in-class learning this fall as our school buildings have not felt like real schools without students in them for the last six months. Please read and refer to this plan regularly for our return to in-school learning at LGMS alongside the [comprehensive plan](#) created by our Canadian Rockies Public Schools division.

At LGMS we are committed to the health and safety of students and staff. This guide will explain the day-to-day operations and procedures that we are implementing on August 26th when staff return first to prepare for opening day on August 31st. These procedures affect students, staff, parents, essential services and visitors. This guide has been developed to support the safe re-entry of students and staff for the 2020/2021 school year within [Scenario 1](#) as set out by Alberta Education requiring near normal operations with further health measures in place. As Dr. Hinshaw, Chief Medical Officer for Alberta, has indicated, although we cannot eliminate the spread of COVID-19, it is our duty to try to minimize transmission and provide guidelines to set everyone up for success.

As we work through the first few weeks we will soon discover if the plan needs tweaking, changing or clarifying and administration welcomes feedback from parents. As new information becomes available, please be aware that the plan will be revisited and amended. Any changes will be sent out to parents in our weekly communication from the office or on a needs basis.

In this plan, all encompassing health procedures are laid out at the start. Following this you will read procedures for a near-normal school day involving different operations and/or activities. The plan finishes by looking at some priorities around learning.

More so than ever before, our school is a community in which we all look out for each other. We are returning to school in uncertain times but we know that for the education and wellness of our children being at school is vital to their growth. Thank you for your ongoing understanding and cooperation as we work together with the community and all learning partners to provide the safest possible return to learning at school as directed by Alberta Education. Please do contact the administration if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Natasha Miles, Principal

Craig Kestle, Assistant Principal

Updates to Plan October 5th 2020 - in purple font

Updates to plan November 1st 2020 - in orange font

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STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

STAGGERED START MONDAY AUGUST 31ST AND TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 1ST

In order for teachers and staff to have time with their classes to support the establishment of new safety routines we will begin the year with a staggered start for homerooms. Homeroom assignments for students will be made available through Parent Portal on **Wednesday, August 26th** in order to provide time for families to make arrangements for these days. Considerable time and effort has been put into creating balanced classrooms, please do not make requests for a change of homerooms. *Please note however, that if our enrollment is considerably different from what we predicted in June due to family decisions in regard to COVID-19 we may have to make some changes during the first couple of weeks of school.*

Monday August 31st	Tuesday September 1st
4B - Mme. Amirault, room 165 4C - Mme. Couture/Mme. Alarie, room 164 5A - Ms. Blackwell, room 167 6A - Mr. Philbin, room 173 6B - Mme. Hood/Mr. Boyd, room 172 7A - Mme. Fraser, room 110 7B - Mr. McQueen, room 107 7C - Mme. Grondin/Mme. Desautels, room 105 7D - Ms. Precesky, room 106 8D - M. Vallée, room 125	4A - Mme. Moore, room 166 4/5D - Mr. Krohe, room 168 5B - Ms. Major, room 174 5C - Mme. Santerre, room 163 5/6E - Mme. Swinton, room 171 6C - M. Veilleux, room 170 7E - Mme. Provencher, room 109 8A - Ms. Richards, room 104 8B - Ms. Howatt, room 108 8C - Mr. Bittner, room 111

Under current health protocols students will be required to enter/exit from a designated entrance way. Teachers will meet their homerooms outside of the school in designated areas. At the first bell (8:40 am) classes will line up following current physical distancing protocols and teachers will stagger their entry into the school through their designated entry ways.

Please refer to the table below for specific grades and designated areas and entry ways. We understand that the first day back is an exciting time for families and traditionally we welcome parents at this time however, **we ask all parents to refrain from lining up with their child and/or entering the school** due to our current health protocols. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in this matter.

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Grade	Entrance/Exit	Morning Meeting Place
Grade 8	Main entrance	Front of school closer to the garden
Grade 7	NW entrance end of Grade 7-8 hallway	Front of school closer to flag pole
Grade 6 + 5B (Major) + 5/6E (Swinton)	North entrance end of Grade 5-6 hallway	Back of school inside the elk fence at the track closer to 5th ave
Grade 4	Gym entrance (doors heading to bus loop)	Bus loop area between basketball court and the elk fence
Grade 5 + 4/5D(Krohe),	NE entrance end of Grade 4-5 hallway	Back of school inside the elk fence at the track closer to 5th street

All students will attend full time beginning Wednesday, September 2nd.

HEALTH MEASURES

Daily Self-Screening Practices

Before leaving home, staff and students must self-screen for symptoms each day before you enter the school using the provincial screening tool [Self-Assessment](#) for Albertans. If you answer “yes” to any of the questions, then you should not come to the school. Parents who enter the school for an appointment or to attend to an emergency with their child must assess themselves before arriving at school. NO PERSON shall enter the school if they are exhibiting symptoms, even if symptoms resemble a mild cold. Anyone that reports symptoms will be directed to stay home, seek health care advice as appropriate (e.g., call Health Link 811, or their primary health care practitioner, or 911 for emergency response) and fill out the AHS [Online Self-Assessment Tool](#) to determine if they should be tested. Parents must immediately inform school administration if a child tests positive for COVID-19.

Please refer to the [AHS website](#) for current rules around requirements for **mandatory** self-isolation. **Please refer to the new [Guidance for Parents of Children Attending School and/or Childcare.](#)**

Local Primary Care clinics offering testing: *You must call in advance to book an appointment*

Alpine Medical Clinic (Banff) 403-762-3155

Bear St. Family Physicians (Banff) 403-762-4846

Lake Louise Medical Clinic 403-522-2184

Stoney Health Services** (Morley) 403-881-3920

***open to Nation members only*

AHS Cochrane Testing Centre - call 811

Maintaining a 'Closed Campus'

Once students arrive on campus they will be expected to remain on site until the end of the school day. In circumstances where students go home daily for lunch parents will be required to ensure that their child completes the self assessment tool before returning to the school. At the start of the school year parents will be asked to indicate if their child will be going home daily for lunch and will be required to sign a self assessment commitment when completing the Annual School Demographic Update/Verification 2020/2021 digital form. Grade 7 and 8 students will not be allowed to leave to go downtown at lunchtime as in previous years until Alberta Education allows us to return to normal schooling.

It is highly recommended that any appointments for students be made after school or as close to the end of the day as possible. If this is not possible, students leaving for essential appointments will need to rescreen before entering the school again.

Students with Pre-Existing Conditions

Parents will be required to provide updated information on their children's pre-existing conditions on the **CRPS Annual School Demographic Update/Verification 2020/2021** digital form at the beginning of the school year. Please make sure that this is done by **August 26th**.

Individuals who have allergies or ongoing health issues that exhibit as COVID-like symptoms **must** be tested at least once according to Alberta Health Services Guidelines **before they return to school** for the new school year. Please call or email your child's school, prior to the first day of classes, to let them know that this testing has been completed and to notify them of the results if they are negative. A formal document does not need to be provided. Schools will keep a detailed record of this contact. This will establish a baseline for the individual. If symptoms change (worsen, additional symptoms, change in baseline) the individual must stay home and be tested and cleared before returning to school. Schools will track typical symptoms that may be confused with COVID-19 for students in PowerSchool as they would with other medical conditions.

Illness While at School

If a student presents with symptoms during the school day, as per the [Government of Alberta Screening Questionnaire](#) and as determined by school staff, we will contact parents immediately to pick up their child. The student will be placed in the First Aid room until they are picked up which must be within one hour. **They will be provided with a mask that they must wear (unless exempt) until they are picked up.** If there is more than one student in the infirmary, the students must stay more than two meters apart. Students cannot be placed on the bus. If a parent is not able to pick up their child, they must designate an emergency contact for student pickup. Within the Alberta Government's pandemic

response, this is a responsibility that families must adhere to.

*In extenuating circumstances, where a parent cannot pick up their child by the end of the day, [AP 386](#) will be enacted.

- The student will be provided with a mask to wear until they are picked up.
- Their temperature will be taken with an infrared thermometer.
- The staff member looking after the student will maintain physical distancing where possible.
- The student's personal items will be collected together to hand to the parent/caregiver upon arrival.
- Personal items of the student should be handed to the parent/caregiver in a plastic bag.

After a student is picked up, a sign will be posted indicating that the room must not be entered until it can be disinfected by custodial staff. All items that the student touched will be cleaned and disinfected. Items that cannot be disinfected will be placed in a sealed container for **72 hours**, e.g. paper, books, etc.

As the First Aid room needs to be available for isolating a student with COVID-19 symptoms, we cannot provide this space for a student who is feeling tired or who has sustained an injury and therefore ask that parents pick up their child as soon as possible in these circumstances, preferably within an hour in order to make more space available in the office area.

Classroom-based learning may continue and students/staff with no symptoms do not need to be sent home or quarantined if there was a symptomatic-only individual in the school, NOT a confirmed case of COVID-19 (outbreak doc).

At-Home Learning While Self-Isolating or Ill

Continuity of education will be provided to all students. Teachers will support students to work from home as per typical practices when a student is ill and must remain at home, but is still able to complete school work.

Demonstrating Clearance to Return to School

In order for school re-entry to be successful, all students, families and staff must work together to minimize risks. Please use the [COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool](#) to determine whether your child needs to be tested for COVID-19. If your child has tested positive for COVID-19, you or your child will not be required to provide a formal document that shows evidence of a negative test result. **As of October 1st, parents/guardians can use their My Health Records account to access their child's COVID-19 test results online.** You are legally required to isolate for a minimum of **10 days** if you have tested positive for COVID-19. The isolation period is for 10 days from the start of symptoms, or until symptoms resolve, whichever takes longer. Students can return to school when they have followed the [Alberta government's](#)

requirement related to isolation.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

All students attending Grades 4 through 12, staff members and visitors must wear a non-medical face mask that covers their mouth and nose while attending an indoor location within a school, unless the student, staff member or visitor:

1. is unable to place, use or remove a non-medical face mask without assistance;
2. is unable to wear a non-medical face mask due to a mental or physical concern or limitation;
3. is consuming food or drink in a designated area;
4. is engaging in physical exercise;
5. is seated at a desk or table
 - a. within a classroom or place where the instruction, course or program of study is taking place, and
 - b. where the desks, tables, and chairs are arranged in a manner
 - i. to prevent persons who are seated from facing each other, and
 - ii. to allow the greatest possible distance between seated person;
6. is providing or receiving care or assistance where a non-medical face mask would hinder that caregiving or assistance; or
7. is separated from every other person by a physical barrier

Every student and staff member will be provided with two reusable masks. This will ensure that students who are required to wear masks will have them. Additional single-use masks will be available at schools, if required. Students may bring their own non-medical masks but the non-medical masks should not be full face coverings.

School administration should be informed of an exemption and should ensure adherence to the other public health measures. Exemptions to mask requirements for all teachers and staff in all school settings and students in Grades 4-12 include:

- Persons who are unable to place, use or remove a non-medical face mask without assistance.
- Persons unable to wear a non-medical face mask due to mental or physical concern or limitation.
- Persons consuming food or drink in a designated area.
- Persons engaged in physical exercise.
- Personal providing care or assistance to a person with a disability where a non-medical face mask would hinder that caregiving or assistance.
- Persons engaging in services that require the temporary removal of the non-medical face mask.
- Spaces where physical barriers have been installed between persons.

All teachers and staff will receive one reusable face shield for their use in schools. Face shields will not be used as a replacement for a mask. **Individuals wearing non-medical masks may still be considered close contacts by AHS if they are exposed to a case of COVID-19.**

Our school office area now has a temporary plexiglass screen which will be cleaned in accordance with AHS protocols. This safety measure is primarily for our administrative staff as we work towards limiting students, staff and visitors from being in the office.

Sanitizer Stations and Supplies

Sanitizer stations and supplies will be provided for each room in addition to entrances for buildings and high traffic areas. Students and staff will also be supplied with a personal sanitizer bottle with a carabiner. Refill stations will be available within the school and students will be shown how to use them on the first day of school. Students will be taught when they should be using the sanitizer for 20 seconds after certain activities.

Sanitization Routines

LGMS will post signs encouraging good hand hygiene and respiratory hygiene.

- Everyone should clean their hands with the provided hand sanitizer or wash their hands for at least 20 seconds:
 - When they arrive at school and before they go home
 - Before and after any transitions within the school setting (e.g. to another classroom, indoor-outdoor transitions)
 - Before eating and drinking
 - After using the toilet
 - After playing outside
 - After sneezing or coughing into hands
 - Whenever hands are visibly dirty
 - After touch communal surfaces
- Please minimise the transportation of items between home and school. Items brought back and forth should be cleaned at drop off and pick up and not used by anyone else.

Physical Distancing

Physical distancing of two metres apart will be maintained whenever possible, however, LGMS will not be able to maintain two metres of physical separation between students at all times. This includes: classrooms, hallways, gathering areas, washrooms and outside on school grounds. Staff will continue to support students to distance appropriately. This is why it is critical that anyone showing symptoms needs to follow Alberta Health Services protocols.

IN-SCHOOL PROCEDURES

Drop Off and Pick Up

Students will not spend unnecessary time at school, before and after. Outside supervision of students begins at 8:20 a.m. Please avoid dropping off students earlier than this time. Supervision of students within the school begins at 8:30am. Students arriving before 8:30 a.m. will be expected to remain outside of the building until their homeroom teacher brings the class inside at 8:30am. Teachers will greet their students outside at 8:30am and support them coming into the building while maintaining physical distancing. Students may choose to stay outside until 8:40am and supervisors will encourage them to maintain physical distancing. **There will be no early morning gym.** When multiple buses arrive at a school, the drivers will stagger the release of students from their buses to control the number of students entering the school at one time.

Parents must wait outside the school to pick up their children. If waiting outside one of the entrances please physically distance from other parents. Office administrators will sign students in and out during the day while parents wait for their child outside the building within sight of the school office (please do not sit in a car where you cannot be seen). All school doors will be locked throughout the school day except the front door during dropoff times. A doorbell has been installed at the main entrance for use by students who are late arriving at school and for parents/visitors with scheduled appointments. The final bell goes at 3:21 p.m. At this time, students will be outside with their homeroom in a designated area. Students who walk or cycle home and whose parents pick them up will promptly leave the school grounds. Students waiting for buses will remain in their designated area and listen for an announcement upon the arrival of their bus. Teachers will supervise their students in their designated areas until 3:35 p.m. After this time, supervision will be provided for the remaining busing students at the bus loop until the final bus departs.

Entrances and Exits

There will be separate entrances and exits for all classes. Students must only use the designated doors unless a) there is a drill or an emergency or b) they are late.

Grade 8	Main entrance
Grade 7	NW entrance end of Grade 7-8 hallway
Grade 6 + 5B (Major) + 5/6E (Swinton)	North entrance end of Grade 5-6 hallway
Grade 4 (Couture/Alarie, Moore) + 5 (Santerre)	Gym entrance
Grade 5 + 4/5D(Krohe), 4 (Amirault)	NE entrance end of Grade 4-5 hallway

Students who arrive at school after their class and teacher have entered the building will need to go through the main entrance and be signed in by an office administrator. Students will need to use the doorbell in order to gain access as the front doors will be locked.

Movement Within the Building

Staff and students will wear masks while moving within the building outside of their classroom. This includes at the start of the day as they enter the building and at the end as they leave. There will be floor tape to indicate directional travel in hallways and round yellow floor signage to promote two metre physical distancing. The walkways circling the gathering area will have one way traffic only as indicated by floor markings but the gathering area is unavailable for general student use. In order to minimise student movement within the school teachers will only allow one student at a time to visit the washrooms from each homeroom.

Recess and Lunch

	Grade 4-6	Grade 7-8
Recess	10:05-10:20	10:45-11:00
Lunch	11:40-12:40	12:20-1:20

Recess and lunch have staggered times for different grades in order to minimise the number of students moving around the school and going in and out of the building. In order to maintain no more than 100 students in one area of the field there will be three major zones. However, a **daily** rotation of use within the three major zones is needed in order to maintain our 11 cohorts in Grades 4 - 6 and our **eight** cohorts in Grades 7 and 8. The available field area, from the front of the school around to the track will be divided into eleven zones to begin the year to adhere to current cohorting expectations as laid out by Alberta Health Services.

Students will remain with their class and are expected to remain in that area on that day and then their area will change the following day. This will take some organisation and awareness from the students. The schedule will be posted in hallways and in classrooms. Physical distancing must be maintained. **The basketball nets, the big toy area (playground) and the gaga ball pit can now be used if these are in the zone for the cohort for the day. Shared equipment can now be used (e.g. basketball, soccer balls) within each cohort and a DPA (Daily Physical Activity Bag) is supplied to each class.** LGMS will **not** be able to offer Grade 7 and 8 students the consented privilege of independently going downtown for lunch.

No student will be allowed off the school premises at lunchtime unless their parent has indicated they are going home daily for lunch.

Food and Eating Lunch

Activities that involve the sharing of food between students or staff are not permitted such as bringing in baked items to share for celebrations of various kinds. Students should bring a lunch/snack that does not require a lot of preparation as microwaves will not be available for student use. Students and staff will practice physical distancing while eating. Utensils will *not* be supplied by the school so parents will need to ensure their child has all that they require to eat their lunch. Tables will be cleaned and sanitized by the lunch hour supervisors after students have left the room.

Food Services

The Food For Learning Lunch program will continue with further safety measures being employed to meet current Alberta Health guidelines. Lunches will be prepared by one staff member who holds certification in food handling and will be delivered to individual students in a mindful and respectful manner.

Classroom Setup

Classrooms have been set up where possible with two metres of physical space between desks or between students sitting at larger tables. Teachers have arranged desks in vertical rows so that students are not facing each other. Students will be assigned a desk at which they will remain during class time and at lunch when eating. Teachers will keep a record of the assigned seating. No more than one cohort of students will be in any instructional space at any one time.

Teachers have removed all extraneous items from classrooms to allow for maximum physical distancing. Teachers will not have groups working together unless they can physically distance. Windows and doors will be kept open to aid ventilation of the room and to avoid the need to use the door handles.

Water Fountains and Water Bottles

Students and staff are asked to bring their own filled water bottle each and every day. Fountains and water bottle filling stations, where available, can be used to refill personal water bottles. Fountains should not be used for the purpose of direct drinking. Every time a student refills a water bottle, they are expected to use hand sanitizer before and after filling their bottle.

Shared School Spaces

At this point in time our Learning Commons-Library will remain closed for student use. Teachers will collaborate with our Library Technician to ensure students still have access to reading materials from the Library [according to AHS restrictions](#).

[The school gym will open for student use. A schedule of use has been developed that maintains individual student cohorts. Rotation schedules for gym use will balance safety as well as adequate use](#)

by students to support positive mental and physical well being. Sanitization of hands before and after students enter the gym and the use of cohorted equipment will be additional measures to ensure student safety.

Postponed Events

On the first day of school we would normally assemble together to celebrate the start of the year and meet new students and staff. Unfortunately school assemblies will not take place for the foreseeable future nor will holiday events, performances or celebrations. Schools will not be open for competitions. Photo Day is postponed from September 3rd to a later date yet to be determined so that we can establish routines in the first week.

Visitors/Parents/Volunteers

We hope that our conversations and communications with parents remain as robust as ever. However, parents shall not enter the building without an appointment made 24 hours in advance, except in emergency situations, so that the number of additional adults in the building can be minimised at any given time. This means we just need to do things a little differently for a while. If you have a quick question do give the office a call or email.

Please understand that we anticipate an increase in communications with the school office; please reference the school's weekly communication and the school website for ongoing information. Teachers are very good at replying to emails and will respond within 24 hours to a request for information or for a meeting. Please call the office to make an appointment but also consider a phone conversation or a Google Hangout in place of an in-person meeting. Also, consider taking part in monthly school council meetings where you will hear the most up-to-date information about our school and have the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback.

There will be no non-essential visitors allowed in the school. All essential service providers and parents who need to enter the school must complete the [Self-Screening Questionnaire](#) before potentially entering the school. If you answer YES to any of the questions, you will not be admitted to the school and should not attempt to enter the school. There will be a sign-in book for essential service providers that will be completed by administrative assistants to provide for contact tracing if needed.

All permitted visitors will remain in the school for as limited a time as possible and will be required to wear a mask at all times, as well as being required to follow all other safety protocols for all adults in the building. At this point in time we will not be able to accept parents (or others) volunteering their time in classrooms or the school. In addition there will be no face-to-face classroom guest speakers utilized.

Extra-curricular activities

Extra curricular activities (e.g. fine arts performances, clubs, etc.), including sports practices and teams,

will be postponed at this time to maintain physical distancing and cohorting guidelines. CRPS will continue to review extracurricular activity restrictions frequently.

Students and staff will use sports equipment during Physical Education classes, as well as during physical activities at breaks. Each cohort will have designated equipment for their use.

School Council

Our School Council meetings will be held online.

Field Trips

Walking field trips and travel via school bus to field trip locations within the boundaries of CRPS are permitted. Routine supervision and safety protocols remain in place for all CRPS off-site activities. Activities will be held outdoors as much as possible. Individual classroom cohorts should be maintained during transportation to and from any field trip site, as well as at the location of the field trip site.

A host location must share their protocols in advance of a field trip, and protocols must align with the CRPS COVID-19 protocols for a field trip to be approved by school administrators. Field trips/off-site activities must also follow any sector-specific guidance relevant to the location of the field trip, including physical distancing, use of non-medical face masks, cohorting, hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette and enhanced cleaning and disinfection.

An organization or facility should only host one classroom cohort at a time, or should take clear steps to separate multiple groups to ensure they do not use shared areas. Staff at the off-site activity must maintain physical distancing of at least 2 meters from the students and staff in the classroom cohort. Organizations providing off-site activities must develop procedures to address staff that become symptomatic during the field trip. Schools must develop procedures to address students or staff developing symptoms during the field trip; plans should include a designated area to isolate the individual, what extra supplies may be needed, how to notify a parent/guardian and how the ill child will be transported home from the off-site activity.

Lockers, Changerooms, Bootrooms

There will be no use of lockers, change-rooms or boot racks at this time. Students will not be required for the time being to have separate indoor shoes so they will be encouraged to rid their outdoor shoes of mud, dust, sand, rain and snow before they come inside. Students will not change for Physical Education but should be prepared to head outside as we have been encouraged to have PE outside as much as possible for the time being. Students should come to school with a bag that they can leave at the side of their desk, or under their chair with their personal belongings in.

Washrooms

Regular washroom access is maintained for students but teachers will only allow one student at time to leave their class during instructional time. During breaks students must wait using the physical distancing markers on the floor to guide where they are standing. Washrooms will be cleaned regularly by custodial staff and in particular following each recess and when both lunchtimes are over. Signage will be placed around the school about washing hands and physical distancing.

Soft Surface Furniture and Equipment

All soft surface furniture and equipment have been removed from classrooms and around the school.

Student Phone and Cell Phones

The student phone in the hallway outside the office has been removed. More than ever students and parents should make their after-school plans at the start of the school day. Of course, if these change during the day please contact the office and a message will be passed on to your child. Our school policy of cell phones only being brought to the school for use at the end of the day and not during lessons or breaks continues. However, students will have to keep them in their bags and they must be switched off. The temptation may be greater to access them therefore it may be worth considering leaving the phones at home. In case of a family emergency, as always, phone the office so that we can look after your child before you are able to pick them up. In exceptional circumstances the school will work with families to determine a plan of cell use.

LEARNING

Students Groupings/Cohorting

The direction from the Chief Medical Officer of Health for Alberta has stated that cohorts must be maintained at all times where possible. A cohort is defined as a group of students and staff who remain together. In order for us to maintain the cohort within the school we have made these decisions in regard to staffing and courses:

- All prep for teachers will be covered by Ms Lisa Murphy (Grade 4-6) and Ms Andrea Quinlan (Grade 7-8) in a combined period of time of coverage in order to minimise the number of students these teachers are working with each day and to minimise the number of staff students work with each day.
- For Music there will be no use of wind instruments or singing within an enclosed environment as these are considered higher risk activities. Singing will be allowed outside only while wearing masks and physically distancing.
- Physical Education will take place outside as much as possible and the use of equipment will follow the 'shared equipment' guidelines. For physical education classes teachers should where possible, choose activities or sports that support physical distancing. Each cohort will

have designated equipment for their use.

- Complementary courses (options for Grades 7 - 8) will be delivered by the home room teacher at this time. As students usually would join these courses from several classes the integrity of the cohort is lost. The Division 3 team is working together to design complementary courses from Fine Arts and CTF curriculum that all classes can experience. As soon as we are able to, we will reopen student choice for these courses. We know that this will be disappointing to our students as they may have been excited about trying a new course or improving their skills from last year but schools have been directed to maintain cohorts wherever possible.
- CTF/options classes requiring shared equipment will not be permitted in K-8 at this time therefore Foods, Construction, Photography and Maker Space are not available to students. No fees will be charged for these courses but once they are able to run we will notify parents of the fee associated with the course.
- French as a Second Language (Grades 4,5,6) this will be taught by home room teachers based on their expertise or virtually from one classroom to another for the teachers who are not able to teach French
- Grade 7-8 Core Subjects: homeroom teachers are subject specialists and therefore will begin the year teaching a core subject from within their homeroom to all the same grade home rooms via Google Hangout with the homeroom teacher in the other classes supporting the students on their assignments.

Cohorting should be maintained during activities outside the classroom such as recess and lunch breaks. The cohorting concept encourages individuals who cannot maintain 2 metres physical distance when group settings to interact with the same people within their own cohort group.

Shared Equipment/Resources

LGMS' Grade 7 and 8 students have been required to bring their own learning device for several years now. This includes laptops and tablets but not cell phones. Please continue to bring your own device every day and make sure it is charged. Lightly wiping it over with sanitizer at the end of the day before you take it home and also again before you bring it into school in the morning is recommended.

We are considering recommending students in other grades to bring their own devices, particularly Grade 6, however we also recognise that this is not always feasible or desirable by families for younger students as this places a lot of responsibility on the child for an expensive item. We suggest that parents don't rush out and buy a device immediately but wait to see what the class teacher recommends and how many additional devices the division has been able to purchase over the summer. School owned devices will be kept at school and placed in a designated slot in a charging cart. If possible each student in Grades 4-6 will be issued one device for their own use and for Grade 7 and 8 who cannot supply their own.

Supplies

There will be no sharing of supplies. All students will be responsible for having all of their own supplies. Students are encouraged to bring only the supplies needed for the day/week at school and teachers will inform parents with a list of these items. Also, with limited storage space for students please consider not sending your child with other non-school items that students may need or want after school. Please refer to the LGMS Supplies List on the Lawrence Grassi website: [Link](#).

Learning about Health and Wellness in a Pandemic

During the first two weeks of school teachers will teach topics on health and wellness. Students will learn about hand hygiene, proper use of hand sanitizer, respiratory hygiene, how to maintain physical distancing in school and the proper use of masks. Teachers with support from our counsellor, learning support team and our Right from the Start success coach will also focus on intensive student wellness programming and mental health at school start up and then when needed throughout the year (which is standard practice).

We know that for some students the last few months have been difficult and that the return to school will be a challenge. For other students the near normal return will not be the return they were hoping for and therefore there will be disappointments to come to terms with. All staff are conscious of this and are ready to support and care for our students. We will encourage local walking field trips and outside learning while the weather permits so that students experience a change in their homeroom based routine under this plan. Teachers will also be incorporating Daily Physical Activity to support student wellness.

At-Home Learning

Parents have been surveyed about their preference for their child to learn at home for the first quarter in the first instance.

At-home learning will formally begin on September 8th, 2020. It is important to note that if a student is enrolled in at-home learning, they will not receive instruction from their designated LGMS in-school learning teacher. They will be assigned an at-home learning teacher who will be responsible for a specific group of students that have chosen at-home learning. Also, depending on the numbers and resources in both in-school learning and at-home learning for K-8 students, it is highly unlikely that we will be able to accommodate transfers between the learning options during the first quarter (August 31st -November 6th). This would cause significant staffing challenges, as well as a disruption in learning for students who would be required to transition to a new teacher and to a new method of instruction.

Provincial Assessments

CRPS students will not be participating in the Grade 6 Provincial Achievement Tests in 2021.

Supporting Students Who Require Individual/Specialized Support and/or Medically Fragile Students

LGMS will maintain learning opportunities for students specific to their Individualized Program Plan (IPP) using a variety of approaches. Students with exceptional learning needs will continue to be intentionally included in the learning of the whole classroom with support where applicable. Educational assistants will work with one designated cohort of students only. Learning support teachers may work with students from the same cohort or individual students, one at a time whilst wearing full PPE.

In situations where physical contact is required to support students with exceptional learning needs, staff *must* wear protective eyewear (e.g. faceshield) *and* a non-medical mask which will be provided. Staff must follow recommended hygiene procedures. An exception may occur in an emergency situation.

In situations where staff are working with medically fragile students or students who are immunocompromised, staff will be wearing protective eyewear (e.g. faceshield), a non-medical mask, gloves and a lab coat.

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

Parents are encouraged to drive their children to school or to encourage their children to ride their bike or walk whenever possible. Please drop students off at the front of the school on 7th Avenue and move on promptly. Please do not park in the Central Board Office lot located at the front of the school.

As the division plan states, students will be assigned seats on the school bus and a record of the seating plan will be kept in order to assist with contact tracing. The first bench seat behind the driver will remain empty and there will be a limit to the number of students per bench unless from the same household (preferable) or cohort. A log of student riders will be kept each day.

All students are required to wear a non-medical face mask that covers their nose and mouth while riding the bus. Bus drivers will wear a non-medical mask, face shield, lab coats and gloves during unloading and loading due to the inability to implement physical distancing.

Parents will not be permitted to enter or ride on the bus. Students may **ONLY** ride on their assigned bus and will not be allowed on any bus other than their assigned bus.

Students and parents should not be in the pick-up area or enter the bus if they have symptoms of COVID-19. If a child becomes symptomatic at pick up or during a bus trip, a mask will be made

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available. The driver will contact the transportation office immediately who will then contact the school to inform the school of which child is ill. The child will remain on the bus until they reach their school. The school will then isolate the student upon arrival and call parents to pick up as soon as possible.

There will be increased frequency of cleaning and disinfection of high-touch surfaces, such as door handles, window areas, rails. Electrostatic sprayers will be obtained to disinfect the buses regularly. Airflow on buses will not be set to recirculate.



All of us at Lawrence Grassi Middle School are looking forward to the upcoming year. Every year brings excitement, success but challenges too. We know this is a unique start up for everyone, one that none of us have collectively experienced before. We are living through a global pandemic and all of us have had to adjust or alter different things in our lives to continue to create or maintain happiness, healthiness and success. We appreciate that the new protocols we have put in place will potentially cause some initial challenges for families however, we are hopeful that following these measures will give us all, student, staff, family and community the best chance to remain healthy and focussed on learning.

We look forward to seeing your child on opening days and speaking with you soon.