

# George Lee School



180 Wells Street • Regina, SK • S4R 5Z7

Phone: (306) 791-8510

Fax: (306) 791-8334

Web: <http://georgelee.rbe.sk.ca>

August 26, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Welcome to the 2020-21 school year! While the start of this school year is unique, Regina Public School Division personnel and George Lee School administration have been working hard to provide a safe and welcoming environment for your children.

Since we haven't been in touch with each other for a while, there are a few things you should know about the current student population. Currently, we have over 400 students registered with class sizes ranging from 27 to 30 students in each room. We anticipate that physical distancing in classrooms will be difficult, therefore **students in grades 4-8 and all staff will be required to wear non-medical masks**. Please purchase more than one so that a freshly laundered one may be used daily. **Students in Kindergarten to grade 3 will be strongly encouraged to also wear masks**.

Our school does not have lockers for everyone, so students will be required to share lockers for coats and shoes. As usual, students are asked to bring their own backpacks to keep their own belongings in. As much as possible, students will have their own desk but there will be instances where this is not possible due to our high numbers. Classroom teachers will attempt to pair students with a consistent partner both for locker and classroom seating partners when needed. **During instructional times, students will remain in their classroom groups - or cohorts - for the day**. Teachers will be taking their classes outside on a regular basis both for fresh air and activity but also to teach. Specialist teachers, administration, educational assistants, etc., will interact with the cohort in their space to avoid having the students move within the school. Staff members entering classrooms will be required to wash or use hand sanitizer prior to entry and as they leave the classroom. **Students who can go home for lunch are highly encouraged to do so**. Those who must stay will eat in their room with the same cohort of students. The library, gym, Arts Education and Core French classrooms will be closed to start the year to avoid shared spaces.

Students will not work in our hallways or other rooms as we were accustomed to doing in the past. Soft and excess furniture from the front entrance and classrooms has been stored to allow our facility staff the time to do a thorough cleaning and disinfecting very night. We have **4 entry/exit points**. Teachers will pick up their classes from their designated doors in the morning and the students will be dismissed from the same location

at the end of the day. Parents will not be allowed on the playground or in the school building to intermingle with our students during school hours. Parents who have primary children are **encouraged to choose a meeting location off the school grounds**. We encourage you to start practicing where you will meet your child at the end of the day if you are picking them up. We are also strongly encouraging all students/families to **Stride to School** or to drop off students a few blocks away from school. This will help students be active as well as avoiding congestion in our bus zone and on the streets. As always, for safety of students and staff who may be walking, the staff parking lot is not to be used as a drop off or pick up area.

If a child becomes ill at school, that child will be escorted to an isolation room where they will remain until a parent/guardian is able to come to take that child home. Once that child leaves the room, facilities staff will clean and disinfect that space.

We also ask that students, not transported by school division buses, plan to arrive as close to 9:08am as possible. At 3:22pm, students who have a signed permission from their parents will be free to go home rather than stay for recess. These measures are being implemented to avoid overcrowding on the playground. All elementary schools in Regina Public will be following an altered school day. Our day will look like this:

8:53 - 9:08 AM Recess

9:08 - 11:45 Instructional Time

11:45 - 12:45 Lunch Hour

Group A - lunch begins at 11:45; recess from 12:30 - 12:45

Group B - recess begins at 11:45; lunch begins at 12:00

12:45 - 3:22 Instructional Time

3:22 - 3:37 PM Recess (Students who have a signed permission form will be dismissed for the day)

Students transported by bus will receive their schedules from Regina Public Schools Transportation. **Masks will be mandatory for all students riding the bus.**

You will be contacted by your child's teacher prior to the first day of school to share opening day routines and procedures and details about our **staggered start**. Students with **last names beginning with A - K will attend school on Tuesday, September 8 and Thursday, September 10**. Students with **last names beginning with L - Z will attend on Wednesday, September 9 and Friday September 11**.

If you are interested in remote learning please go to <https://www.reginapublica/eschool>. This is not the same as the supplemental learning we provided in March-June. This online learning will encompass the full curriculum with on-going assessment. If you choose to enroll in this program, we ask that you send an email to [georgelee@rbe.sk.ca](mailto:georgelee@rbe.sk.ca). If you have questions about the program you can email those questions to [eschool@rbe.sk.ca](mailto:eschool@rbe.sk.ca).

Please provide our office with any address, phone or email changes as soon as possible. You can contact our office at [georgelee@rbe.sk.ca](mailto:georgelee@rbe.sk.ca).

There will be more information to share with you in the coming weeks, however, we wanted to share these details to assist you and your children for the return to George Lee! Our staff cannot wait to welcome students back to our school!

For a snapshot of these return to school details, [see the attached infographic!](#)

Final thoughts:

- 1) **Masks** - Have your child practice putting a mask on and wearing it get used to it. If there are masks that feel comfortable to your child, purchase several (one for each day of the week) so your child has a clean mask every day.
- 2) **Prepare the night before** - Get school materials such as a mask, homework and agenda) ready and in your child's backpack. Prepare lunch in advance and place it and your child's water bottle in the fridge the night before so these items are ready to go in your child's backpack in the morning. Decide on what clothes are going to be worn to school the night before and set them out. These time-savers can create an environment that is organized and calm for both you and your child.
- 3) **If you child becomes ill** - Have a back-up plan if your child should be sent home due to illness. Who will be coming to the school to get your child? Who will be looking after your child? What is the plan for your child should they need to be at home for an extended period of time?
- 4) **Be calm** - If you are calm and have a positive outlook about returning to school, then your child will be calm and have a positive mindset as well.

Regina Public School Division personnel and our school staff are doing everything they can to ensure all students are safe. While we can't anticipate every scenario, we will do our best to address safety concerns.

Sherry Knoblauch-Schoepp, Sandra Derenisky, Kathryn Harris

George Lee Administration