

Aug. 30, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Another school year is about to start, and we are super excited to see all of our students back in the school! Pembina Hills will be adhering to AHS guidelines for Covid. There will be some changes from last year, with most things returning to how we have always done them. These expectations will be adjusted from time to time as new guidelines are given.. We will be reviewing everything with students on their first days of school, in order to help students orient to a new school year.

We have a lot of updates that we need to give you in this letter, so I have broken it down into sections for clarity.

**Homerooms**

Students will sit at their assigned homeroom seats for their first class of the day. They will receive a paper copy of their timetables on their first day, and they will be moving from class to class, as we have done in previous years. The school day will be like it was prior to Covid.

**Lunch**

Dragon Bites is running this year, with a reduced schedule! Dragon Bites is open for hot lunches and snack only on Tuesday, Thursdays and Friday (on the days we have school.)

Students will eat lunch in their assigned homerooms. Microwaves will be available for students to use. Lunch breaks and recesses, will continue as in previous years. Students will eat from 11:45am-noon and then go outside for recess from noon-12:30pm, with afternoon classes resuming at 12:35pm. Grade 6 will also continue with afternoon recess from 2:00-2:20pm.

Students will ALL be going outside for recess on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Students may choose to participate in House Leagues on Tuesdays and Thursdays or can go outside. There will be no loitering in hallways, the foyer and the gymnasium during recess so please make sure your child/ren is/are dressed for the weather. If the weather does not permit us to go outside, as per outside each grade will remain in their homerooms during recess.

**Additional School Supplies**

We realize that school supplies have been purchased already, but we would like to encourage you to provide a few more things for your child:

* Water bottle - all water fountains are shut off and a water bottle filler is available
* Headphones/Earbuds with a microphone, if possible – we will not have extras available for sharing
* Wireless Mouse – many students like to use a mouse with their Chromebook, we will not have any available for sharing this year
* Masks are optional this year

**Newsletters**

Newsletters are on the school website in the first couple of days of the month. As well, we will send a digital copy by email to the youngest or only student in the family. If you would only like a paper copy, please contact your homeroom teacher to let them know. Newsletters contain important information, such as:

* Dragon Bites Menus
* Important Dates
* Accolades
* Event reminders and/or summaries
* Photos
* Fundraisers
* School Council information
* Much more!

**Students Leaving Early**

Any student who has to leave early will be required to sign out at the office. There will be a physical sign-out sheet for students to allow office staff to keep track. Thank you for making sure it is filled out, when leaving early.

**Staggered Entry**

On Tuesday, August 31st, Grades 1,3,5,7 and 9 are the ONLY students who are to attend. On Wednesday, September 1st, Grades 2,4,6 and 8 are the ONLY students who should attend. ALL Grade 1-9 students will attend Thursday and Friday.

**Parent Portal**

The link for the division’s PowerSchool Parent Portal has recently changed. As a result parents are now required to sign in at the new location: <https://powerschool.pembinahills.ca/public>

Your login credentials have not changed. However, if you cannot remember your Username and/or Password, you can click “Forgot Username or Password” at the sign in screen.

All parents MUST HAVE a parent portal sign in, as this will be where ALL forms (including permission slips) will be located for the year.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

Michelle Savoie Albert Perreault Noreen Holt Timur Gezmish David McNicoll