

École Vickers Public School Re-Entry Plan: Information for Parents September 2, 2020



NOTE: Saskatchewan Rivers Public School Division's Return to School Plan and School Specific Plans will evolve as required by emerging health risk assessments

A message from the principal,

I am truly excited to begin the school year and navigate this transition in education with our students and families. I thank you for entrusting your children with us and assure you we are doing everything to make a safe space for teaching and learning. Know that we love and care for your children and will do everything to support their social and emotional well-being during the school year. The Vickers school plan is comprehensive please be patient with us as the information and processes may change rapidly once it is put into practice!

Please email or call me if you have any specific questions or concerns.

Yours in Education,

Mrs. Jennie Green

Introduction

The Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education have provided guidelines for the return to school that provide a framework for Saskatchewan Rivers Public School Division (SRPSD) to support schools in the development of their local school plans.

The purpose of this plan is to provide information regarding operations and procedures at **École Vickers** that align with the guidelines provided in [SRPSD Return to School Plan](#) and the [Re-Open Saskatchewan Primary and Secondary Educational Institution Guidelines](#).

École Vickers is committed to working with Saskatchewan Rivers Public School Division, provincial authorities, and our families to support the health and safety of students, staff, and all stakeholders with the resumption of classes.

This plan will be updated whenever new guidelines or directives are enacted by the school division or the province. All revisions of the plan will be communicated to parents and made available on the school's website.

Details on the school's processes and procedures are provided in each of the following sections:

1. Social-Emotional Supports for Staff and Students
2. Student Supports and Safety
3. Early Learning (Kindergarten)
4. Curriculum and Instruction
5. Supporting Students with Intensive Needs and Other Supports
6. Extracurricular activities
7. Access to School Facilities and External Services
8. Caretaking & Maintenance
9. Transportation
10. Parent Engagement & Support

1. Social-Emotional Supports for Students

- a. We are excited to welcome back all of our students and have been working hard to create a safe and joyful return to school for your child. The relationships we have with our Vickers families are the foundation of education and the key to student learning and engagement. Our homeroom teachers will be reaching out to each of you before school starts by phone or email. Our school social worker, Mrs. Celeste Boran-Fetch, is available for 2.5 days a week and is a tremendous support for our students.
- b. We will have a staggered start to the school year as a “soft-landing” for our students. Students are divided into Group A and Group B; students' last names A-K are in Group A and last names L-Z are in Group B.
 - Group A will attend school on September 8th and 10th.
 - Group B will attend on September 9th and 11th.
 - ALL students will attend beginning on September 14th.

NOTE: Kindergarten students have a different and specific staggered start and parents will be contacted directly by school staff.

2. **Student Supports & Safety**

- a. All staff, students in Grade 4 and up, and visitors are required to wear masks upon entering the building. Masks will be provided to students upon entry, and students may bring their own masks provided they follow the guidelines listed below. Health Canada recommends that non-medical face masks or face coverings should:
 - i. allow for easy breathing
 - ii. fit securely to the head with ties or ear loops
 - iii. maintain their shape after washing and drying
 - iv. be changed as soon as possible if damp or dirty
 - v. be comfortable and not require frequent adjustment
 - vi. be made of at least 2 layers of tightly-woven material fabric (such as cotton or linen)
 - vii. be large enough to completely and comfortably cover the nose and mouth without gaping
 - viii. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/video/covid-19-wear-non-medical-mask-face-covering-properly.html>
- b. Proper hand hygiene practices are recommended over the use of gloves. Each time an employee or student enters a classroom, it is expected that hand sanitizer will be used to sanitize the employee and student's hands. There are a number of hand sanitizing stations placed around the school building.
- c. It is suggested that students use a paper bag to store soiled masks.
- d. We have spread the students out to use different entrances around the school and will have marked areas for each classroom cohort to line up outside. If you are not travelling by bus, please try and arrive at school as close to 8:50 a.m. as possible.

Vickers School access points for entry/exit:

Kindergarten will use the doors that go directly into their classrooms.

Grade 2 Hagmann, 2 Fortier, 2 Briere, will use North doors by the small gym.

Grade 1 Cunning, 1 Lepine, 3 Hudon will use North inside courtyard door

Grade 3 Fiddler, 3 Fetch, 1 Nimubona, 4 Young will use East playground doors by slides.

Grade 5/6 Christian, 5 Fafard, 5 Hudon will use East Bradbury Drive entrance.

Grade 4 Klein, 4/5 Subchyshyn, Dev Ed will use West courtyard door.

Grade 6 Beaulac, 7 Koob, 7 Brown, 8 Redden, 8 Atkinson, will use Southeast entrance on Bradbury.

Grade 6 Dallyn, 7 Hecht, 8 Bergen, 8 Vogt, 7 Belliveau will use East playground entrance.

NOTE: Recesses and lunch will be staggered so that there will only ever be half (or less) of the grades/students at the doors! Teachers will practice entry/exits in first weeks.

- e. Students who arrive after the 8:50 a.m. bell will use the front doors and sign in as late at the office.
- f. Increase in Noon Hour supervisors- We have increased our noon hour supervisors from 13 to 20 to accommodate a staggered lunch procedure, which we will share with students during the first week of school. Students are asked to bring their own lunch

and not share food with classmates. The canteen will remain closed and investigate opening it at a later date. We will let you know when that is.

- g. Only bring what you require for school such as backpack and lunch kit. Leave all unnecessary items (toys, stuffies, mini sticks, etc. at home.)
- h. Students with [COVID-19 symptoms](#) are to remain home (you can refer to monitor and self isolate scenarios STUDENTS in SRPSD Return to School Plan)
- i. We have a room ready (seminar room) to isolate students who are displaying COVID-19 related symptoms. The student would be required to wear PPE and will be supervised by a member of the staff until the student is picked up by a parent/caregiver.
- j. Water fountains are disabled except for the water bottle fill stations. Please bring a reusable water bottle from home.
- k. Staff will provide instructions on mask use, hand hygiene, and limiting physical contact for all students in the first week of school. The guidelines will be reviewed regularly.
- l. Lockers and cubicles will be provided and staff will direct the flow of students to these areas using physical distancing as much as possible.
- m. Teachers will arrange for the safe handling of learning resources (Appendix 5: Exchange of Materials Guidelines, in SRPSD return to school plan)
- n. Students will be able to sign out library materials and follow the guidelines for library use (Appendix 9: Guidelines for Library Use, in SRPSD return to school plan)
- o. Teachers will arrange their learning environments to be front-facing as directed by the Chief Medical Health Officer.

3. Early Learning (Kindergarten)

- a. Families were mailed information in June but with the amendment to the school year we have had to change things. School staff will phone each family in August to confirm staggered start groupings and dates.
- b. Appendix 6 in the SRPSD Return to school plan provides more details about the Guidelines for Kindergarten.
- c. The Kindergarten classroom is a unique learning environment based on play and exploration. We are taking every precaution to keep students safe in the classroom such as:
 - i. Ensuring healthy hygiene behaviours and practices are established through teaching protocols and procedures to students (handwashing; covering coughs and sneezes; avoiding touching the face).
 - ii. Supporting students with limiting physical contact (hugs and handshakes etc.) and instead encouraging “air high fives”, waves, winks, saying hello in sign language, giving the peace sign etc. Remember that young children are by nature physical and social beings.
 - iii. Handwashing should occur before entering each play area.
 - iv. Utilizing outdoor play spaces as much as possible.
 - v. Utilizing materials that delineate individual spaces to sit. (i.e. carpet squares, hoola hoops, tape on the floor, assigned chairs etc.)

- vi. Reducing the number of toys available. Remove toys which are hard to sanitize or clean. This includes soft toys for example. Many materials and games can remain in use if children are instructed to wash their hands before and after use. Instruct children to avoid putting toys/ materials in their mouths.
- vii. Practicing physical distancing at snack and lunch times. Children are not allowed to participate in food preparation. Food from home must not be shared with other children.
- viii. Creating bins/baggies of supplies for each student. Markers, scissors, crayons, playdough etc. should all be individualized to one student and not shared between children.
- ix. Creating a cleaning schedule for the classroom to ensure that surfaces and toys are cleaned regularly.

4. Curriculum and Instruction

a. Short-term Absence Supports

- i. In the event that a student will be absent from school for a determined, short, period of time, the school team and parents shall collaborate to support the student's continued growth in all subject areas during the absence in anticipation of the student's return to the classroom.
 - ii. In the event that a school's accommodation plan for a student determines that remote learning best aligns with the student's needs, the school team, division personnel, and parents shall collaborate to implement a remote learning plan that ensures continued focus on the achievement of outcomes as identified in the student's Inclusion and Intervention Plan.
- b.** At Vickers school, we are committed to providing excellent and enriching educational experiences for every learner. There may be very real concerns about the potential loss of learning/slippage that may have occurred during the closure of schools. Please be assured that teachers will assess and gauge where your child is at and support them to grow as learners. This will guide teachers when making decisions about how much review of the previous years or prerequisite curriculum is required before introducing new curriculum outcomes.
- c.** Teaching of safety routines and plans will be given priority especially in the first few weeks of school. Teachers will be devoting additional instructional time to teaching hand hygiene, mask-wearing, routines, and strategies to support students in maintaining physical distancing. These routines will be reviewed regularly throughout the year.
- d.** We have decided to deliver band without wind instruments. For Term 1, we will deliver the Band curriculum in creative and enriching ways for the students at École Vickers. During this time, we will continue to monitor the situation with the hope of resuming band with wind instruments. Check out the SRPSD return to school plan and guidelines for the safe instruction of music and band. (Appendix 7)
- e.** Staff will be using SeeSaw (K-3); Google Classroom in Grades 4-8, as a tool to support in-class learning and for communication.

5. Supporting Students with Intensive Needs and Other Supports

- a. Inclusion continues to be a core value at the school. Additional supports from the school team and the SRPSD Intensive Supports team will continue to be available to respond to student needs. As always, please communicate any concerns to the Educational Support Teacher or administration.
- b. Please refer to Appendix 12 Guidelines to Support Students with Intensive Needs, in SRPSD Return to school plan.)
- c. There may be situations where a student cannot safely attend school for medical reasons or other factors so three scenarios may be considered in an accommodation process.
 - i. Remote learning may be considered for students whose medical restrictions make it unsafe for them to attend classes in the school setting. Contact the principal to discuss the accommodation process and determine next steps.
 - ii. Online learning is being offered as a mode of instructional delivery for students who choose to learn at home but do not have medical needs that require accommodation. The online learning choice comes with an expectation that families will provide access to internet and devices within the home. Please connect with the school principal to discuss this option. Register online at www.srsd119.ca
 - iii. It may not be possible to support all students with intensive needs in person due to health and safety guidelines or with remote learning due to the nature of the student's educational program. In such cases, [AP 154 - Temporary Exclusion of Students for Safety or Medical Reasons](#) shall be followed.

6. Extracurricular Activities

- a. Extra-curricular activities are on hold until further notice as per SRPSD Return to School Plan. Extracurricular activities will resume in compliance with the Saskatchewan: Sports and Activity Guidelines, guidance from the Chief Medical Officer, Ministry of Education and RPT, public health order directives as well as guidance from SHSAA return to sport protocols. .

7. External Services - Access to School Facilities

- a. Any non-partnership based community use of facility rentals are postponed until further notice
- b. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to phone or email the school instead of physically entering the school building. Parents and caregivers are expected to limit their physical presence in school to situations that are essential. If you are entering the school, please use the front doors of the school, wear a mask, and sanitize hands prior to reporting to the office.
- c. The Vickers Before and After school program will continue to use the North entrance by the small gym as the entry/exit point and follow all of the SRPSD guidelines for schools, including the number of students, masks for students Grade 4 and up and adults, hand sanitizer before entrance (as cohort's become intermingled).

Programming will align with classroom expectations for programming (remove carpets, limit contact, not sharing resources, etc.).

Specific information from the Director of the Before and After School Program, Deb Hobson, will be communicated to families.

8. Caretaking & Maintenance

- a. School Administration will communicate with Caretaking staff when disinfecting of an area in addition to their regular routine is required (ie students occupying an area they are not normally in.)
- b. Zoono is a microbial product which will be applied to all desks, tables, and high touch areas which kills bacteria for up to 30 days. There will also be increased cleaning and sanitizing throughout the day.
- c. All cleaning and disinfecting products are Health Canada approved.

9. Transportation

- a. We encourage parents to support their children in walking, biking or providing other transportation to school whenever possible. Alternatives to using the bus service can help minimize exposure to viruses and increase student health and fitness.
- b. Parents can pick-up and drop-off on both Bradbury Drive and Olive Diefenbaker Drive. Please be aware of school crosswalk areas and bus areas and do not park in them to avoid fines.
- c. A reminder to avoid entering the school when picking up or dropping off students.
- d. SRPSD Bus Information:
 - i. Busing will only be provided for the delivery of students to and from school or school programs.
 - ii. No field trips or extra-curricular trips will be supported until the School Division grants permission.
 - iii. No guest ridership will be permitted.
 - iv. Bus drivers will create and enforce seating plans that group together students who live in the same household.
 - v. Regular cleaning and sanitization of buses will occur in accordance with SRPSD transportation sanitization plans.
 - vi. Masks or Face Shields will be worn by bus drivers
 - vii. Masks are required for students in Grades 4-8 during bus transportation. Masks for students in K to Grade 3 are optional. Refer to SRPSD Return to School Plan for more details.

10. Parent Engagement & Support

- a. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to phone or email the school instead of physically entering the school building. We ask that parents and caregivers limit their physical presence in school to situations that are essential. Please use the front entrance; hand sanitize; wear a mask, and stop by the front office. All visitors must sign in at the office.

- b. School communications channels and practices used to engage and connect with parents and families are to be consistently applied across the school. At Vickers, we use School Messenger, social media platforms like our website (vk.srsd119.ca), Instagram (@vickersschool), and Facebook (École Vickers Public School); the electronic sign; monthly newsletters; and teacher communication platforms through: Kindergarten-Grade 3 classes will also communicate through the Seesaw app. Grade 4-8 will be using Google Classroom. You can expect to receive additional information about this in the first days of school.
- c. Open communication and meaningful connections with our students and their families is a top priority for us. While we are making efforts to reduce traffic within the school we still want to stay connected with parents and caregivers as much as possible. You can help by making sure we have up to date phone numbers and email addresses for you. Please do not ever hesitate to call your child's teacher or the school with any questions or concerns that you may have. You can also email staff at any time and expect a timely response. School administrator and teacher contact information can be found on our school website (vk.srsd119.ca)
- d. At Vickers we typically plan parent engagement events, inviting parents and caregivers into the school, on a regular basis. At this time we will work to bring you into our school virtually instead! We will be hosting a **Virtual Open House on September 4th** on our social media platforms. Our Virtual Open House will be an opportunity for École Vickers Public School to introduce ourselves to you, tell you a little bit about our school, and about what you can expect in the first days of school.
- e. We are planning a parent engagement activity later in September – stay tuned for further details!
- f. Our School Community Council (SCC) is a great way to maintain strong connections with our school. At this time, virtual meetings will be the preferred way to meet, however, if an in school SCC meeting is necessary, it will align with Health authority guidelines on gatherings and SRPSD return to school plans. Look out for more information about our first meeting in early October.