



GILBERT PATERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL

CONQUER THYSELF, THEN CONQUER THE WORLD

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Friday Jan. 7, 2022

Dear Parents / Guardians,

We look forward to resuming learning on Monday Jan 10. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the key protocols that you and your child will need to know for Monday that were outlined for us today. Please note that we will continue to run our regular timetable with core, PE and option classes. Students will continue to use different entrances, limit time spent in hallways, have hand sanitizer available and social distance as best as possible in classrooms. As a school, we will make all decisions regarding programming, protocols, activities and structures with the safety and wellness of all and sustaining educational programming as our key priorities. We stress to parents to screen their child for any signs of illness daily and to keep your child home when they are feeling ill or exhibiting any symptoms and to notify the school. When the Province provides an upgraded screening tool, we will share it with you and place it on our website. We will continue to have work available in core classes on Teams for students to access and will work with families to ensure that any stretch of time spent at home due to illness does not cause undue stress on students or their grades. Thank you for your assistance with these protocols.

Please note some specific information that is important for next week:

- Masks are already required in Lethbridge School Division for students K-12. Previous to this update that takes effect January 10th, students and staff have been allowed to remove masks when working independently at their assigned seating or in their main cohort class. Staff and students will now be required to wear masks at all times, including when seated. This is a strongly recommended measure to reduce transmission. Masks can be removed to eat or drink. Teachers can use discretion that is age appropriate for students to have mask breaks as we have done last year. PE and activity classes will use masks in low impact activities and when appropriate to do so.
- Please send your child to school with their own adequate supply of masks for Monday. The Government of Alberta is sending rapid test kits and additional masks to all schools. We anticipate that these supplies will arrive the week of January 10-14. We will inform parents further and distribute these to families and staff as soon as they arrive.
- For the week of Jan. 10-15, co-curricular activities in schools will be limited to on site and within our school community. As stated by the School Division, all outside games, activities and performances will be postponed for the week. At Paterson, our rep and development teams will continue to practice and scheduled Monday times will remain the same. Parents will be sent an updated schedule Monday for the week. Due to the large size and fluctuating nature of our grade 6 and gr. 7/8 basketball club teams, their practices will be postponed for this week. Other afterschool co-curricular in-school activities will proceed with protocols. Lunch clubs will be postponed next week due to the eating component. Out of school activities such as Hockey Development and field trips will also be postponed next week. These activities will all be re-evaluated on a week to week basis.

As more specific protocols become available, we will share those with you through email and the website. Thank you for your understanding and support as we navigate a safe and successful return to school together.

Sincerely,
Darryl Christiansen - Principal