

Wilson Middle School 2020-2021 School Year



Re-Entry Information



Welcome back to school! We are excited to begin the 2020-2021 school year and look forward to welcoming our new grade 6 students as well as our returning grade 7/8 students. For our new students joining our Wolverine family, we look forward to meeting you. There are many things to consider as we begin to plan for the upcoming school year. While we realize that this is a challenging time for everyone, we will endeavour to make decisions with the safety and needs of our staff and students at the forefront. As we work through this re-entry process, we ask that you are flexible and adaptable to what works for our Wilson Middle School community.

Background Information: Guiding Principles for Re-Entry Planning

- The health, safety and well-being of students and staff is a priority.
- Lethbridge School Division will attend to the protocols established by Alberta Health Services and Alberta Education in all aspects of schooling, with the main focus on student learning.
- We respect that parents are the first educators and primary decision-makers for their children.
- Students and staff who are vulnerable require attention to accommodations.
- Students will have quality learning opportunities that are guided by Alberta Education mandates and the provincial Programs of Study.
- Staff will have access to the professional learning, collaboration and support they need to grow the instructional practice in all potential methods of delivery.
- Consistency of program delivery over time is important for the sound allocation of staffing and resources.
- Consistency of universal expectations and protocols for safety for ALL people - staff, students, parents, visitors, etc within our building.

Key Background and Planning Documents for Wilson Middle School students

1. Parent Re-entry Guide - <https://www.lethsd.ab.ca/download/283103>
2. Lethbridge School Division Q and A that outline details about safety protocols, in school learning structure and at home learning options for families - <https://www.lethsd.ab.ca/download/283106>
3. WMS School Map - <http://wms.lethsd.ab.ca/download/295295>
4. WMS Parent Drop off and Pick- up Area's - <http://wms.lethsd.ab.ca/download/295298>
5. WMS School Video - <https://youtu.be/egKUzsis8uE>
6. Self-Screening Questionnaire – <http://wms.lethsd.ab.ca/download/292052>

Parents / Students choosing at-home learning

- At-home learning will be provided to those students who have chosen to have their learning delivered at home due to COVID-19 concerns while in-school classes have resumed. This support will allow students to remain registered at their home school while receiving course instruction through a format of online instruction and independent work. This learning approach will require parent/guardian involvement and assistance. Students will be assigned to “at-home learning” teachers responsible for groups of students organized by grades and subjects (secondary level). The groups of students may be from a variety of schools. The designated teacher will be drawn from a group of teachers who are assigned “at-home learning” instruction. The number of teachers assigned to “at-home learning” will depend on the number of students who select to opt out of “in-school” learning. As such, the teacher may or may not be from the student’s registered school. The common on-line delivery platform for “at-home learning” will be “Teams” – a Microsoft 365 platform that many students and families became familiar with this past spring.
- All students will have a daily and weekly schedule. The level of engagement and rigor will mirror what is expected of a student in school. This does not mean that the entire day will be synchronised on-line (real-time instruction from the teacher), but part of each day will be scheduled as synchronised, and part of each day will be scheduled for independent learning.
- Assessment for “at-home learning” will include formative (ongoing feedback) and summative (graded work) assessment similar to that which a student receives in school.
- Grades 1-5 will be taught by generalists and the outcomes in the Programs of Study for English Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies will be covered. Physical Education, Health, Music and Art will be integrated in these four courses.
- **Grades 6-8 (middle school) will be taught by subject specific teachers. Science, Math, English Language Arts and Social Studies will be offered as well as Physical Education and Health. Fine Arts (Art, Music and Drama) as well as CTF courses (Career and Technology Foundations Courses**

such as Foods and Technology) may be integrated in these subjects or offered as independent courses depending on available staff and resources.

Daily Procedures

Please refer to Guidelines for Maintaining Safe & Healthy Schools in Response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- All staff and students are required to do a daily Self-Screening Questionnaire to ensure that no unnecessary risk is being taken by attending.
- If a child exhibits any symptoms identified in the screening tool, attending school is NOT permitted and consultation with 811 is required for next steps.
 - Staff who feel unwell are not permitted to come to school and must also follow 811 recommendations.
 - Any positive COVID-19 case, the school will follow established guidelines from Alberta Health Services

Mask Requirement (as per the August 4th, 2020 update)

- It is required by Alberta Health Services for all Grade 4 to 12 students and staff to wear non-medical masks in common areas, hallways, and busses.
- While wearing non-medical masks is not required in the classroom except when physical distancing is not possible, and there is close contact between individuals, our current student numbers in classrooms and the limited spacing would require students and staff to wear masks in the classroom setting.
- The government will be providing two reusable non-medical masks and some disposable non-medical masks. Additional information about this can be found:
<https://www.alberta.ca/masks.aspx>
- The school staff will be provided with a face shield. Wearing a face shield for staff will be optional.
- Regular hand washing is essential in taking masks on and off. Ensure that you have reviewed the following protocols shared by Dr. Hinshaw. ○ How to wear a mask by Dr. Hinshaw
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=6MojzHFStNs&app=desktop>

Sanitizing Stations

- Each entry and exit into the school will have sanitizer for use as one enters and exits the building.
- Each classroom entryway will have sanitizer for use as one exits and enters a room. As well as
- Students can have their own personal sanitizer for use being mindful of the sensitivity of others to those extra strong smells.

School Arrival and Departure

New School Hours

○ Monday – Thursday

■ School doors will open at 7:40a.m. and will close promptly at 3:15 p.m.

- School doors will be open at 7:40am when the 1st bus arrives. Please see school map for the correct entry door. Your children will enter the school based on their grade level. Please do not send your children to school before 7:40am. Our first class will start at 7:55am.
- School will be closed at 3:15 Monday- Thursday. All students will be required to vacate the building and be picked up by this time. Your children will exit the school based on their grade level exit door. This door will be the same as the entry door. Please ensure transportation arrangements have been made to ensure punctual pick up

○ Friday

■ The school doors will open at 7:40am and will close at 12:15 p.m.

- School doors will be open at 7:40 a.m. when the 1st bus arrives. Please do not send your children to school before 7:40 a.m. Our first class will start at 7:55 a.m.
- School will be closed at 12:15 p.m. on Fridays and all students will be required to vacate the building and be picked up by this time. Please ensure transportation arrangements have been made to ensure punctual pick-up.

Student Sign-in and Sign-out

- Late arrivals – if a student is late to school, they are to enter by the front entrance, ring the buzzer to be admitted into the building and report to the office.
- Leaving early – if a student is leaving early from school, a parent/guardian will notify the office, the student will then report to the office, sign-out and then proceed out the front doors.

Closed Campus

- Wilson Middle School will be closed to the public.
- At this time, a closed campus is extended to include parents/guardians or volunteers. This means that you will not be able to enter the building except in emergency pick-up situations without a pre-arranged appointment.
- Parents/Guardians who need to come to the school are to call the school first and will be limited to going to the office where you will be required to sign-in. Call 403-329-3144.
- Students will not be allowed to leave the school grounds during the school day.

Meeting Points

o To assist with social distancing and limit hallway traffic, students will be entering and exiting the building from assigned doors. Please see attached map for entry/ exit points: SCHOOL MAP 2020-2021

■ General Dismissal

- Students will be dismissed and will be exiting the same doors that they entered.
- Once students have exited the building, following social distancing practices, they are to leave school grounds right away.
- Those students who are waiting for parent pick-up will be directed to wait in the front foyer.
- School doors will be closed at 3:15p.m. and all students will be required to be picked up by this time. Please ensure transportation arrangements have been made to ensure punctual pick-up.

■ Bus Students

- Once students have exited the building, following social distancing practices, they are to line up near their typical bus pick up. Once on the bus, please follow the instructions of the transportation provider.

Near Normal School Day Proceedings

Cohorts

- o For the sake of contact tracing if necessary, students will spend their day together as a homeroom cohort. There will be no mixing of the cohorts during the school day, lunch hour, and breaks.
- o Brain Breaks will be provided for students within the classroom spaces.
- o We are currently creating measures for contact tracking while students are outside the classroom space (i.e. bathroom, trips to the office, access to the canteen).
- o Traditionally, some students move to other classrooms, especially Middle School students. This year, teachers will be moving from class to class, and students will stay in their homeroom with each cohort having as few adults as possible as part of their group for the sake of preserving the cohort.
- o There may be some minor exceptions to this rule for specific learning scenarios.

o Class cohorts have been created considering what we feel is best for student learning, including their social/emotional needs. Requests for changes due to this cohorting reality cannot be accommodated.

Programming

o The focus will be on essential outcomes in the core subject areas (Mathematics, English Language Arts (French Language Arts), Science, Social, Physical Education).

o There will be a different process for Middle School Options for the first semester. Our options will be considered Activity Courses.

■ As students must stay in their homeroom cohort, options are now Activity Courses and will change every 3 weeks.

■ Teachers will determine what classes will be offered. Classes which will be offered will need to follow the health and safety guidelines.

Student Transitions and Breaks

o Lunch Break

■ Students will stay together in their cohorts and will be eating in their classrooms with **no access to microwaves.**

■ We will have access to our Wolverine Den (cafeteria). Order forms will be sent home daily via School Messenger. Buy your \$25 Wolverine Den card online through school cash.

■ After students have eaten, they will be given time within the classroom to relax. This will be for September and we will re-evaluate each month.

Transition (between class) Breaks

■ based on grade level, students will have different class brain break times.

● For example, Grade 7s may head outside to the courtyard for a brain break.

● Hallway Movement

o During the first days of school, students will be taught how to follow the floor decals and directions to assist with the flow of student traffic in the hallway. Hallways will have signage to support bidirectional movement. Students will need to adhere to signage that will be in place.

o As much as possible, everyone is to support social distancing practices.

o Masks must be worn at all times.

o Lockers will **NOT** be allocated at this time, so students will need to bring their bags/backpacks to their classrooms and store them under their desks.

Common Areas

- **Wolverine Den (Cafeteria)**
 - Students will not be eating in common area spaces rather in their cohort groups within the class.
 - We will be running the Wolverine Den (cafeteria). It will be open for business as usual services, except all orders and payment will be done online. You will receive a daily order form and you can pay \$25 Den cards on school cash online.
- **Gym and Multi-purpose Spaces**
 - The gym and our multi-purpose activity spaces will be open for Physical Education classes only.
 - Shared items will be disinfected after student use.
 - Physical Education teachers will be adapting lessons to limit the usage of equipment.
 - All students will have to sanitize their hands before and after entering the gym.
- **Gathering Areas like main common area**
 - These areas will be marked off as “no access” areas.
- **Band / Foods Room**
 - We will not be partaking in these options at this time.
 - We will re-examine the programming after the first pivot point on November 10, 2020.
- **Bathrooms**
 - Restrooms will be limited to a certain number of students to meet social distancing protocols.
 - Homeroom cohorts will be assigned designated washrooms that are located within proximity to their homerooms.
- **Learning Commons**
 - We are looking at virtual learning commons courses with homeroom classes. Our literacy committee will be meeting to discuss this further as well as book rentals.
- **Computer Lab/Carts**
 - Electronic devices will be cleaned and disinfected after use.
- **Water Fountains**
 - Students are encouraged to bring a water bottle to school; the school will have a disposable water bottles for sale at the cafeteria.

Sick Room

- Our current student workspace in the office will serve as an isolation room.
- Once a student is in the sick room, parents will be contacted to pick up their child immediately.
- Our sick room has a limit of one and if there is more than one student that needs the sick room, ill students will be isolated in other areas of the school.
- The sick room, or another isolation room, will be cleaned after a sick student has left the room.

Classroom Setting

Based on our current student registration numbers, our homeroom configurations range from 29 to 34 students. As such, teachers will do their best to spread out desks. All tables and extra furniture have been removed to help with this. We will encourage physical distancing as much as possible.

- Students and staff will sanitize their hands when they enter and leave the classroom.
- Teachers will place student desks, so students do not face each other.
- Students and staff will be required to wear a mask.

General Information

A Summary of Health measures will include, but are not limited to:

- Appropriate hand sanitizing and handwashing, respiratory etiquette, physical distancing (when and where possible in schools and on buses), increased frequency of cleaning and disinfection, student cohorts, and having staff and students stay home when ill or are exhibiting any flu-like symptoms.
- Teachers will organize their classrooms to increase learning space.
- No fabric resources, furniture, or items not easily cleaned.
- The staff have limited access to the school, Monday to Friday, from 7:30 am to 5:00 pm.
- The staff room limit is 5 people.

Large Gatherings, Assemblies & Intramurals

- Following guidelines that are currently in place, we will not be having any large gatherings, assemblies or intramurals as our student numbers exceed the limits within a confined space.

Co-curricular Activities

- All co-curricular activities are suspended until further notice. This may be subject to change based on divisional and jurisdictional requirements.

Fine Arts Productions

- All current fine arts productions are suspended. A decision regarding the 2020/21 school production will be made at a later date.

Field Trips

- Only field trips within Wilson Middle School boundaries will be allowed. No field trips that involve bussing will be permitted.

Clubs and Services

- All clubs and school-based youth groups are suspended at this time but will be evaluated on an ongoing basis.

School Coupon Fundraiser

- Traditionally, we do a school fundraiser in late September to raise funds for a variety of events and programs at the school.
- The fundraiser for 2020/2021 school year has been suspended at this time.

Provincial and Divisional Assessments

- Divisional Common Math Assessments (MIPI) – The dates are yet to be determined.

Additional Information

- Homeroom and First Day of school information will be shared out with families on August 26th.
- Please be sure to check your email regularly for school updates as things are continually changing.