



Petite Riviere Elementary School

123 Wentzell Rd. Petite Riviere, NS B4V 5Y2

August 28, 2020

Dear Petite Riviere families and community,

We are very pleased and excited to be back at school on September 8. We hope you have been enjoying a relaxing, fun and safe summer.

With COVID-19 rates at low levels, students will return to school following the full opening model outlined in Nova Scotia's Back to School Plan. To learn more about the plan visit www.novascotia.ca/backtoschool.

How we support your child's return to school is our priority. COVID-19 may have changed what our school day will look like, but it has not changed the quality of education your child will receive.

We know you have a lot of questions. The answers we give now, may change depending on the public health guidance in place to support a return to in class instruction. If the conditions change, our approach will change, including a possible move to either a blended learning or at-home learning model. The direction to move to a different learning model would come from Public Health. Should this or any other change take place, we will let you know as soon as possible.

As you may have already heard, there are some key changes coming to school in September. This includes:

- Mask use for all students who ride a school bus.
- Mask use for all students in grades 4 to 12 and all staff, when they are unable to physically distance
- Enhanced cleaning in our schools
- Increased handwashing and sanitizing as students enter and exit school and throughout the day.

While these measures will become commonplace in schools across our province, I want to provide you more details about what a student's day will look like here at Petite Riviere Elementary.

As principal of Petite Riviere Elementary (PRES), it is my pleasure to welcome everyone back for another great year. We are all excited to have students return to school. ☺ We have thoroughly missed everyone. It is our goal to help every child feel welcomed, safe, connected and a part of our special PRES family. We are so fortunate to be connected to the supportive and caring communities that our students reside in. Thank you for your continued support of our school, as we continue to venture through these unprecedented times.

Throughout the school year we will continue to provide information to families through email, our website, social media and our school newsletter. Our website address is

<http://petiteriviere.ednet.ns.ca/> Our weekly newsletter is emailed to parents/community members on Friday afternoon and we are able to send paper copies home upon request. Our Facebook page is Petite Riviere Elementary. Our Twitter account is @PRESPrincipal. We use each of these forms of communication to share information and to celebrate our successes of our students, school and community.

We will be streaming a live video feed on our Facebook page on September 3 at 1:00pm. The stream will guide families through the school, introduce staff and help prepare everyone for the return to school. We will keep this video posted on the Facebook page until the first day of school.

We have some new additions to the PRES team. I want to welcome Ryan Lowe (Custodian), Mary Scott (Grade 4/5), Dylan Norton (Phys Ed) and Kayla Marchaud (Music). We are very excited and to have them join the PRES team.

I truly enjoy and feel it is my privilege to be Principal of Petite Riviere Elementary School. It is an honour to be part of a this special community where families, staff and students care for each other and strive to build positive relationships that support our students' academic and social-emotional growth.

Please feel free to contact me at 902-688-3200, 902-521-5173 or at pres@ssrce.ca or presprincipal@ssrce.ca

Welcome back! See you on Tuesday, September 8.

Sincerely,

Scott Rawding

Petite Riviere Elementary School Return to School 2020 Highlights Attached:

Here are some of the **highlights** of our Return to School Plan for September 2020. A complete plan will be shared with all our families once it has been finalized and approved.

- We are thrilled to report that all programming from Pre-Primary to Grade 6 will still be happening when students return to PRES:
- Including Physical Education, Music, and Core French. Some of these classes may be taught differently as we adhere to safety protocols. Students will be staying in their classroom/bubbles/cohorts (*A cohort is a subgroup of the school that will, whenever possible, remain isolated from other cohorts.*)
- Recess and lunchtimes will be staggered to allow for physical distancing on our school grounds. Students will have designated areas to play, maintaining physical distancing as much as possible, with their cohort (class). We will be having three different recess breaks and three different lunch breaks.
- Access to our Breakfast Program and our Hot Lunch Program (Thursdays) will still be available. However, students will not have access to the kitchen. There will be no access to microwaves for students. This is very different for our school culture. We will have our milk program for students to access but we will not be offering chocolate milk.
- Our classrooms are not big enough to ensure physical distancing, so students and staff will be wearing masks for most of the day in Grades 4-6. Students in Pre-Primary-3 are expected to wear a mask until they are in their classroom but can choose to continue to wear their mask in the classroom.
- All students must wear masks on the bus.
- All of our doors will be locked. Front door access will be possible through a newly installed buzzer/camera system.
- We will not be able to access drinking fountains, only bottle refill station. We recommend students bring a filled water bottle every day.
- Large gatherings are not permitted in schools this year. This includes concerts, assemblies and ceremonies.
- We will continue an emphasis on outdoor learning for all classes. We are fortunate to have a wide array of spaces for students to use, including an outdoor classroom, garden, wooded areas and a NEW Mindfulness space/classroom being developed close to the river.
- All PRES students will be able to remain at our school if we need to transition to Scenario 2.
- All students (P-6) will be gaining skills with online learning platforms, while at school, to prepare for the possibility of Scenario 3.
- We will continue, as always, to take great care of all of our students. Providing a safe, inclusive environment for students to learn. We will continue to foster and build positive healthy relationships with students and our main priority is their well-being.
- **Masks:** Each student will receive 2 masks on the first day of school from their teacher but if a family doesn't have a mask to wear on the first day of school they can contact the school, **902-688-3200** or **pres@ssrce.ca**, to arrange pick-up before school begins.

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Thank you,

Scott Rawding

Principal