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To: Horizon Families and Staff
From: Kevin C. Garinger, Director of Education
Jim Hack, Board of Education Chair
Date: August 6, 2020
Re: Fall 2020 – Re-Entering Horizon – Phase 3 Plan Update

Hello, everyone.

I am writing today to bring your attention to our [“Re-Entering Horizon - Phase 3 Plan” \(click to view\)](#), which will guide our safe return to classrooms in the fall. The Government of Saskatchewan provided their approval for this plan earlier this week. We will be sharing more about our plan with Horizon families in the days and weeks to come, through a shortened, “Coles Notes” of to-dos for parents and children referred to as *“Re-Entering Horizon School Division - Expectations for Parents and Students”*, but for now, I want to give you all the opportunity to review and familiarize yourselves with the full document. Our plan can also be found on the homepage of horizonsd.ca and on all school websites.

Our [Re-Entering Horizon – Phase 3 Plan](#) includes guidance, requirements, and recommendations in four key areas:

- 1.) Learning,
- 2.) Health & Wellness,
- 3.) School Day Structure, and
- 4.) Engagement of Students, Families, and Staff.

This document also includes contingency planning information related to the potential need to “Learn From Home” and other appendices.

As the school year begins, we will each do our part to keep schools safe – through proper hand hygiene, physical distancing, self-monitoring for symptoms, eliminating physical contact, and staying home when sick. We are in this together, and we can only succeed together.

Please know that this plan will be updated and amended as new information arises. For example, face masks are not currently mandated for use in Saskatchewan schools, but Horizon will be providing face shields and disposable masks for staff who wish to use them. We are also recommending, but not requiring, that children wear a mask in school (Federal health officials are now recommending masks for children aged 10 and up). We ask that families consider including a mask in their child’s school supplies. It is our hope that Horizon School Division may be able to provide disposable masks in the event that they are needed for students. The Ministry of Education has indicated that they are in the process of purchasing masks for this potential purpose. As we learn more, this and other elements of our plan are subject to change.

Some of you may be considering other options related to your child(ren)'s learning. Please know that it is our expectation that we will have a safe environment for our students to return to. That said, we are also preparing for the potential of children needing to learn from home. In the event this is a decision you feel is necessary for your family, I ask that you continue to register your child(ren) with the school knowing that we will support the learning needs of **all** children with a full Saskatchewan curriculum. I certainly have every faith in our amazing staff to support our students in our school settings and our greatest hope is that you will see that our plan today and any and all revisions made prior to school start-up will put you at ease in terms of your child(ren) attending your local school.

As a system and as schools, there is nothing more important than the safety of your children, our students, and our staff. Facing the challenges of this pandemic has required us to seek out and adapt to new levels of cooperation and community-minded behavior to ensure the health and safety of ourselves and those around us. We have been called upon in everything we do to think first and foremost about how our daily interactions might impact others. By working together toward this important and common goal, we continue to protect our family members, each other, and ourselves. I want to say thank you for your ongoing efforts to this end.

In spite of the incredibly challenging situation we are all faced with, I hope you have been able to enjoy your well-deserved summer break and take the opportunity get out in the beautiful sunny weather we've been having. As I said, we will be in touch with more information soon. Please continue to check horizonsd.ca for updates and do not hesitate to contact our Communications Centre Hotline at 1-306-682-2558 with questions or concerns.

Thank you,



Kevin C. Garinger, B. Ed, M.A. Ed
Director of Education/CEO
Horizon School Division No. 205



Jim Hack,
Board of Education Chair
Horizon School Division No. 205