August 18, 2020

Dear E.D. Feehan students, parents and caregivers,

I hope you have had the opportunity to spend time with family and friends enjoying our Saskatchewan summer. We miss our Feehan family and are looking forward to seeing students soon!

As the start of school gets closer, I know that you have many questions and concerns about how we will return safely, and what your options are for your family. Many people in our division have spent much time over the summer taking guidelines from the Ministry of Education and the Chief Medical Health Officer to formulate our Return-to-School Plan. That plan will continue to be updated throughout the summer, and we’ll keep you informed.

An updated version of our division plan is attached to this message (and can also be found on our website). Please note that there have been numerous updates providing more details about changes compared to the initial plan that was released on August 4, 2020. As we all prepare for the start of the year, please review the contents.

We’re also working on a plan specific to our school that will include details you are anxiously awaiting, such as: What door will I use? What will Physical Education look like? Will students still be able to use the library? Etc. This information will be available on or before August 26.

On Saturday, August 15, Premier Scott Moe announced on Facebook that the start of the school year will be delayed to Tuesday, September 8. This change will be reflected in our school’s plan.

I want to draw your attention to three significant updates for high schools: moving to a block schedule for the 2020-21 school year, staggered start dates, and online learning options.

Block Scheduling

Block scheduling has students work on two classes at a time (one in the morning and one in the afternoon), as opposed to five. The students will be working with a different teacher and a different cohort of students in each block. This will significantly reduce the number of interactions that staff and students will experience in a typical school day. The instructional hours per course remain the same, and students will continue to be able to access 10 credits for the school year. Please note that the schedule will follow a traditional timetable. It is important to understand that this is why we will begin with period 1 and period 4.
A sample student schedule and timetable will help illustrate what block scheduling may look like.

Below you will see a sample student timetable with a 5-period day.

Block 1 Schedule beginning September 8 based on student schedule above:

Time
Period 8:40-11:35 (175 Minutes) Period 1 Class (Example: ELA 30)
11:35-12:35
Lunch
12:00-12:30
Scheduled Support for LAT and EAL Students (most students will not be scheduled here) 12:35-2:30 (115 Minutes) Period 4 Class (Example: Phys. Ed. 30)
2:30-3:00
Scheduled Support for LAT and EAL Students (most students will not be scheduled here)

Students will take Period 1 in the morning and Period 4 in the afternoon in the initial block.

- Morning classes in each semester are 29 or 30 days long and periods are 175 minutes long. Breaks will be determined by the school and will be staggered to avoid large gatherings.

- At lunch and at the end of the school day, we will offer a 30-minute support time that students can be scheduled into. Students that require EAL and LAT will be scheduled into this time automatically.

- The afternoon will be made up of 2 classes per semester of 43 or 44 days, but these periods are 115 minutes long, so 2/3 the time of the morning classes.

- There will not be a week of finals in January or at the end of June. Finals and projects will occur at the end of each block of time.

Specific start and end dates for each block will be sent at a later date (we are revising dates given the premier’s weekend announcement).

***It is important to understand that the pace of courses within a block will be quite quick and students will need to complete assignments and homework in a shorter period of time.

2020-21 Block Timetable for Semester 1
8:40 – 11:35
(10 minute staggered break)
Semester 1, Period 1 September 8 – October 21
Semester 1, Period 2 October 22 – December 3
Semester 1, Period 3 December 7 – January 28
11:35 – 12:35
Lunch (in your morning classroom, at home or outside)
LAT/EAL Assigned Tutorial 12:00-12:30
12:35 – 2:30
(5 minute staggered break)
Semester 1, Period 4 September 8 - November 10
Semester 1, Period 5 November 12 - January 27
2:30 – 3:00
LAT/EAL Assigned Tutorial
Optional Student Support Time in designated classrooms

Staggered Start Schedule:
In order to support students and staff in adjusting to new protocols and expectations we will be starting the year with a staggered start. Please find the schedule for the first two days below. As you can see, students will begin with their Period 1 and 4 classes.

Tuesday, September 8 – Grade 9 students only, 8:40 - 11:35 am
8:40 – 10:30 – Period 1 and back to school orientation
10:35 – 11:35 - Period 4
Tuesday, September 8 – Grade 10 students only, 1:00 – 3:00pm
12:35 – 1:55 – Period 1 and back to school orientation
2:00 - 3:00 - Period 4

Wednesday, September 9 – Grade 11 students only, 8:40-11:35 am
8:40 – 10:30 – Period 1 and back to school orientation
10:35 – 11:35 - Period 4

Wednesday, September 9 – Grade 12 students only, 1:00 – 3:00pm
12:35 – 1:55 – Period 1 and back to school orientation
2:00 - 3:00 - Period 4

Thursday, September 10 - Regular classes begin with full days for all students

School Supplies

It is suggested students bring the following supplies to school on the first day of classes in a backpack: binder, loose leaf, subject dividers, pens, pencils and eraser, mask and water bottle. Teachers will let students know if additional supplies are needed as this will depend on the class. Lockers will not be used, except for Physical Education, so students will need to come to school and return home with the supplies each day.

Online Learning

The attached Return-to-School Plan includes detailed information about online learning options. If you choose online learning, please register with your home high school and contact the office to let us know you are interested in online learning. The attached plan also has contact information if you have questions specific to online learning. It is important to remember that if you choose on-line learning and later wish to return to face to face learning, this will need to be coordinated at the school and will only be available at the start of each new block.

School Safety Measures

We are implementing several safety measures and protocols. A few are listed here, and more detail is available in the attached plan. Please note that these are subject to change pending guidelines or direction from the Government of Saskatchewan and/or the Chief Medical Health Officer.

Masks and Personal Protective Equipment

• Because it will not be possible to physically distance, Grade 9 – 12 students are required to wear masks at school. • Two reusable masks will be provided for each student by the school division.

• All students are required to wear masks while riding the bus.

• All visitors must wear masks. Phone, e-mail or virtual meetings are preferred.

• Accommodations will be made for students and staff who are unable to wear a mask due to medical or other needs with documentation. • Students wearing reusable masks will be instructed to bring them home daily.

Daily Personal Screening

• Staff and students are not to attend when ill. Students are required to do a daily, at-home screening. A screening questionnaire will be provided.
• Students who are ill at school will be isolated and need to be picked up by parents right away or drive home with parent permission. They will not be transported by staff.

Enhanced Cleaning Procedures
• High touch areas cleaned often
• Hand sanitizer will be provided in multiple locations in the school
• Equipment sanitized between cohort use

Staggered Breaks in Cohorts and Entry and Exit Plans
• Classes will have breaks at different times and students will not be allowed to wander
• Entry and exit points will be increased to avoid clustering (schools will develop plans)

Lunch Protocols
• Students are encouraged to go home for lunch when possible
• Students remaining at school will eat lunch in their morning classroom with the same cohort of students
• We will not be able to accommodate friend groups for the lunch break
• At this time microwaves will not be available for student use.
• Cafeteria services will not be available until at least September 14th. Details and protocols will be shared at a later date.

Extra-Curricular Activities - All extra-curricular activities are postponed at this time including all fall sports and performing arts.

Please know we are doing all we can to ensure the safety of the students. Although school will look different in the fall, we are looking forward to seeing all the students and being back in the school for face-to-face learning! More details to come about accessing student timetables online and other important back to school information.

Sincerely,

Ms. Krista Hayes
E.D. Feehan Principal

“I belong to the Feehan Family; who I am makes a difference!”