



Bobcat News

ABOUT THE GREAT THINGS THAT ARE HAPPENING AT
Brentwood Elementary

Read all about it in the August 24 edition!

Principal's Message

Welcome back students and parents to another exciting year of learning at Brentwood Elementary School.



The beginning of school will be a time for students to rekindle friendships, to exercise their minds with ever expanding new knowledge and to provide guardians a much-deserved break from three months of online learning at home.

In this edition of Bobcat News, you will find helpful information on our school re-entry plan. Our staff have been busy creating a safe environment for our students. Students will learn in cohort groups and lunch/recess breaks have been scheduled in accordance with social distancing guidelines. Recess breaks will be staggered between grades to ensure a limited amount of students are outside at any given time. Our custodial staff have been working diligently in making sure our school is clean from top to bottom. Hand sanitizer will be located in multiple locations. All large-group gatherings—semblies, field trips, tournaments, and performances are cancelled. Directional and spacing stickers are visible on the school hallway floors. Bathrooms have been modified to facilitate distancing between stalls and sinks. Mandatory use of masks for all staff and students.

The best way to stay connected and up to date with the latest school news is to read the Bobcat News regularly which will be emailed to Guardians and posted on the school website. <https://www.brentwoodelementary.ca/>

I look forward to working with our families as collaboration with all members of our community ensures we as a school, continue with a tradition of excellence.





Brentwood Clothing Orders

Go to **Entripshop** if you would like to order **school clothing**.

<https://brentwoodelementary.entripyshops.com/>



2020-2021 Brentwood Elementary Staff

- Kindergarten - Mrs. Elkow (Group A/B), Mrs. Kallis (Logos)
- Grade 1 - Mrs. Burns
- Grade 1/2 Logos - Mrs. Dmytruk-Jones
- Grade 1/2 - Mrs. Shield
- Grade 2 - Mrs. Derksen
- Grade 2/3 Logos - Mrs. Johnson
- Grade 3 - Mrs. Melmock, Mrs. Russell
- Grade 3/4 Logos - Mrs. Cunha
- Grade 4 - Mrs. Landry-Doran
- Grade 4/5 - Ms. Davis
- Grade 5 - Miss. Larsen
- Grade 5/6 Logos - Mr. Radersma
- Grade 6 - Mr. Smith, Mr. Vantour
- Music - Mr. Meriman
- GOALS - Miss. Grover, Mrs. Heydanus, Mrs. Plesniarski
- Educational Assistants - Mrs. Matz, Ms. Borle, Ms. Birch, Mrs. Bissonnette, Mrs. Light, Mrs. Cox, Mrs. King (Librarian)
- Office Staff - Mrs. Beaudry, Mrs. Grieve
- Custodian - Pam Lindsay
- Counselor and First Nations Metis Inuit Lead Teacher - Mrs. Waddell
- Assistant Principal - Mr. Roper
- Principal - Mr. Russell



Elementary School Kindergarten to grade 6 First day of school

Between September 1-4, **Kindergarten** children attend school in small groups—10 children or less. The **staggered entry** allows children and families to ease into school, which is particularly important this year. It also allows teachers to explain the new routine and health and safety measures before a full restart takes place.

All Kindergarten families will receive a staggered-entry schedule from their students' home room teacher soon.

Brentwood Kindergarten Information 2020-21

<https://www.brentwoodelementary.ca/kindergarten>

The first day of classes for all other grades are listed below:

DATE TIME GRADE LEVEL(S)

Sept. 1, 2020 full day **grades 5 and 6 only**

Sept. 2, 2020 full day **grades 3 and 4 only**

Sept. 3, 2020 full day **grades 1 and 2 only**

Sept. 4, 2020 full day **all students**

Brentwood Re-Entry Plan

Masks

As you're aware, all students in Kindergarten through Grade 6 must wear masks on school property at all times. We would ask that you send two clean masks to school every day with your child. You may want to put clean, unworn masks in a ziploc bag or a container before



use. Lanyards can be used for students to keep their masks on, but they must have the breakaway feature. Government provided masks for students will be issued when students come to school during the first week of staggered entry. Please ensure you label your child's masks.

Cohorting Students

Students will be cohorted based upon classes that were developed by teachers in June. Cohorting students will be one of our main strategies to protect students and staff in the building and contain any potential outbreaks. Class sizes will range anywhere from 22 to 29 students depending on the grade and the number of students who will be participating in out-of-school learning to start the year. We will have staggered entry, recesses and exits to minimize any contact between cohorts. Students will be expected to remain in their classrooms during class time.

Before you leave home

Complete the verbal COVID-19 Screening Questionnaire. DO NOT allow your child to leave home if, or a household member is, feeling unwell or have COVID-19 symptoms—fever, cough, runny nose, sore throat, shortness of breath, loss of smell and taste, aches, pink-eye, nausea. Have a plan in place to pick up your child in the event he or she becomes unwell at school. Ensure your child brings the designated daily supplies, as required by the school. Ensure your child has multiple face-coverings—parent, guardian or EIPS supplied.

Arrival at school

If your child rides a bus, she will be expected to wear a mask before she can get on board. This is because it will not be possible to ensure the optimal physical distancing on a bus. Once she arrives at school, your child will get off the bus and meet her teacher at a specific meeting point. The teacher will make sure that all the students are there, fix any masks that have become dislodged, and provide hand sanitizer to each child before entering the building. Students may not enter the school unless accompanied by a staff member. The teacher will check that the boot room is empty before entering the building. Each class will



enter their assigned door, put away their shoes and items in their lockers and then proceed to their classroom before the next class comes inside.

- **NO PLAYGROUND USE BEFORE SCHOOL**

Classroom Cohorts

Maintain physical distancing.

Your child will be part of an amazing classroom community which will be considered a cohort. This means that all of the students in that one class stay together all of the time and will not be mixing with other classes at any times. The class cohort will include the students, the teacher(s) and any other support staff that are assigned to that class such as educational assistants, occupational therapists, speech language pathologists and so on.

Students will be wearing their masks in their classrooms throughout the day and will only take them off at specified times such as snack time, lunch or during activities in which we can guarantee the physical distancing requirements.

Your child will have an assigned seat that they will use when in the classroom. This could be a desk or a spot at one end of a table. Our teachers are hard at work, doing their best to separate seating arrangements as much as possible. Each student will store supplies and learning materials in personal bins that may be at their spot or in a particular place such as a locker or cubby. Your child will not share supplies with other students.

Recess and Lunch

Students will have a morning recess and a longer lunch recess.

At recess, students will sanitize their hands before unmasking and leaving the classroom. They will leave through their assigned exit and proceed to an assigned play area. Students will play with students in their classroom cohort and will not be allowed to mix with other cohorts. Throughout the month, classes will rotate through different play areas alternating



between a field or a playground space. Each class will have a set of recess equipment that will be used by their cohort only. Students are permitted to play outside without masks provided that they stay within their cohort and assigned area.

In order to ensure that we do not have too many students outside at one time, classes are divided up into groups. Each group will have recess at a specific time and enter the building completely before the next group exits. This will reduce cross-over in the hallways as well as overcrowding at the exits.

Eating in Class

Students will eat lunch with their class cohort in the classroom. They will remain in their assigned seats and wash their hands before and after eating. When packing a lunch for your child, please help us out by doing the following:

- ensure your child can open all of the items in their lunch (reduce contact with lunch supervisor)
- send all required utensils for eating lunch as none will be provided at the school

Other Food Related Topics

While we know it is fun to drop off a special lunch for your child, we will not be accepting lunch drop offs this year. Please be prepared to send lunch with your child in their backpack.

In order to reduce possible contamination, students are not allowed to share food. This means that we will not be giving out birthday treats or have shared food for classroom parties or events. Please help us by not sending these kinds of treats to school.

Pick up and after school



At the end of the day, the teacher will follow the same procedure to dismiss the students. Each class will sanitize their hands, pack their bags, put on their shoes and exit the boot room at their assigned doors. Only one class will do this at a time to reduce contact between cohorts. Once outside, your child will be asked to get on the bus right away (no time to play in the park!) while wearing a mask. All students will have assigned seats on the bus.

Parent Involvement

We are so lucky to have an incredibly supportive and involved parent community. In a typical year, we benefit from having parents volunteering throughout the school for a variety of events. This year will look a bit different. Although parents are not able to physically volunteer in our school this year, there are still many ways to stay involved. You can continue to support your child at our school by:

- attending a virtual meeting of one our School Council meetings
- communicating with your classroom teacher
- reading with your child regularly
- supporting special theme days such as Crazy Hat Day or Pink Shirt Day
- helping your child to learn how to engage in good hygiene such as how to use a mask, wash their hands and use hand sanitizer
- supporting fundraising initiatives such our bottle drives

Parents are able to enter the school by appointment only and are expected to complete the [COVID-19 Self-Assessment for Albertans](#), wear a mask and sanitize hands before entering by the front doors. Parents can request appointments by calling our reception at 780-467-5591 or by emailing us at <https://www.brentwoodelementary.ca/contact>

Due to health guidelines, we will be suspending the following activities:

- field trips
- parents volunteering inside the school



- large gatherings such as assemblies, choir, whole-school events like Christmas concerts, etc.
- student clubs such as intramurals, running club, games club, etc.

School Entry/Exit Dates

Students enrolled in in-school classes have the ability to change to out-of-school learning at any time during the school year. Please contact your child's school if you would like to make this change.

However, students enrolled in out-of-school learning can only change to in-school classes at key points during the school year, as listed below. If you would like to make this change, please contact your child's school at least **two weeks** before the indicated dates to make the necessary arrangements.

Music, Library and Physical Education

We will not be able to use the Music room or the Library while current restrictions are in place. Music classes will take place in each classroom and also carry additional restrictions, such as no singing, to reduce potential transmission. Students will be able to reserve books from our library and have them delivered to their classrooms through our regular library system. Upon being returned, books will be kept out of circulation for 72 hours to ensure no transmission can take place. The gym will still be available for use by classes, but any shared equipment will be sanitized between users.

Out-of-School Learning

If you have chosen out-of-school learning, teachers will be in touch with you once the school year has started. Units will be loaded into our Brightspace Learning Management System for parents and/or students to access materials. Once completed, the units can be submitted for assessment and feedback. Teachers will not be available for ongoing support, however, there will be limited email support provided by Central Office. Parents are



responsible for guiding their child's learning from home. More information can be found on page 27 of the [EIPS School Re-entry Plan](#).

Entry Date #1 - November 16

Entry Date #2 - January 6

Entry Date #3 - April 6