



Rainy River

DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

September 23, 2020

EDUCATION CENTRE

522 Second St. E.
Fort Frances, ON
P9A 1N4
Phone: 807 274 9855
Fax: 807 274 5078
Toll Free: 1 800 214 1753

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WEB SITE:

www.rrdsb.com

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DIRECTOR

Heather Campbell

Dear parents and guardians,

Now that we are a few weeks into the 2020-21 school year, I would like to thank families for your understanding and patience as we welcomed students back to school — in person and virtually — to continue learning. Both students and staff are adjusting to the new protocols and practices in place and it is a pleasure to see students reconnecting and learning.

During this transitional time, the health and safety of staff and students continues to be our priority. To help keep everyone healthy, we ask all parents/guardians of students attending school in-person to please monitor your child's health and check for any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 using the Ministry of Education's School Screening tool – ontario.ca/SchoolScreening – and following the recommendations provided, such as keeping your child home if they are ill.

For most classes, teachers have set up a virtual classroom (ex. Google Classroom) in addition to the physical classroom. Within the virtual classroom, students can access and submit work, access references, and pose questions for their teachers, if away. If at any time a student is away due to illness, parents/guardians should contact school staff to speak about supports for the student while absent.

RRDSB staff are also required to complete a COVID-19 screening each day prior to going to work and, like students, must remain at home if they have symptoms, as per Public Health recommendations. Due to this precautionary measure, there may be rare circumstances where an extreme shortage of staff at a school occurs due to an increase in staff unable to come to work. If this occurs and the school is unable to find enough replacement staff to safely teach and supervise the students, some school classes may need to be canceled for a particular day and students from those classes sent home. While we hope this doesn't occur, we realize, given the circumstances, that it is a possibility and we want parents/guardians to be aware and prepare for this potential situation. Please note, we would only cancel classes as a last resort in order to support the health and safety of all students.

Whether your child is attending school in-person or virtually, school staff are available to help answer any questions you have and address any concerns. Working together, we will do everything we can to ensure the 2020-21 school year is a success and that all students are well-supported. Thank you again for your ongoing patience and flexibility during this transitional time.

Sincerely,

Heather Campbell
Director of Education