

# Welcome Back Badgers!



**“At Big Rock School, we do the right thing, at the right time, for the right reason!”**

Welcome back Big Rock families! We have missed you all and cannot wait until we get to meet again in person! It’s hard to believe it has been over five months since we have had regular classes at Big Rock. We are all experiencing many emotions as we think about returning to school under “near normal” conditions; excitement, fear, trepidation, anxiety are just a few of those emotions.

As we return to school, our primary concern is the social emotional and physical safety of all of our students, staff, and parents. Return to school is being informed by stakeholders in health and education. We are also approaching school relaunch with appropriate “good sense” as outlined in our code of conduct: “we do the right thing, at the right time, for the right reason.”

This document outlines some specific information regarding relaunch at Big Rock School to provide some key details pertaining to routines and procedures at school. Please take some time to read through this document with your child as you prepare to return to school. This is new to all of us so we will be taking time to understand and practice some of these new routines so that we can all learn together, be safe together, and most importantly, enjoy being together again!

The information in this document is a starting point and will evolve as we better understand the best practices to ensure a safe, engaging, and enjoyable learning environment at Big Rock. Thank you for your patience and cooperation as we return to school. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school. **We will also be providing the opportunity for parents to meet to discuss the procedures and routines prior to our staggered start dates. JK - Grade 3 families are invited to attend an outside meeting on August 26 at 6:00 pm. Grades 4-6 families are invited to attend on August 27 at 6:00 pm. It is only necessary to attend one meeting for those who have children in Division one and Division two.**

On July 21, the government of Alberta announced that all schools across the province will be in [Scenario 1](#) for the 2020-21 school year. This means all Foothills School Division (FSD) schools will be open for full time in-person classes.

While FSD will begin the year in Scenario 1, it is possible that we may have to transition between scenarios during the school year. Public health officials will work with school authorities to make the decision to transition to partial in-class learning or at-home learning based on multiple factors including the number of COVID-19 cases in a zone or a school and the risk of ongoing transmission.

Any changes to the school relaunch scenario will be determined by Alberta Health and Alberta Education with information on local school-based and zone information. We will remain in communication with the Alberta government and will continue to follow their advice.

Your family has a choice on how your child will continue their education for the 2020-21 school year under Scenario 1. We are providing the below information to assist you in this decision. All FSD schools will follow the [FSD 2020-21 School Relaunch Handbook](#) as they prepare for Scenario 1. Highlights of the School Relaunch Handbook include:  
Division-Wide Health Measures

## Before School

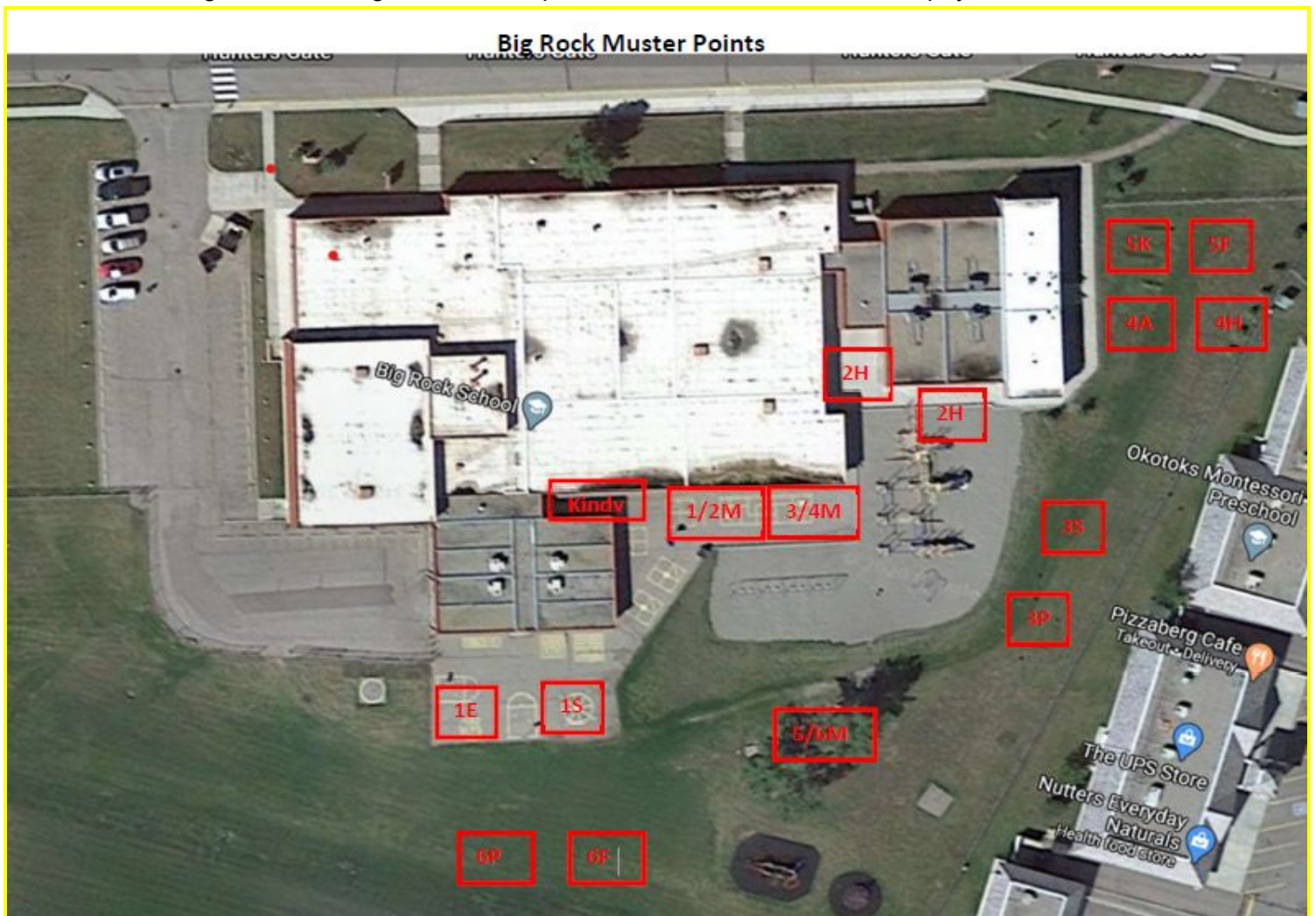
Families must screen each student for symptoms of COVID-19 as well as influenza and the common cold. Staff and students are required to complete the [Government of Alberta's COVID-19 screening questionnaire daily](#). Students and staff who have COVID-19 symptoms will not be allowed to enter the school, they must stay home and self-isolate until they have been assessed by a health care provider to exclude COVID-19 or other infectious diseases AND their symptoms have resolved.

## On the School Bus

- Students with symptoms must remain at home and not board the school bus.
- Families are encouraged to have alternate transportation plans in place. Routes may be cancelled with short notice as part of the FSD COVID-19 Response.
- Students in Grades 4 to 12 will be required to wear masks. Younger students are being asked to wear masks if possible.
- Once on the bus, students will have an assigned seat. Students from the same house will sit together.
- Each bus will be cleaned twice daily.
- The Province is encouraging parents who can provide transportation to do so. This will allow school divisions to reduce numbers on buses, assisting with physical distancing and other health measures.

## Arriving at School

- Students will have an assigned door they must use to enter and exit the school. When they arrive at school, students will go to an area outside their door and wait. Staff will be outside to remind kids to distance.
- Students in Grades 4-12 must wear masks when entering the school and when within a common area. Students may also be asked to wear masks within the classroom when physical distancing is not possible. If a student arrives without a mask they will be provided with one.
  - Students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 are encouraged to wear masks if they are able to do so.
- Parents are asked to stay in their vehicles if they are dropping their children off at school. Adults will be required to schedule an appointment before entering the building.
- As in previous years, students will go to the school yard behind the school. Students will go to their designated muster point that is marked and maintain physical distance.



## In the Classroom

- Students will be assigned seating at school and teachers are planning lessons that reduce the need to share materials. If materials are shared they will be cleaned and disinfected after each use.
- Staff are encouraged to teach outside when possible, students should come to school with appropriate clothing to spend time outdoors during the day.
- Students and staff may be involved in regularly cleaning personal equipment and their desks and tables.

## Recess

- Students will stay with their classes for recess.
- Recess may be staggered throughout the day to allow for more space between students.
- As we are staggering the first four days of school, we will maintain our regular recess times and monitor safety in order to determine needed zones moving forward
- Classes will go to their predetermined muster points and wait for the teacher to re- enter the school through their assigned door
- Classes will enter the playground through their assigned door

## Lunch

- It is highly recommended that parents send their child to school with a water bottle that can be refilled.
- Families should send student food in clean containers with their own utensils. Students will not be allowed to share utensils, dishes, and water bottles or drink containers.
- Students will be expected to pack-in and pack-out all food each day.
- All students will have to wash or sanitize their hands before and after eating.
- Microwaves will not be available and students cannot order food to the school.
- Students will remain with their class to eat lunch.
- All food served at schools will be in pre-packaged portions and shared condiments will not be allowed.
- Lunch times will be staggered as much as possible to keep students distanced.
- As in previous years, students will remain within their classrooms to eat lunch under the supervision of their classroom teacher

## Throughout the Day

- Locker use will be minimized for student use to aid in hallway traffic flow and to assist with physical distancing. Cube storage (cubbies) will remain open for jackets/boots only with staggered procedures in place.
- There will be posters and other visual cues to remind students to properly distance while in the hallways. Use of common areas will be limited.
- Staff will move throughout the school as much as possible to prevent students from having to switch classes. Students will be organized into smaller groups (cohorts) that remain with one another as much as possible.
- To reduce the number of cohorts across Foothills School Division, at this time all extra-curricular activities remain cancelled. This includes school sports and league & exhibition play (pending further review of current provincial guidelines).
- Students will bring personal belongings into the classroom and store in a designated spot. Please use good judgement with how much your child is bringing to school as space is limited. Personal items such as toys, stuffed animals, trading cards (Pokemon, hockey...), are not allowed at this time.

## Enhanced Cleaning

- Throughout the day, custodians will clean and disinfect the school with a focus on high touch surfaces.
- After school, custodians will follow an enhanced daily cleaning protocol.
- Classrooms will be cleaned and sanitized periodically based on classroom activities

## Illness Response

If a student develops symptoms while at the school, they will be provided a mask and isolated from other students. Parents will be notified to pick up their child immediately (within one hour). Please ensure the school has an emergency contact listed for your child in the event you are unable to pick up your child.

## Confirmed Cases of COVID-19

If there are cases of COVID-19 identified within school settings, the Alberta Health Services (AHS) Zone Medical Officer of Health team will work directly with Foothills School Division to provide follow-up recommendations.

We respect the privacy and confidentiality of personal information and personal health information. Information will be shared on a need to know basis and at the direction of Alberta Health Services. Wherever possible AHS will communicate directly to individuals potentially affected by exposure.

## Transportation Eligibility

- **School bus transportation will be available to eligible No Fee students only.** No Fee Transportation includes students registered in Foothills School Division and attending a school within their designated attendance boundary or students directed to a school outside their attendance boundary school for regional programs (such as French Immersion and Inclusive Learning programs). In both situations, families qualify for transportation based on the following conditions:
  - Students whose residence (home address) is 2.4 kilometres or further from their designated school; or
  - Students in kindergarten to grade 3 whose residence (home address) is 1.6 kilometres or further from their designated school and who do not have an older sibling to walk with.
- FSD will be unable to provide transportation for unqualified families during the 2020-21 school year. School bus transportation will not be available to User Pay students in accordance with provincial protocols designed to limit student cohort sizes. This includes students whose residence (home address) is closer to their designated school than the distances outlined above, school families who decide to send their children to an FSD school of choice outside their designated boundary, and guest riders.

## Big Rock School Health Measures

### Staggered Entry

- **During the first week of school students will be attending on designated days.**
- **Monday, August 31 and Tuesday, September 1: Students with the surname beginning with A-M will attend**
- **Wednesday, September 2 and Thursday, September 3: Students with the surname beginning with N-Z will attend**
- **Friday, September 4: Operational Day for staff only. Students will NOT attend**

## School Arrival / Dismissal

- Students will have an assigned door they must use to enter and exit the school. Students will not enter through the front doors.
- Students in Grades 4-12 must wear masks when entering the school and when within a common area. Students may also be asked to wear masks within the classroom when physical distancing is not possible. If a student arrives without a mask they will be provided with one.
  - Students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 are encouraged to wear masks if they are able to do so.
- Parents are asked to stay in their vehicles if they are dropping their children off at school. Adults will be required to schedule an appointment before entering the building.
- As in previous years, students will go to the school yard behind the school. Students will go to their designated muster point that is marked and maintain physical distance. Students will enter the school when guided by their classroom teacher to do so
- When dropping your child off in the morning, please take the time to remind them about social distancing, the reinforcement of this will be greatly appreciated.

## Visitors to the School

- In the initial stages of school relaunch, parent volunteers and non-essential visitors will be limited and may only enter the building with advance permission from the school. Please email Scott Carey ([careys@fsd38.ab.ca](mailto:careys@fsd38.ab.ca)) or Jill Alexander ([alexanderj@fsd38.ab.ca](mailto:alexanderj@fsd38.ab.ca)). When accessing the school, visitors must complete the [self-assessment](#), wear a mask, and sanitize their hands upon entry.

## School Supplies

- **Students will be asked to label ALL personal items and not share.**
- All students in Grades 4 to 6 must have a clean reusable cloth or disposable mask with them as part of their supplies each day.
- Students in Grades 4 to 6 will be provided with two reusable cloth masks.
- Students should bring their own filled water bottle to school each day (please label with name).

- Thanks to our wonderful School Council, each student will receive a Badger water bottle at the start of the year.

## Food & Nutrition

- Students are responsible for opening all containers and packages in their lunch. Please do not send anything in your child's lunch that they cannot easily open themselves and avoid items that need to be microwaved.
- Lunch protocols - Students will eat in their classrooms and maintain physical distancing. Students will sanitize before and after eating their lunch.
- Nutrition program - Emergency food items will be available based on need
- Hot lunch program - School Council is currently looking for vendors that follow Covid protocols
- The sharing of food is not permitted. Birthday treats should not be sent to school.

## Next Steps for Families

- Don't forget to complete the FSD School Relaunch Survey. A unique link was emailed to each family on Friday August 14th. If you have not received your survey link, please contact [records@fsd38.ab.ca](mailto:records@fsd38.ab.ca). It is important that every family complete the survey to indicate your child(ren) will be returning to in-person full time learning or full-time Hub@Home online learning. The due date is Wednesday, August 26.
- Confirm your contact information is accurate, including emergency contact info, by contacting your school at 403.938.6666