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PRINCIPAL: DALE MARTENS

Dear South Oaks Families,

As per the Chief Public Provincial Public Health Officer, effective Monday, Nov. 2, 2020, schools in the Southern Health Region will be moving into the Restricted Orange Level of the [Manitoba Pandemic Response System](#). Our staff will discuss the necessary details this week and plan to implement Level Orange protocols next week, Nov. 9-13. [For details about level Orange, see COVID-19 Bulletin #237.](#)

This school year requires us to re-envision teaching and learning separate from the physical space of a brick and mortar classroom and traditional programming. Rather than having two separate models (remote learning and face-to face learning), this plan redefines teaching and learning as a model that is flexible enough to address learning in either a face-to-face setting or in a remote learning setting.

Regardless of the mode of delivery, we are committed to:

- Positive relationships between teachers and students and parents
- Positive relationships between students
- Access to the curriculum, appropriate programming and engaging instruction
- Ongoing feedback and assessment
- Student and teacher well-being as a priority
- Effective communication between teachers, students, and parents

Guiding principles for our model include:

1. Learning should be flexible and responsive to the needs of families and the wellness of staff
2. Students and their relationships with teachers and classmates should be maintained with the least disruption possible
3. Teacher workloads need to be monitored to ensure that the mode of teaching fits within reasonable limits.
4. Scalability and flexibility are key components of this model as we know things can change.

How will this look in practice?

- We will activate the flex teaching model with our grade level cohorts starting on Nov 12, 2020.
- In grade 2, 3 and 4, temporary overflow classes will be set up to achieve as much 2 meter physical distancing as possible. The sizes of these overflow classes will be kept to a minimum, as these are temporary classes during Level Orange only.
- Careful consideration will be given to which students are in the overflow classes and rotating students to minimize their time in the overflow classes is encouraged.

- Kindergarten and grade 1 students will have enough space in their existing classrooms once furniture is adjusted, so no overflow classes are necessary.
- The overflow classes will follow the schedule and programming of one specific classroom teacher (instead of two or three programs at once) to provide clarity of instruction. The exception would be PE and Music when students would join their homeroom classes for those activities.
- The homeroom teachers would visit their overflow students as they are able during the course of the day, to remain connected to the students in their class.
- No changes are made to the student mask wearing protocols. However, any staff that moves from one cohort to another are required to wear medical masks.
- Recesses remain the same. Transportation remains the same.
- Best practices for assessment will be determined by the teachers, with support from the Principal and Student Support team. See below for some suggestions.

Overflow classroom info;

Cohort	Spaces Available	Teachers
K	-	Classroom Teacher
1	-	Classroom Teacher
2	Hut #2	Ellen Bygddin
3	Room 202	Lisa Johnson
4	Computer Lab	Jodi Smith and Learning Support

● **Remote Learning Procedures;**

- Carol Hill, Learning Support teacher, will plan for 1.0 - 1.5 hours per day for ELA and Math instruction delivered remotely.
- Remote Learning students will be placed in either a grade 1-2 group or a grade 3-4 group.
- Remote Learning for Kindergarten will not involve live lessons, but rather a collection of educational activities will be sent home for students to do with their parents at their own pace.
- Classroom teachers prepare the packages for work at home, which include Social Studies, Science and Art based topics/themes.
- Classroom teachers check-in with their remote learners 2 times per week from the classroom via Google Meet.
- Remote Learning will run in 2 week blocks. Parents can opt in or out of RL at the beginning of each new block.
- EAs and Office staff assist with the making and distribution of learning packages for home.

Thanks for your patience as we enter into another new scenario in 2020! We will be sure to monitor your child's wellbeing during the transition to Level Orange, but please let us know if you have any concerns or questions at any time. We will continue to work hard to provide a safe environment for everyone, as well as to keep your child learning and growing during this pandemic. I want to acknowledge the incredible efforts of all staff this year. They deserve loads of encouragement and support, as these changes require much effort and energy. Thanks for your ongoing support and flexibility this year!

Dale Martens
Principal
South Oaks School

