

## Restoring Safe Schools Plan

### Brant-Argyle School

2021-2022

Hello BA families! Here we are about to embark on a third pandemic school year. Things have continued to change and evolve, but one thing that has stayed the same is Brant-Argyle School's commitment to safety, and also to maintaining our core beliefs about education and student learning. Although some things will be different, our hope is that the year is equally as awesome as previous years. We feel that sharing positive thoughts and working collaboratively to creatively solve some of our new challenges is the best way to flourish this year.

Honestly, we feel extremely grateful to be part of this caring community that has always come together to take care of each other. We feel confident that this year will be no different.

Although we may hold different beliefs about the fundamentals of this virus and how it should be handled, Brant-Argyle School will be taking direction from Manitoba Health when considering rules and strategies. We ask that you be flexible in your beliefs as things have been changing on a regular basis.

Below you will find Brant-Argyle's specific plan to the reopening of our school in a safe way. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns.

#### **Student Learning Preparedness:**

- **Cohort Students**

Manitoba Health Guidelines limit cohort groups to approximately 75 students. What this means for Brant-Argyle School is that our school population (57) is considered to be one cohort group. Brant-Argyle School will maintain separation between classes as much as possible as if they were separate cohort groups (4 meters apart). There will be some shared time between the groups during some of our buddy classes and during math time. Students will eat and have breaks with their home room groups.

- **Course Offerings and Timetables**

Courses offered and timetables will remain the same. Grade 7 and 8 shops and home economics will resume with our students travelling to Warren Collegiate Institute every day 2 of the school cycle. We are still asking parents to pay a \$45/student fee for school supplies and \$15/student for agendas. Teachers will purchase supplies and split them up so that students have access to their own supplies without sharing. These fees are due on or before September 17<sup>th</sup>. Should you require different arrangements, please let Trish know, (204) 467-2683. Any shared materials will be cleaned and sanitized as per Covid-19 protocols. We do not want students bringing their own supplies. Please minimize extra materials coming from home, such as toys or fancy pens etc.

- **Recovery Learning**

Brant-Argyle School will use the June report cards and initial assessment information to ensure that teachers are able to identify recovery learning needs and to program with these learning needs in mind.

- **Schedules, Breaks, Recesses**

In accordance with our school philosophy and being mindful of Manitoba Health suggestions, Brant-Argyle students will spend as much time as possible outside. Please ensure that your students are coming to school dressed appropriately for the weather and with their **own individual water bottles**.

At Brant-Argyle School we have decided to not use the common area microwaves until further notice. Please be aware of this when sending student lunches. We will not be heating up food for students and we ask that you send snacks and foods that your students can open themselves as much as possible. This allows our staff to avoid touching foods and containers that will come into contact with students' hands and mouths.

We will stagger entry and exit times to alleviate any congestion in the breezeway and in the hallways. Our morning walk will continue as last year with the K to 3 students heading one way down the trail and the 4 to 8s going the other way (providing it is bear safe to do so). So, this will also provide us with a staggered start. Nutrition breaks will be taken all together as a one cohort school.

- **Extracurricular Programs and Activities**

Brant-Argyle School will offer extracurricular programs and activities if we can maintain the health guidelines and cleaning protocols needed. We will share which clubs and activities will continue with students at a later date. Coaches or club supervisors will keep an "attendance" in order to facilitate contact tracing. More information about sports will be ongoing throughout the year as we approach each "season".

### **Building and Operations Preparedness:**

- **Cleaning, Sanitizing, and Hand Hygiene**

Interlake School Division has increased the custodial time at Brant-Argyle School. This allows Brant-Argyle School to schedule custodial staff to allow for increased frequency of cleaning, disinfecting and sanitizing high-touch surfaces and common/shared areas throughout the day. Increases in time will also be used for the daily sanitation of the play structure.

A portable handwashing station will be added to Brant-Argyle School to alleviate line ups and to provide handwashing while we are outdoors. Hand sanitizer and alcohol wipes will be available at all entrances and throughout the school to promote frequent sanitizing of hands. Staff will focus on reinforcing and modeling proper coughing/sneezing and hand washing protocols.

- **Physical Distancing in Shared Spaces**

At Brant-Argyle School, we have class sizes that are conducive to physically distancing students within their classrooms. Teachers have arranged the seating in their classrooms to accommodate a 1-meter distance between students while they are seated. Signage and staggering the entrancing and exiting of students will be used to ensure physical distancing protocols are met.

- **Removal or Reduction of Learning Materials that cannot be sanitized**

The teachers at Brant-Argyle School have gone through their classrooms and removed any learning materials that could not be readily sanitized. As much as possible students will have access to their own individual supplies and will not be sharing those supplies with each other. Any shared supplies, such as math manipulatives will be sanitized between uses. A storage container has been added to our school property to store any materials that will not be used temporarily.

- **Student Drop-offs and Pick-ups**

We ask that during times of drop off and pick up that parents or guardians remain in their vehicles. Supervisors will be outside in the morning from 8:20 (no drop offs permitted before this time) until 9:00 and after school from 3:50 until the last students are picked up. If you are dropping your student off or picking them up outside of these times, please let the school know in advance so that someone is available to greet your student. All students are asked to enter through the side door and not the front door. A separate email will be sent out with a plan for the first day of school that will allow for a softer start for our students/parents that require it and/or parents who would like to record this milestone through pictures.

- **Students and Staff Exhibiting Symptoms**

As per Manitoba Health Guidelines, Brant-Argyle has a designated room that staff or students that become symptomatic during the day can be isolated in. Should a student exhibit symptom during the day parents will be contacted and the child will be isolated until a parent can arrange pick up. Should the child require close contact and care, a staff member will provide this care using precautions to avoid transmission. Should staff become symptomatic during the day, they will immediately isolate themselves, go home and call Health Links or their health care provider. Accessing Health Links is recommended should you have medical questions. Health Links can be reached at (204) 788-8200 or 1-888-315-9257

### **Student and Family Preparedness:**

- **Expectations for Attendance and Participation**

The expectations for attendance at Brant-Argyle School follow the Divisional and Provincial expectations. These expectations are that children aged 7 to 18 attend school on a regular basis. All students are expected to participate fully in their learning even if/when remote learning is required. Classroom teachers will only support learning at home for students who have been medically advised not to return to in-class learning due to COVID-related risk factors. Arrangements will be made on a case-by-case basis for students who may be at a higher risk of COVID-19 due to underlying health conditions or other risk factors. Please contact Kristin Smith at the school should you need to further discuss special circumstances. Families who choose to homeschool their child(ren) are required to register for provincial homeschooling via Manitoba Education. In order to follow recommended guidelines and provide consistency, Brant-Argyle School is not offering a hybrid program of both in and out of classroom instruction.

- **Public Health Measures**

ALL students must wear non-medical masks indoors, in common areas, on the bus and where physical distancing of two meters is not possible. This adds an additional layer of protection for our school community to prevent the spread of infectious respiratory droplets. Students and staff will be asked to self screen at home before coming to school and/or before getting on the bus.

“Public health officials also strongly urge anyone who has cold or flu-like symptoms, such as a cough, fever, runny nose, sore throat, headache, or any of the symptoms listed in the screening tool to self-isolate for 14 days, and until symptoms are resolved for 24 hours. Anyone with these symptoms is eligible for COVID-19 testing. If your COVID-19 test results are negative, you should stay home until your symptoms have resolved for 24 hours. If you have travelled or been exposed to a case, you should continue to self-isolate for the remainder of the 14-day period.”

Please ensure that your family has a plan in place so that your child can stay home when ill and/or be picked up from school quickly should they become symptomatic.

- **Parent/Guardian Visits to School**

Brant-Argyle School has always enjoyed a high level of parent/family involvement in the day-to-day operations of the school. We have also been fortunate to have many community volunteers in our building. Due to recommendations from Manitoba Public Health and to help protect our school community, we will be limiting the number of visitors and volunteers in the building. This is meant to protect us all and will be revisited often as things change in our province. Should you need an in-person meeting with a member of our staff, please email [ksmith@isd21.mb.ca](mailto:ksmith@isd21.mb.ca) or call Kristin Smith (204)467-2683 to arrange. When we do have visitors or volunteers in the building, they must adhere to self-screening, physical distancing, and recommended hygiene practices. Brant-Argyle School will keep a list of all visitors.

- **Mental Health and Well-being Supports**

Brant-Argyle School will continue to support the well-being of our students and their families. Our belief that wellness is the cornerstone to all education has not changed. We also have always felt the support from our school community, and this in turn contributes to the wellness of our staff. Families and/or individual students are always welcome to approach any staff member should they find themselves needing support. Ms. Kim Deline, our School Guidance Councillor will be spending time in September checking in with students. Ms. Deline will outline how students and families can access her services during our Open House. She is very knowledgeable about all the available Divisional and community supports and will gladly point you in the direction or access the right supports should you find your family requiring them. Ms. Deline can be reached at the school by phone (204) 467-2683 or by email at [kdeline@isd21.mb.ca](mailto:kdeline@isd21.mb.ca).

- **Feedback**

Brant-Argyle School staff have appreciated the feedback that we have received from parents and students over the last while. We continue to strive to meet the challenges presented to us at this unprecedented time. In order to do this well, we believe that continued conversations with our families are paramount. The staff at Brant-Argyle School feel that the combined creativity from our community (students, staff, and families) will help us meet our high standards for teaching and learning in a way that makes everyone feel comfortable and safe. Please do not hesitate to let us know if you have a concern, a unique solution, or an idea for us to try out!

Looking forward to filling our days with the sounds of happy children learning!

Brant-Argyle School Staff