



maskêkosak kiskinomâtowikamik

August 19th, 2020

tansi maskekosak families & Nation members,

As the new principal of maskêkosak kiskinomâtowikamik, it is an honour to update the Nation about the 2020-2021 school year despite this unprecedented time. My name is Jonathan Kaiswatum, and I have been in the education field for over 10 years as a teacher, administrator, and consultant. I look forward to meeting each of you, as we embark on this new year together.

I would also like to introduce the Vice Principal of maskêkosak kiskinomâtowikamik. Tara Crouter has been a teacher for over 15 years with Kitaskinaw Education Authority (KEA) and is a familiar face to the community. Our students and staff will greatly benefit from the knowledge and experience that she has of our education system. Together, we are truly excited to serve a Nation that has already given us a warm welcome as the administrative team for the school.

COVID-19 is an extremely fluid situation, our priority is the health and safety of our students and staff. Thus, KEA has developed a comprehensive re-entry plan reflective of a hybrid model in which classes will partially resume with additional health measures in place to ensure our parents and caregivers feel supported with the educational opportunities that we provide for this school year.

Our re-entry plan reflects input from the MK Parent/Caregiver Return to School Survey (June 2020), input from strategic planning sessions with MK staff (June 2020), and resources from Alberta Education and the Chief Medical Officer of Health. Mentioned below are some of the main components to our re-entry plan:

School Registration

We have encouraged parents and caregivers to pre-register their children from August 10th – 21st at MK with a call-in registration for in-school classes and the in-school program with a virtual component at home. This information will help us determine cohorts and a transportation schedule etc. Birth Certificate and Status Card information are required for registration. If parents and caregivers register their children after the August 21st date, we may require a 3-5 day processing time.

Important Upcoming Dates

- Wednesday, August 26th – First day back for staff
- Friday, August 28th – Parent and caregiver information session at MK (breakout room)
 - AM session at 9:00 am
 - PM session at 1:00 pm
- Tuesday, September 8th – Kindergarten to Grade 12 (tentative based on school readiness)
- Pre-school – TBD

Cohorts

The schedule in our re-entry plan combines 1.) a return to in-class learning and 2.) an in-school program at home. Students will be placed into cohorts 1 and 2 with no more than 15 students per group.

Although there will be no classes on Fridays, school staff will be required to be at school for professional development and deep cleaning procedures. Please see the following for a breakdown of our cohort model:

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
Cohort 1	Cohort 2	Cohort 1	Cohort 2	Collaboration/Resource Development/Deep Cleaning

This model will decrease the number of close contacts in the event of a COVID-19 case in school and assist public health officials in their efforts to trace contacts and contain an outbreak.

In-school Program at Home

We recognize that parents and caregivers may not want to send their children to school for health and safety reasons. Therefore, we will provide a regular in-school program with a virtual component at home. This option will be available for families whether they have access to internet or not. We still require parents and caregivers to fully register your child(ren) to ensure that learning materials can be organized and distributed in a timely manner.

Transportation

Private (e.g. parents and caregivers) vehicle use will be encouraged, where possible, to decrease transportation density on busses. Students will be required to perform hand hygiene when entering and exiting the school bus. Hand sanitizer will be available for use on the bus. Masks will be required for all students while riding the bus, if they are physically and psychologically able to do so. Disposable masks will be available on the bus. Students of the same household will be seated together, and a record of this seating plan will be kept in order to assist with contact tracing in the event of a COVID-19 case. They will load the bus from the back to the front of the bus daily. Drop off/pick up times will be staggered to reduce the number of people in the entrances, and to maintain physical distancing. The main entrance will be used by division 2-4 students, staff, and essential visitors. Students in pre-school & division 1 will use the side entrance.

Physical Distancing

Physical distancing (2 metre spacing) is a public health measure to reduce the spread of COVID-19. We will have controls in place to promote physical distancing, in and outside of the classroom, including hallways, washrooms, and common areas. This will include:

- o Staggered starts and end-times for classes to avoid crowded hallways
- o Posting signs and marking floors with directional arrows
- o Removing and restaging seating in public areas to prevent a gathering
- o Removing cloth furniture in public seating areas
- o Limiting bathroom occupancy at any given time
- o Closing one or two stalls in each bathroom

If 2 metre spacing cannot be arranged between desks/tables, students will be arranged in a manner that does not allow them to face each other. This way, they are not likely to cough or sneeze directly on the face of another student. Plexiglass will be installed on shared tables and teachers will have access to portable plexiglass to assist students in close proximity.

Hand Hygiene

Proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette are another health measure to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Students and staff will be required to perform hand hygiene upon entering and exiting the school, as well as before entering the classroom. Automatic hand sanitizer will be placed at the main entrances at our elementary and high school, in all hallways, classroom entrances, and other high traffic areas such as the administration office and gymnasium. Custodial staff will increase the frequency of cleaning and disinfection of high-touch areas and equipment inside and outside classrooms.

Screening

Before leaving home, staff, children/students, visitors, and volunteers who access the school for work or education, must self-screen for symptoms each day before they enter the school. We will send the screening assessment tool (questionnaire) home for parents and caregivers to use with their children on a daily basis. Staff and students will also be screened upon arrival to school on a daily basis.

Temperature checks will also be completed throughout the day as an additional COVID-19 measure. Anyone that has a temperature above 100.4 degree Fahrenheit or reports symptoms will be directed home, advised to seek health care advice as appropriate, and fill out the AHS Online Self-Assessment tool to determine if they should be tested.

Masks

Masks are another health measure to reduce COVID-19. We will provide a face shield and two reusable masks to all staff. Disposable masks will also be available onsite. We will require students from pre-

school to grade 12 to wear a mask in school, where it is not possible to maintain physical distancing, if they are physically and psychologically able to do so.

Food Services

Breakfast and lunch will continue to be provided to our students. Students will eat in their classrooms except for junior high. Surfaces used for dining (tables and chairs, including underneath the edge of the chair seat) will be cleaned and disinfected after each use. Classroom garbage will be taken out after eating times.

Students in Grade 7-8 will utilize the cafeteria for lunch. Meal service times will be staggered to reduce the numbers of people dining together at one time. Dining tables will be rearranged and marked with signage to maintain physical distancing. Floors will be marked to maintain a physical distancing of 2 metres. There will be no common food items (e.g., salt and pepper shakers, ketchup). Cutlery, napkins, and other items will be dispensed to students/children, rather than allowing them to pick up their own items.

Our re-entry plan is dynamic and allows for KEA to adjust to changing conditions throughout the year. We will continue to monitor the situation and follow recommendations from Alberta Health Services and the Enoch Cree Nation Health Department. Families will be updated as we continue to plan for re-entry.

If you have any questions, or require further clarification, please don't hesitate to contact me at (780) 470-5657 or by email at jonathan.kaiswatum@kitaskinaw.com

Respectfully,

Jonathan Kaiswatum, B.Ed., M.Ed.
Principal
maskêkosak kiskinomâtowikamik