



August 11, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians:

As Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools' new Superintendent, I am pleased to share some important information in regard to our school division's Re-entry Plan.

I am very excited to join the team at WRPS, and am looking forward to meeting you, our students and our staff. Although I have only been on the job for five days, I am already impressed with the commitment and resolve of my colleagues to ensure a safe return to school for everyone.

Clearly, these are not the most ideal of circumstances in which to begin my role. My primary focus since August 4 has been on developing and refining our Re-entry Plan. To do so, we are meeting with principals/vice principals this week, the Local ATA and central office staff. I believe it's critically important to have many eyes review our documents to ensure accuracy and thoroughness before we share them with you.

Our plan is guided by the requirements and recommendations of the Chief Medical Officer and Alberta Education found in the [School Re-entry Plan – Scenario 1](#) which supports the safe re-entry to schools in September 2020. The Province stated that the decision to allow in-school learning with public health measures in place weighs the risks of prolonged school closures on students' educational experience and overall well-being against the risk of COVID-19 outbreaks. Rest assured, the safety and health of our students and staff are our paramount concern. It includes detailed protocols on screening, cleaning, hygiene and disinfection, physical distancing, bus transportation, and much more.

Living and working during a pandemic is not easy. Many tough decisions have already been made, and there are more to come. We are striking a balance between minimizing health risks and providing an education for our students. Please know that I deeply appreciate the concerns parents have as September approaches. It is my expectation that we will publish our Re-entry Plan this coming Friday. It's important to understand that our plan will likely continue to evolve as more information becomes available.

I also know that we need to hear your voice. The 2020-2021 School Re-entry Plan will be rolled out to families by the end of this week along with a survey on the type of learning experience that is best suited for each of your children. This will enable the School Division to deploy teachers, resources and student supports as needed for effective programming.

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None of us can accomplish a safe re-entry to school alone. We need your support and your wisdom. I believe that we can create a safe working environment for students and staff by working together - I am confident of that. Nothing will stop our work to support your children from continuing on.

Thank you for your partnership with us.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Peter Barron". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Peter Barron
Superintendent of Schools