

Welcome Back to Niji Mahkwa School

Out of Respect for the Indigenous People of Manitoba, We at Niji Mahkwa School and the Winnipeg School Division recognize the school we attend resides on Treaty 1 land known as First Nations Territory. As well as the Homeland of the Metis Nation

Safe, Respectful and Proud!

- Niji Mahkwa School and Community upholds the belief that all children have an inherent right to the highest quality of holistic education.
- The integration of traditional, cultural teachings in a supportive learning environment will provide students with strengths and skills to meet the challenges of life.

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2020-2021

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Before you send your child to School

- Caregivers must pre-screen their child/children to ensure they are not exhibiting any COVID-19 symptoms.
- Any student who is showing any symptoms (including runny nose, sneezing,
- coughing, etc.) must stay home.
- See this link for the screening tool:
- <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/screening-tool/>

When arriving at School

- All students will be lining Up Outside
- All students will meet their teachers in designated, physically distanced spots outside. 1-3/4 students will line up on the hardtop by the bike cage and 4-6 students on the hard to near the parking lot, N/K and 7/8 will line up by the front doors
- Second Screening
- All students will undergo a second health screening before entering the school. It is imperative that children are healthy and symptom free. Any student who displays any symptoms will have to go home.
- Separate Entrances
- 1-3/4 students will enter through the doors near the bike cage and 4-6 students will enter through the back parking lot doors. N/K and grade 7/8 will enter through the front doors. Songide'ewin will enter and exit through the fire escape doors. LAC will enter through the back parking lot doors.

Classroom set up and Cohorts

Classrooms

- All desks will be placed 1 meter apart
- Students will remain with their classmates throughout the day
- Support teachers/ EA's will assist in the classroom

Cohorts

- Cohorts are groups of students (less than 75) that will stay together during recess and lunch.
- Group A
- Group B

Bussing

- At this time, parents are being asked to drive or walk their child to and from school, if possible.
- We are still waiting for confirmation about students who will be bussed
- Students in grades 4 - 6 will be expected to wear masks on the bus.
- Students displaying any symptoms will not be allowed on the bus.
- Students will follow arrival procedures once at school.

Recess and Lunch / Nutrition

Recess

- Snack will still be provided, following appropriate guidelines
- Group A 10:35 – 10:45
- Group B 10:45-10:55
- Group A 2:05-2:15
- Group B 2:15- 2:25

Lunch

- Students will bring a bagged lunch that does not require heating.
- All students will eat lunch in their classroom.
- Students will be reminded not to share any food.
- Students will wash their hands before and after.
- Classrooms will be cleaned before classes resume.

11:55-12:25 Group B

12:25-12:55 Group A

Appointments

- If your child is being picked up early, please call ahead so that we can have your child ready to go. Your child will be walked out to meet you through the appropriate door
- Please call the school ahead if a lunch needs to be dropped off and we will have someone waiting at the front door
- Parents can call the school to book an appointment to meet with a staff member should a concern arise. Masks and hand sanitizing will be mandatory.

Culture and Language

Pipe Ceremonies

- Pipe ceremonies will be conducted outside (weather permitting)
- Social distancing practices will be used as well as hand sanitizer.
- All food will be prepackaged

Ojibwe /Cree

- Ojibwe and Cree classes will take place in their homeroom classroom.

Practical Arts and Shops

- Shops for Niji Mahkwa Students will take place in our school.
- All students will wear shields or masks.
- Washing stations will be available.
- Shops for feeder schools will take place at their home schools.
- Safe health practices will be followed

Dismissal

- Students will be walked out of the school by their teacher and support staff, keeping social distancing measures in place.
- Parents will pick up students at their child's exit doors
- Grade 1-3/4 Will be at the bike cage doors
- Grades 4-6 will be at the parking lot doors
- N/K grade 7/8 will be at the front doors

Physical Education

- The majority of Phys Ed. Classes will take place outdoors (weather permitting)
- Social distance measures will take place should the class be in the gym
- All equipment and room will be sanitized daily and after each class
- Extra curricular sports will be suspended until further notice
- Please ensure your child is dressed for the weather, including a hat and water bottle for heat and appropriate winter clothing for cold months.

What Happens if your child becomes ill at school?

- If a student becomes ill at school they must go home immediately.
- The student will be isolated while being monitored by a staff member.
- Parents/Guardians will be called to pick up their child immediately. Children must be picked up as soon as possible.
- Once you arrive, please phone the school and a staff member will walk the child out to meet you.
- If a COVID-19 case is known we will follow directive from Manitoba Public Health Authorities.

The 7 Teachings and Student Wellbeing

- Our clinicians have partnered with staff to support students in their return to school and will be available to support families.
- Staff will focus on supporting students who are experiencing challenges and emotional uncertainty during this pandemic. Our cultural teacher will provide traditional practices to assist students and families as well as our community support worker
- The 7 Teachings and values of Love Respect Humility Honesty Courage Wisdom Truth will be used to guide students in their learning and wellbeing.

Masks and Water bottles

Masks

- Masks are **mandatory** for students in Grades 4-8, as well as grades 9-12 and on the school bus. Masks are strongly recommended in all other grades.

Water Bottles

- Pack a water bottle for your child.
- Water fountains will **not** be operating at this time.

School Supplies

- All teachers will be collecting 25 dollars for school supplies
- Receipts will be available
- Masks, Phys. ed. Clothing and indoor running shoes will be the responsibility of the parent or guardian

Movement Throughout The School

- We will be limiting traffic in the hallways
- Regular cleaning will take place, including door handles and rails.
- Signage and reminders to clean and wash hands will be posted
- Signage for physical distancing, and direction will be highly visible throughout the school

Miigwech Ekosani Thank you

For questions or concerns please contact the school at

204 589-6742

