



It is our mission to develop skills, nurture personal growth, and encourage life long learning in a supportive and respectful environment.

Principal: Mr. Brendan Bogle
Vice-Principal: Mrs. Stacie Deeley

Secretary: Mrs. Diana Skillen

Dear Tumbler Ridge families,

First, let us say how excited we are to be part of the team at Tumbler Ridge Secondary this year and how much we are looking forward to working with the students and families here. As we enter a new school year like any other, we are all facing uncertainty and the challenge of a constantly evolving situation. Our foremost concern, as always, is providing a safe, positive learning environment for your children. To that end, school will look different this September than it ever has in previous years, and even than it did in June. To help families familiarize themselves with the changes students will see in the classroom and elsewhere in the school, this document provides details of the startup plan.

Because of our relatively small student population at TRSS, we were able to organize a plan without significantly modifying our timetable or course offerings. We hope that this will provide students and parents with some stability and reassurance that their educational goals will still be able to be met during this time. Below is a summary of our plan and protocols:

Cohorts and Schedule

Cohort Composition

Grade 7/8 students have been organized into a cohort of 70 students and 3 teachers.
Grade 9-12 students have been organized into a cohort of 111 students and 5 teachers.
These numbers may change as numbers fluctuate, but cohorts will always be kept below the 120-person maximum.

Schedule

We will remain on the semester timetable that was used in previous years, with grade 9-12 students taking 4 classes per day and switching courses halfway through the year. Grade 7/8 students operate on a slightly different schedule, with some full year classes and some semester, but will still take 4 classes per day.

To ensure physical distancing as much as possible the two cohorts will have different schedules with staggered lunch and break times. The day will begin at 8:35 and end at 3:00 for both groups. Grade 9-12 students will have lunch from 11:30-12:10 and grade 7 and 8 students will have lunch from 12:05-12:45. Students will be provided with a timetable outlining their classes and break times.

Protocols Within Cohorts

Distancing

Students within the same cohort must minimize physical contact (avoid unnecessary touching, high fives, hugs, etc.) but do not have to maintain physical distancing (i.e. the 2-metre distance we use in the grocery store and post office) within their own cohort. In the rare event that students must interact with students from outside their cohort during the school day, they will be required to maintain 2-metre physical distance.

Entry and Exit

Cohorts will have their own dedicated door to enter and exit the building from and will be required to use only those except in cases of emergency. Grade 9-12 students will enter through the main entrance next to the office, while students in grade 7 and 8 will enter through the entrance near the flagpole to the right of the main entrance.

In the interest of maintaining separation between the cohorts and distancing whenever possible, we are asking that students arrive no earlier than 8:20, proceed directly to their designated entrance, then directly to their first block classroom. Supervision will not be provided within the school before that time. All students will be required to sanitize their hands upon entry and proceed immediately to their first block class.

Health and Safety Protocols

General

Protocols developed for the return of students in June will be maintained, including regular handwashing, hand sanitizing stations at entrances, and distancing within hallways, the office, and other common areas. In accordance with provincial regulations, students and staff will be required to wear masks in the hallways and other common areas where physical distancing is not possible. Masks do not need to be worn within the learning cohorts (e.g. in the classroom) but can be if the student or staff member wishes. Two reusable masks will be provided by the district.

Lockers

At this time, lockers will not be provided to students in the interest of limiting traffic in the hallways and reducing the number of high-touch surfaces in the building.

Students Exhibiting Symptoms

If a student exhibits symptoms of COVID-19 that are not related to existing health conditions or seasonal allergies, parents will be contacted to bring the student home. While waiting for the parent to arrive, the student will be provided with a disposable mask and supervised by a staff member away from the rest of their cohort. Children who exhibit symptoms will be expected to stay home until they have been assessed by a healthcare provider to exclude COVID-19 or other infectious diseases AND their symptoms have resolved.

As outlined in the Ministry of Education and School District 59 protocols, parents are asked to keep their children home when they are sick and conduct daily screenings for symptoms before sending their children to school. TRSS staff will not conduct daily screenings, monitor for symptoms or check temperatures. These activities are reserved for healthcare professionals.

Other Considerations

- Students are asked to bring a water bottle to school, preferably with their name on it. Water fountains will not be available, but students will be able to fill their bottles from the dispenser on the main floor.
- Because lockers will not be available, students are asked to be conservative in what they bring to school. Consider using one binder with dividers for multiple subjects, bringing a relatively compact lunch, and leaving non-essential personal items at home.
- Students will be encouraged to eat lunch and snacks at their workspaces (where the space is appropriate) in the classroom and then clean up their spaces afterward. Students will also be able to eat lunch at the tables in the main lobby downstairs and will be asked to clean their space afterward. Students are also discouraged from leaving school for lunch. In the event they do leave, they will be required to follow all health and safety protocols including hand sanitizing upon return.

Plan for the Week of September 7-11

Staff will return on Tuesday, September 8 and Wednesday, September 9 in order to set up their learning spaces, familiarize themselves with school and district protocols, and prepare to welcome students back to school.

On September 10, students will return to school. As in previous years, this will be a shortened day which will begin at 10:35 and end at 2:00. This day will be focused primarily on providing students with an orientation to the health and safety protocols within the classroom and common areas, the procedures surrounding arrival and departure from schools, and protocols and etiquette around hallways, washroom use, lunch and other breaks.

On the first day, students will be met at the door by a staff member, reminded to sanitize their hands, provided with their schedule, and be directed to their first block class. Additionally, students in grade 7 will be given an orientation to the school including how to read their schedule, where to find their classrooms, the office, library, and washrooms, and an introduction to school staff members.

On Friday, September 11, students will return to school for a full day of instruction.

Please let us know if you have any questions about this. We look forward to welcoming students back next week for the start of a no doubt fun and successful year.

Sincerely,

Brendan Bogle
Principal
Tumbler Ridge Secondary School

Stacie Deeley
Vice Principal
Tumbler Ridge Secondary School