

Principal's Report to School Council

November 18, 2020

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Conferences are well underway this week. Reports so far are that the conferences are going pretty well. I am open to parental feedback on the format of the conferences this semester, more specifically: how well did Zoom work as a platform? Thoughts about the flexibility provided to teachers to schedule the conferences at a variety of times throughout the week? Other thoughts? Parents can email me at dlonsberry@rockyview.ab.ca with feedback.

Changes to Lunch

As cases in the province continue to surge we are making changes to the way we manage out lunch time. To this point in the year, we have designated particular areas of the school for particular grades. Most students comply pretty well with those expectations, but we continued to see larger groups of students coming together in hallways, with one or two of them having their masks down to eat or drink. We will shortly be asking students to sign up on-line to be in any one of a number of different spaces for the week. Changing locations each day introduces more varied combinations of students and so the tracking becomes almost impossible. Some of the spaces will be just hangout spaces, while others will have activities. More information about each space will be provided to students when they are asked to sign up for any particular week.

We are making this change because we need to better manage the groups that are coming together and we also need to have a better understanding of where students are and who they are with. I completely understand that some students are not going to be very pleased when they are told to sign up for a particular space for the week and to stick to it. Again, with the situation as it is outside of the walls of the school, and knowing that those circumstances are likely to be reflected within our school at some point, we need to improve how we are managing and tracking student movement throughout the school, including at lunch time. Students will eat their lunch in the space that they have signed up for.

Lockers

RVS has invited schools to submit a plan for how students can access lockers. At this point, there is still some work that must be done before we can allow access to lockers. We will be asking students to inform us whether they would be interested in having access to a locker IF we are authorized at some point to provide it to students. Our first step is to gauge the level of interest, assuming that some grade 11 and 12 students in particular don't have any interest in having a locker. From there we will look at how we can best spread students out who want access to a locker, including how we might stagger access to lockers. One important consideration for students is that access to the lockers should be minimal throughout the day. Students could store coats, boots, and other non-instructional items in their lockers so that they only needed to access the lockers at the start of the day, at lunch and then again at the end of the day, versus going back between each class.

On-Line or In-School Learning for Semester 2

In early December, parents and guardians can expect to be asked whether their child(ren) will continue with learning either in-school or on-line, or whether they want to switch for semester 2. This timeline will give RVS and individual schools much more time to plan around any changes that need to happen if large numbers of students want to make a change. Families should have received a letter from our superintendent explaining the process and timeline.

Grade 9 Immunizations

Grade 9 immunizations are planned for January 20 (and possibly January 21 if required). Nurses will come to the school to administer the immunizations, as per the typical process for school-based immunizations. At-home learners will need to arrange for the vaccinations through a community clinic. Further information will be provided as we get closer to the date.