



Mission: To provide a creative and caring environment in which each student achieves optimal learning.

Vision: Together we embrace UNESCO values and learn in respectful, positive ways.

Values

Honesty	Integrity	Respect
	Reason	Responsibility

Our 2020-21 Journey of Learning has begun! Thank you to our Griffins and their families for their cooperation, patience and enthusiasm as we all adjust to new routines and daily practices. Our students have been awesome and we are so excited to have them back at school with us! We would like to welcome all of our new students and families to GSS. We are happy to have you with us.

We are following the WRPS School Re-entry Plan which was previously emailed to you. It's also located on our GSS website at <https://www.griffithsscott.ca/>.

Thank you to all parents for completing the **COVID-19 Screening Questionnaire** each day with your children before they leave for school or get on the bus. If your child is experiencing symptoms in the morning please keep them home for the entire day.

If your child is not feeling well at school we will be following the steps outlined in the WRPS Re-Entry Plan. We will contact you to come and pick your child up.

Your child must be symptom free before they return to school. You will have two tools to use to determine when your child can return to school. The first is the **daily COVID-19 Screening questionnaire** at <https://www.alberta.ca/assets/documents/edc-covid-19-screening-questionnaire-english.pdf> and the second is the **AHS Online Self-Assessment tool** at <https://myhealth.alberta.ca/journey/covid-19/Pages/COVID-Self-Assessment.aspx>

Please refer to pages 6 and 14 of the WRPS Re-Entry Plan for more information.

Our students are learning the importance of regular hand washing and the use of hand sanitizer which is provided by WRPS. Everyone must perform hand hygiene (hand sanitizer) when entering and exiting the school and classrooms. Hand hygiene is also required many times throughout the day.

All students have received two reusable masks which were provided by the province. Masks are mandatory for all students on the bus. Masks are mandatory for students in grades 4 - 8 in all settings where physical distancing cannot be maintained. This includes wearing them in shared spaces such as hallways and washrooms plus at recess if students are not at least 2 metres away from each other. Teachers have arranged their classrooms to provide as much space as possible between desks / tables. The desks are arranged so that students are not facing each other. When students are seated at tables (instead of desks) we have portable plastic dividers to provide a barrier between students.

All classes have a designated meeting spot outside near their entrance. For this week, teachers will be meeting their classes outside in the morning and dismissing students at the end of the day from their spot. We are limiting the number of students to enter the boot room at one time so it does take some extra time for classes to enter and exit the school. Please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for all types of weather as they may be outside for a bit longer than usual while waiting their turn to enter and they will be going outside for all recesses. Buses will be unloading at 8:22 each morning. Town students are welcome to arrive between 8:25 and 8:30. When all students arrive they need to go directly to their class' meeting spot. Students will enter (and exit) the school in their small groups as directed by staff. We will be directing students to enter the school in their small groups starting at 8:25 - 8:30 knowing that it takes longer to get everyone in with staggered entry. Our bell rings at 8:35 to start the school day. The dismissal bell is at 3:35. Students will exit the school as directed by their teacher in staggered times. When bus students are dismissed they must go directly to their bus as soon as it arrives. Tracey and Ray's buses may depart before Steve's bus arrives so it is important that all students go directly to their bus.

Each class is their own cohort and they spend the day together as a cohort including lunch and all recesses. We have divided our school grounds into five separate recess zones. Each class is assigned to one recess zone for the day and has one staff supervisor for each recess. The classes will rotate through the zones during our five day schedule. Our Kindergarten class will have all of their recess breaks in the playground equipment zone on their days as they learn all about being safe at recess. The students are very creative about inventing games to play and ways to have fun!

We have staggered our recess and lunch breaks so that there are only four or five classes outside at one time. The grade 1, 3, 4, 6 and 8 classes have their noon recess break first at 12:05 to 12:35 and then return inside to eat at 12:35. Kindergarten, grade 2, 3-4, 5 and 7 classes will eat at 12:15 -12:35 and then go outside for recess at 12:35. Our morning and afternoon recess breaks are also staggered to limit the number of students outside at one time and as they enter / exit the school.

We are using student lockers but they are staggered so that students are not close to each other when they are at their locker. At this time our change rooms are closed in the gym.

The grades 7 and 8 schedule has changed for this year to limit the mixing of students and staff members multiple times during the day. The grade 7 students have Math and Social Studies on Days 1 and 3 with Mr. Whitton. The grade 8 students have Language Arts and Science on Days 1 and 3 with Mrs. Killen. Then on Days 2 and 4, the grade 7 students spend their day with Mrs. Killen for LA and Science. The Grade 8 class is with Mr. Whitton on Days 2 and 4 for Math and Social Studies. They will alternate their Day 5 schedules.

The Junior High Complementary courses will also be done in the separate grade 7 and 8 classes. All grade 7 students will take the same complementary course with Mr. Whitton on their days with him. Then the grade 7 class will all take the same complementary course with Mrs. Killen on their days with her. The grade 8 class will also follow this type of schedule. Students will not be choosing their complementary courses at this time. For Term One, Foods and Woodshop are not included in the complementary courses. All of the grade 7 and 8 students will have one Music class / week with Mr. Tindall for Term One along with their complementary courses with Mr. Whitton and Mrs. Killen. The Music class will be taught to all Grade 7's on Wednesdays and to all Grade 8's on Fridays.

Please do not send toys or other items from home with your children to school as students cannot be sharing personal property with others. This includes cell phones or devices. Students in grades K - 6 are not allowed to use cell phones or devices at school. At this time grade 7 and 8 students may bring cellphones to school but they must remain in their lockers during class time and they can only use them at recess. However, they are not allowed to share phones or touch anyone else's phone or device. The Responsible Use of Technology Agreement is in place at all times at school. Please note that students are not allowed to take any photos at school. Students who do not follow the rules for cell phone use will lose the privilege of bringing their phone to school. We encourage all students to be active during their recess breaks including our grade 7 and 8 students. That is much more likely to happen when they leave their phones at home!

Every student should bring a clean, filled, water bottle from home each day. Fewer trips to the sink / filling station will limit the number of students needing to be in the hallways.

Please send healthy snacks and lunch with your child each day. There are no microwaves available for student use. All students eat lunch with their class cohort in their classroom with their teacher supervising. Students are not permitted to share food under provincial health guidelines. Our nutrition program has not yet started and we do not have our snack bowls out for student use. Students must bring their own cutlery. We are not providing plastic cutlery.

Students may go home to eat with parent permission. Junior High students are not allowed to leave the school grounds at noon, unless they are going straight to and from their own home for lunch. All students must inform the office staff when they go home for lunch and when they return.

For the safety of students and staff, parents, visitors and other service providers should only enter the school if absolutely necessary. If you need to drop something off please contact the office. We have a bin outside where items can be placed or an office staff member will meet you outside. All visitors must make an appointment before coming into the school. All visitors who have an appointment must wear a mask and complete the self-screening tool before they enter the school.

We will be having our Parent Advisory Committee annual meeting in October. It will be an online meeting and the date and time will be set later this month. The link will be shared with all parents prior to the meeting. Everyone is welcome to become involved with our Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) and our fundraising society, Helpers at Griffiths Scott School (HAGSS).

All parents received an email from Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools (WRPS) this week about setting up your Parent Portal in PowerSchool. PowerSchool is our student information system and reporting system for student learning. Later in the year you will be able to see your students' marks online in PowerSchool. You can contact the school office to get your child's Access ID and Access Password to set up your account.

It has been a great start and we are looking forward to continuing our Journey of Learning with parents and families as our partners! Please contact the school by phone (780-387-4101), text or call at (780-216-1474), or email. I have attached a list of school staff on the next page for your information.

Enjoy this beautiful sunshine!

susan.coleman@wrps11.ca

Mrs. Coleman

charlene.saunders@wrps11.ca

Ms. Saunders

Griffiths-Scott School Staff
2020-21

Principal	Mrs. Coleman
Vice-Principal / PE	Ms. Saunders
Kindergarten	Mrs. Kirk
Grade 1	Mrs. Grekul
Grade 2	Mrs. Heck
Grade 3	Mrs. Harden
Grade 3-4	Ms. Nicol
Grade 4	Mrs. Mandseth
Grade 5	Ms. Snowden
Grade 6 / Jr. High Options	Mr. Granger
Jr. High Math / Social Studies/ Options	Mr. Whitton
Jr. High LA / Science / Options	Mrs. Killen
Inclusive Learning / Literacy	Mrs. Becker
Band	Mr. Tindall
Educational Assistant	Mrs. Wait
Educational Assistant	Mrs. Schmidt
Educational Assistant	Mrs. Kadyk
Early Intervention Ed. Assistant	Mrs. J. Johnston
Family School Liaison Worker	Mrs. Leeuw
Admin Assistant	Mrs. Buhler
Admin Assistant / Librarian	Mrs. S. Johnston
Custodian	Tara Thulin
Custodian	Tammy Hoyle