

Thursday, February 2, 2023

Dear Vincent Massey families and students,

We hope this communication finds you well as we end our first semester. As you know, there are no classes on Fri. Feb. 3 and Mon. Feb. 6. We are excited to welcome all students back for second semester starting Tue. Feb. 7!

The purpose of this communication is to share with you our semester 2 entry plan and we ask that you please discuss this with your child. We will be holding grade level assemblies during the morning of Feb. 7 to explain changes.

Over the course of what has been a very successful semester, as a staff, we are delighted that school is returning to normal and we are proud of our students. In saying that... school is returning to normal and we are finding ourselves having to adjust and tighten-up in a few areas based on feedback we have received from staff, students and parents over the fall term.

We hope you understand that this is a team effort and that students will have adults remind them of expectations and consequences as we return-back to long-standing practices. Thank you for your consideration and best wishes for a successful start to second semester.

On behalf of Massey's admin team and staff,



Iain Riffel, Directeur/Principal; Sarah Millar, Vice-Principal; and, Cheryl Smith, Vice-Principal

Attendance

As we shared with students at the beginning of the year:

Attending class not only leads to greater success... It is a requirement!

- ☐ **Be responsible...** have your parents communicate your legitimate absence by phoning the office or through Edsby.
- ☐ **Contact your teacher** through Edsby and follow-up in-person about your plan to catch up.
- ☐ **See a counsellor** if regular attendance becomes an issue and before it becomes a problem.

Poor attendance will result in loss of credit!

Attendance

In addition to attendance that can be viewed on Edsby and the automated phone-calls, our staff will now be communicating when your child reaches a threshold of having too many absences after a certain number of school days. Staff will be sending you a communication (through Edsby) after 20, 40, and 60 days of school if a student accumulates 5, 10, or 15 absences in these intervals. Case-managers (i.e. Counsellors and Resource Teachers) and Administration will be added to these communications should the pattern of non-attendance continue. This process is intended to account for the total number of absences a student may accumulate and address 'skipping' classes, which of course, is not allowed.

As parents/guardians, it is very important for you to pro-actively report your child's absence through Edsby or by calling the office. Also, be advised that you should contact your child's administration grade level link if you are extending vacations for long-weekends, Winter Break, Spring Break and Summer Break or throughout the year. Please do so before booking as consequences may be applied.

Please note that there may come a point that whether a student's mark is passing or not, that they may be deemed ineligible to earn the credit. Please understand that in addition to the successful achievement of curricular outcomes, we are also expected to issue credits based on instructional time. Upon a final notification about an attendance concern, the parent/guardian and student could choose to withdraw or audit the course (which means attending the class and not earning credit). Auditing a course would position them for greater success if they decide to re-take the course next year.

Bells

School starts at 8:30 a.m. and classes are released at 3:30 p.m. While we have not changed the times of our school’s daily periods, we are adding a bell 5 minutes before the end of periods 1, 2 and 4 to allow for a 5 minute transition between these classes. If students enter their next class after the bell, they will be marked late. Please note that if students are more than 35 minutes late or their accumulated time “out-of-class” in that period exceeds 35 minutes, they will be marked absent. This information is intended to provide you with the opportunity to discuss circumstances and time-management skills with your child.

Daily announcements will take place at the beginning of period 3 and be posted on our hallway TV monitors.

Bench-gathering and Hallway-walking

Benches at the cafeteria doors and main entrance doors are not for use when classes are in session between 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. (periods 1-5). The Cafeteria is intended for social purposes and the Library is dedicated for academic purposes. This was shared with students at the beginning of the year.

Washrooms

To address concerns around photo-taking, vaping, vandalism as well as students using this to extend their time-out of class, teachers will only release students from their class to use the washroom, one at a time. In addition to vandalism and vaping, students must understand that the use of cameras while in the washroom will result in a suspension and may be referred to the Winnipeg Police.

Divisional “Fair Notice” Documents

Each year, parents/guardians and students sign-off on having read Divisional “fair notice” documents including: Student Threat Assessment and Technology Acceptable Use. Parents/guardians and students who are new to Pembina Trails/Vincent Massey also sign-off as having read our [<Divisional Standard of Behaviour>](#) brochure.

There are three additional “fair notice” documents that we regularly share as High School Administrators to pro-actively advise parents/guardians and students about higher-stake consequences. Each of these can be found as attachments on [<our school’s Standard of Behaviour website>](#) and are attached to this communication. Specifically addressed are: Hazing, Prank Day, and Vaping.

While hazing and prank day have not been issues at Massey in recent years, it is still important that Gr. 12 students respect and understand the first and second attachment because consequences will affect their participation in convocation and graduation exercises at the end of the year. The third attachment about vaping was released to all parents/guardians and students earlier this year.

On the calendar

Semester 1 report cards will be posted online on Thursday, February 9th. Please use your divisional login and password when reviewing these at: <https://ptsdscheduler.pembinatrails.ca/>

The last day to make semester 2 course changes is Friday, February 10th. If you were unable to make an appointment with your counsellor over this past week, please line up at the main entrance during one of your spares (first-come, first serve) to see a counsellor.

Tue. Feb. 14	2023/24 Registration packages will be distributed to Gr. 9 – 11 students by their Homeroom Teacher. There will be an assembly for Gr. 12 students about convocation, graduation, and scholarships. A condensed schedule for that morning will be shared.
Thu. Feb. 16	Our annual Open House will take place 7:00 p.m. in the gym with special presentations starting at 6:00 p.m. Students who wish to explore new opportunities for next year or wish volunteer are welcome.
Mon. Feb. 20	Louis Riel Day – No school
Fri. Feb. 24	2023/24 Registrations are to be returned to the office with courses selected online.