



Thorsby Junior Senior High School
2020-2021 Re-Entry Plan
Information for Parents & Guardians



Revised January 8, 2021

Welcome Back to Thorsby Junior Senior High School!

Parents and Guardians,

The staff at Thorsby Junior Senior High School would like to officially welcome our school community back to in person classes. We know that the decision of whether to return to live classes or continue with virtual learning was difficult and we are excited to have everyone back at the school. We will be doing our very best at Thorsby Junior Senior High to ensure a healthy, safe, and caring learning environment for all of our students. The staff and students at TJSHS will be following the guidelines set out in the Black Gold School Division Re-Entry Plan, as well as following all advisories from Alberta Health Services. Protocols specific to TJSHS are outlined below.

Please read and follow the re-entry plan that is in place for our school. The changes being implemented are for the safety and well-being of the whole school community.

Beyond educating your child, we will continue to follow our core values of being **Safe, Accountable, Bold, Respectful, Engaged and Student centered** each day. The staff is very excited that the students will be returning and we look forward to our new adventures in the 2020-2021 school year.

Yours in Education,

THS Staff

About COVID-19

For more information regarding COVID-19 from Alberta Health Services, please visit [novel coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Information for Albertans](#). Here you will find information regarding symptoms, prevention, good hygiene, as well as links to additional Alberta Health Services information.

Re-entry Information for TJSHS Parents and Students

Following the provincial government's direction, Black Gold School Division (BGSD) and Thorsby Junior Senior High School is implementing the Guidance for School Re-entry - Scenario 1 from Alberta Education and Dr. Hinshaw, the Chief Medical Officer of Health, for September 2020.

In September, TJSHS teachers will initially focus on the social and emotional needs of students and administer screening tools to identify gaps in student learning. Supporting students to be ready to learn is an important first step in our school re-entry. These will be done in a variety of ways.

The screening tools teachers will be administering are the Mathematics Intervention Programming Instrument (MIPI), and Highest Level Achievement Test (HLAT) during the beginning of the year. These results, along with a variety of anecdotal evidence will identify any gaps from the previous year. Once teachers have identified gaps in student learning, they can plan their instruction to address these gaps prior to moving forward.

This document details the conditions and protocols which will be in place for Thorsby Junior Senior High School for the upcoming 2020-2021 school year. Administration realizes that this plan **MUST** be a flexible one, and as our situation changes, so does our plan. This is in compliance with AHS guidelines, as well as the Black Gold School Division plan.



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TJSHS Entry Protocols

Daily Health Check	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Before leaving home, staff, children/students, visitors, and volunteers who will access the school for work or education, must self-screen for symptoms each day before they leave for school using the Alberta Health Daily Checklist
Stay at Home when Sick	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Stay at home if exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 that are not related to a pre-existing illness/health condition. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If your student has a pre-existing illness/condition please make sure to provide documentation to the office if you have not yet done so. A record of this must be kept. ○ Students with pre-existing illnesses/conditions should be tested for COVID-19 at least once prior to returning to school to ensure this is not the source of the symptoms
Responding to Illness at School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No one should enter the school if he or she has any possible symptoms of COVID-19. ● If a child/student develops symptoms while at the school, the child/student will wear a non-medical mask if they are able to (provided by the school), and be isolated in a separate room. The parent/guardian will be notified to come and pick up the student immediately. If a separate room is not available, the child/student will be kept at least 2 metres away from other children/students. The parent/guardian/student will be asked to access COVID-19 testing by accessing the AHS Online Self-Assessment Tool. ● If the child/student requires close contact and care, staff can continue to care for the child/student until the parent is able to pick-up the student. The student and staff will wear a mask and close interactions with the student that may result in contact with the student's respiratory secretions will be avoided. ● All items the student touched/used while isolated must be cleaned and disinfected as soon as the child/student has been picked up. Items that cannot be cleaned and disinfected (e.g. paper, books) will be removed from the classroom and stored in a sealed container for a minimum of 10 days. ● The zone medical officer of health will work with school authorities to quickly: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identify cases ○ Identify close contacts ○ Create isolation measures when needed ○ Provide follow-up recommendations ● Parents will be notified if a case of COVID-19 is confirmed at school and public health officials will contact those who were in close contact with the person.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any school authority/school connected to a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19 will be contacted by AHS and may be required to close in-person classes to allow the public health investigation to take place. The decision to send a cohort/class home or to cancel classes will be made in consultation with the local Minister of Health. For more information about protocols around illness in school, please refer to the BGSD 2020-2021 School Re-entry Plan Updated August 25,2020
Staggered Entry Days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staggered entry days will be considered the first day of class. Students should have supplies and be prepared for instruction. Sept. 8, 2020: Grade 9 and Grade 12 Sept. 9, 2020: Grade 8 and Grade 11 Sept. 10, 2020: Grade 7 and Grade 10 Sept. 11, 2020: All Students Grades 7 to 12
Buses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children/students should not board the bus if they have symptoms of COVID-19. Be sure that the self-screening tool has been used each day prior to leaving for the bus. Students in Grades 4 - 12 are required to wear a non-medical face mask when on the bus and at the transfer site. Bus Drivers will use a face mask and a face shield when loading or unloading students from the bus. Bus Drivers will remove their face covering when the bus is in motion for maximum visibility. When wearing a face mask, care should be taken to ensure the mask is used correctly and safely. Students should be wearing their face mask at the bus stop or anytime they are waiting to board the bus. As much as practical, children/students will start boarding from the back seats to the front of the bus. As much as practical, students start disembarking from the front seats to the back of the bus. Students will be assigned seats and students who live in the same household will be seated together. Drivers will increase the frequency of cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch surfaces, such as door handles, window areas, rails, steering wheel, mobile devices and GPS at the end of each morning and evening run. A vehicle cleaning log will be kept by each driver. All children/students must perform hand hygiene (hand sanitizer) when entering the bus. Hand sanitizer will be available. No sharing of personal items (water bottles, etc.) or eating on the school bus. A child who becomes symptomatic during the bus trip should notify the driver and continue to wear their mask.. The driver will



	<p>contact the school to make the appropriate arrangements to pick up the child/student.</p>
Students Driving to School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students should only have people from their household in the vehicle with them. • Students are asked to arrive at school no earlier than 8:15 am and go directly to their classroom to minimize contact outside of their cohort. Please do not congregate in the parking lot. • Students should maintain 2 metres physical distance between all people (except household members) in an area determined by the school (field/paved play area, etc.).
Arrival/Drop off Procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students should not arrive at the school prior to 8:15 am. • Students should enter the school through their designated entrance immediately upon arrival and proceed to their classroom. • Parents dropping off students need to use the student drop off area directly in front of the school or park away from the school. **The drop off area is NOT for parking. It is drop off only.
Entrances for Students, Staff and Visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Junior High School students (grades 7-9) will be entering and exiting through the main (front) doors. • Senior High School students (grades 10-12) will be entering and exiting through the parking lot doors. • Late Arrivals (after classes are in the school) will be required to enter through the main doors and follow office protocols when checking in. • Staff Members are entering and exiting through the parking lot doors. • Visitors to the school are to enter and exit through the main doors and report immediately to the office, following office protocols when checking in.
Hand Hygiene and Safe Practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone must perform hand hygiene (hand sanitizer) when entering and exiting the school. • Posters promoting hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, physical distancing etc., posted in visible locations.
After School Procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents should not arrive prior to 3:00 pm to pick up their child(ren). • Please be sure that your child knows every day whether they are riding the bus, being picked up, or if there are other plans for after school. Because we will be staggering the dismissal of students, the office staff cannot guarantee students will receive messages at the end of the day. • Starting at 3:00 pm, bus students will be dismissed in order of the bus line-up to reduce the number of students leaving the school at any one time (this will be practiced on staggered entry days). • Students who have driven to school will be released at 3:08 and should continue to physically distance while leaving the school.



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Office Protocols	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical distancing is in effect in the office as indicated by floor stickers and posters. A plexi-glass divider will be in use at the front desk. A Hand sanitizer station is at the office door Late arrivals: please use the main door and observe physical distancing protocols. While checking in at the office.
Parents/Guardians	<p>As outlined in the Black Gold School Division Re-Entry Plan, parents/guardians and caregivers must remain outside the school to pick up and drop off their children. If it is absolutely necessary for a parent/guardian/caregiver to enter the school they should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not be experiencing any symptoms as outlined by AHS (click the link for details) https://www.alberta.ca/covid-19-TJSHSting-in-alberta.aspx Sanitize hands when entering and exiting the school. Proceed directly to the office and follow the signage posted on the floors. Follow the directions of office staff and exit the building when their business is completed. Parents/guardians/caregivers are not allowed past the office area without permission from office staff.
General Protocols	
Physical Distancing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Everyone in the school shall maintain 2 metres physical distancing whenever possible. Where physical distancing is not possible, extra emphasis on cohorting, hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, and cleaning and disinfecting on a regular basis (before and after activities) will be implemented. It is important that students and staff stay home if they have any symptoms of COVID-19 that are not related to a pre-existing condition.
Cohorts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cohorting limits exposure to others and aids in contact tracing if needed. Each class will be considered a cohort and efforts to maintain physical distancing even within a cohort will minimize the risk for disease transmission. Every effort will be made to limit the number of cohorts that each student is part of. When interacting with people outside the cohort, maintain physical distancing of 2 metres.
Hallways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water fountains are fully operational. However, students are asked to bring their own water bottle. Signs will be posted and floor stickers will indicate direction of travel. “Stay to the right” will be the preferred method of movement in the hallways. Appropriate distancing will be encouraged when walking the



	halls either independently or as a group.
Washrooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signs will be posted regarding protocols. • Students will utilize assigned washrooms. Maximum 3 students in the washroom at a time. • Students will be asked to return to class if the washroom has 3 occupants and 3 students waiting outside. • Floor stickers will indicate where to wait outside of the washroom. • Please notify your child's teacher if there are any medical/physical conditions that might make waiting to use the washroom problematic.
Mask Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The wearing of masks is a medical decision not an educational one. • Non-medical face mask use is mandatory for students in Grades 7-12 and all staff in settings where physical distancing cannot be maintained. • Non-medical masks are not required while students are seated in the classroom during instruction if following the physical distancing guidelines. If close contact between students, or students and teachers/staff is occurring as a result of classroom activities or due to class size non-medical masks should be used for the duration of this activity. • All teachers, staff and students in Grades 7-12 are required to wear face masks in all shared and common areas such as hallways and on buses. • Masks will not be required during outdoor activities provided social distance can be maintained. • Should students forget their mask, a small number of disposable masks will be available at the office • We recommend having a second clean mask packed with your child in case their mask becomes moist or soiled during the day. • Masks are required for this group as there is increasing evidence that older students may be more likely to transmit COVID-19 than younger students, and are at a higher risk of significant disease than younger students. • When non-medical face masks are used, hands should be cleaned before and after putting it on and taking it off. Avoid touching the mask once it is on. Masks should be changed after they become wet or soiled. • After removing a reusable non-medical face mask that will be reworn prior to washing, it should be placed into a clean, breathable bag or container (allows for evaporation) for storage. Consider using a bag that can be washed. All masks should have two distinct sides, one side that touches the face and one that faces outwards. • Do not reuse masks that are wet or soiled prior to laundering. A wet or soiled mask that requires laundering should be placed into a sealed bag or container where it is stored until it can be taken home and washed



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disposable masks that are damaged or dirty should be discarded into a garbage bin that is lined with a plastic bag. • A very small number of individuals may not be able to wear masks due to sensory or health issues. Face shields are not considered to be equivalent to non-medical face masks. It is important to comply with other personal preventative practices such as frequent hand hygiene and physical distancing as much as possible. • Additional guidance on non-medical face masks is available here • Exemptions to mask requirement for all teachers and staff in all school settings and students in grades 7-12 include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Persons who are unable to place, use or remove a non-medical face mask without assistance; ○ Persons unable to wear a non-medical face mask due to a mental or physical concern or limitation; ○ Persons consuming food or drink in designated areas; ○ Persons engaged in physical exercise; ○ Persons providing care or assistance to a person with a disability where a non-medical face mask would hinder that caregiving or assistance; ○ Persons engaging in services that require the temporary removal of the non-medical face mask, and ○ Spaces where physical barriers have been installed between persons. • Alberta's government will provide two reusable masks for each student.
Supply Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will bring their supplies for their current classes on their staggered entry day. Additional purchased supplies will be kept at home until needed. • Students will not have access to lockers. Belongings and supplies will be carried with students into their classes. • Sharing supplies will not be allowed. • Students are encouraged to bring their own educational devices (ie - chromebook). • School chromebooks will be cleaned and disinfected before and after each use. • Please do not send large bags, extra backpacks, rolling suitcases with your child as space is already at a premium in most THS classrooms.
Student Movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will remain in their designated classrooms as much as possible and teachers will circulate as needed. • Students will 'stay to the right' when walking in hallways and will adhere to social distancing protocols. • There will be limited movement of students within the school.
Lunch Related Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hot lunch and concession food sales will be suspended for the year. • No microwaves, kettles, coffee makers, toasters or vending



	<p>machines will be available.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students are encouraged to bring food in thermal containers if warm lunches are desired. • Students will be eating lunch in cohort classrooms. • Students may still leave school property at lunch to eat at home or get food from local establishments (ex. TFR, ESSO) • Upon returning to the school students are asked to use their designated entrance and proceed immediately to their classroom. • No food deliveries will be allowed • The office will continue to have food items provided by Snack Attack for students who forget their lunch.
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Cleaning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleaning protocols will be strictly adhered to in accordance with AHS guidelines. • Students will be required to use hand sanitizer upon entering or leaving a room. • Students will be provided sanitizing materials to wipe down their work areas throughout the day.
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Class Protocols

Physical Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When possible physical education will be done outside instead of inside as the risk of transmission is more likely to occur indoors rather than outdoors and will follow the Guidance for Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation. • Teachers will choose activities or sports that support physical distancing (e.g. badminton over wrestling). • Grade 7-12 students will not change for Physical Education classes while physical distancing protocols are in place. • Students will sanitize hands before and after PE. • Please make sure that your child has a pair of running shoes for P.E. • Please make sure that your child has a water bottle, labelled with their name and that they bring it with them into the gym for Physical Education.
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Library	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will be staying in class for their library time for the 2020-21 school year. Library books will be brought to the students. • Students will reserve their books with the librarian on “Destiny” and will receive their books shortly after.
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Music	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music will continue for the 2020-21 school year. Students will go to the music room for this class. • Information on protocols for wind instruments and singing will be forthcoming.
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Sports Teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No sports teams will be running until February at this time. This may be revisited by the Board of Education prior to February.
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Mental Health/Psychosocial Supports for Students and Staff



Providing Mental Health Support

- Staff have access to professional learning on supporting the mental health of students.
- Information on accessing mental health resources for students, families and staff is posted on the Black Gold Engaging Students website and the [BGSD website](#).



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