

FALL EDITION

# THE MOUNTAINEER

At Buck Mountain Central School, we passionately engage our diverse students every day by genuinely connecting and supporting them on their learning journey towards high school completion and life beyond our doors.



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents & Guardians,

We are just over a month into our school year and settled into our 'new normal' at BMC. Students have been responsive to our new protocols set in place for the health and safety of our school community and are engaged in learning. As a staff, we are proud of the responsibility shown by our Mustangs and want to express our gratitude to our students and families for a great first month of school. The weather has cooperated and we've enjoyed as much fresh air and outside time as possible. The students have been awesome at being active and finding creative ways to have fun with their peers at lunch.

Thank you to all of our parents for your understanding and care in following the new protocols when students become sick at school or develop symptoms at home. Though this may be disruptive to your child's attendance at school, it doesn't have to be disruptive to your child's learning. Missed learning opportunities will be posted in Google Classroom. Please contact your student's teachers if you have any questions.

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. It is our shared responsibility to ensure students are healthy at school to protect other students, staff, and visitors. All students and staff must stay home when they are sick. The precautions we are taking at BMC are based upon guidance from Alberta Health Services using a foundation of awareness, trust, and shared responsibility. The attached flowchart is helpful in guiding you in this regard.

AHS has been working hard to ensure that parents/guardians and families understand what is expected of them during the COVID-19 pandemic. To that end, they launched a tool to provide guidance for parents of children attending school (or childcare). The tool walks through symptoms and provides information about next steps for testing and isolation, when household members need to isolate and when children can return to school. The tool is now available at [ahs.ca/parentCOVIDGuide](https://ahs.ca/parentCOVIDGuide).

For those families interested in WRPS School-at-Home, the deadline to sign up for Quarter 2 is October 16. If you are interested in this opportunity, please let us know at the school and we will pass this information along. If you are planning on returning to BMC from School-at Home, please let us know at this time as well.

Parent-Teacher Interviews will take place via phone from 4:00-7:00 Thursday, October 15. If you would like to meet with teachers at this time, please sign up at [buckmountain.ca](http://buckmountain.ca) for specific times.

Awards Day will take place Friday, October 16. We will be using a different format, conducting the event virtually inside the school. Once the event is complete, and the video has had time to process, we will release it via School Messenger.

Enjoy the beautiful sunshine and have a Happy Thanksgiving!

Mr. Jon Meyers

## **SUPPORTING STUDENTS AND PARENTS VIA GOOGLE CLASSROOM**

This school year all teachers have created Google Classroom for their respective courses. All students should now have access to these classrooms which are being used to access resources for the course and class work, both in school and at home.

Now, when students are absent from school if they are able, we are asking that they log in to see if their Google Classroom(s) have been updated to include new learning material and/or assignments.

When possible, students on extended absences can continue to participate in their classes even though they are not at school. Of course, we know that each family and student's circumstances are unique, so in the event that this is not possible we understand.

Parents also have access to Google Classrooms and can receive email updates about outstanding work or upcoming deadlines. This is a great way to support your students from home, even if they attend each school day! Please email your child's teacher for access if you do not already have it.

Here are some tips and tricks to help parents navigate the information in the classroom:

- If possible, use a Google Chrome browser when accessing Google Classroom. Android and Apple also have apps for this - which may be more user friendly!
- Get your child to sign into their classroom(s) and show you around. Your child can also add you as a parent/guardian to receive update email notifications.
- Use the "Coursework" tab - it has the same information as in the stream, however it is usually organized a bit easier, rather than by the order it was posted
- The "Grades" tab may or may not contain the grade information for your student. This is teacher dependent. Some of these grades may not count toward the overall grade in the class (for example a practice test)
  - That being said, you have online access to PowerSchool where all summative assessment information is stored and reported. If you do not have your account set up, please call the school and speak to either Heidi Plotts or Randi Tyler -- they will walk you through the set up!

- Do you see “Missing work” on your student’s information on Google Classroom? This may mean that the student has missed the deadline, it also may mean that they did not hit the “turn in” button on the classroom, but in fact handed in a hard copy to the teacher. Always check in with your student and then contact the teacher for clarification if you and your child are uncertain.
- Are you frustrated by the weekly emails from Google Classroom? If so, you can always hit “unsubscribe” at the bottom of the email(s) you receive that are auto generated from the site. This is only recommended if you still access the classrooms through your students’ account.

We are learning right alongside students and parents with regard to Google Classroom. Some of us have been using this resources for years, others started in response to the pandemic. Either way the application is changing and updating regularly to keep us all on our toes. If you or your child experience challenges with Google Classroom, do not hesitate to reach out. We will do what we are able to support you!

## SCHOOL AT HOME STUDENTS AND FAMILIES:

For all the families and students who have chosen school at home for the school year (or at least part of it), remember that BMC is still here to support you and continue to be an important part of our school community.

We hope to see many students for school pictures (set up an appointment online or call the office) on October 21st. We have some protocols for school at home students for when they visit the school, but wanted to ensure that these students get their spot in the BMC 2020-2021 yearbook.

Students, remember: You are a BMC student and we so value everything you bring to our community. In the future we hope to see your smiling faces in our halls once again, when it is right for you and your family.

We encourage you to:

- Connect with a teacher or staff member via email. All staff emails are [firstname.lastname@wrps11.ca](mailto:firstname.lastname@wrps11.ca)
- Set a daily schedule or routine for your school work - have a designated space in your home and a set time for breaks.
- Be sure to stay active - it is just as important for your brain as it is your body!
- Seek support from the school learning support team if you need help academically or with setting up those routines. Email [nicole.townsend@wrps11.ca](mailto:nicole.townsend@wrps11.ca) with those individual requests.
- You can always reach out to BMC administration if you’d like to discuss school at home - we will provide you with the information we have and direct your questions to the appropriate people in the instance that we do not know the answers.

The deadline for students wishing to transition to in-school learning is October 16, 2020.

|                       | Quarter 1 | Quarter 2 | Quarter 3 | Quarter 4 |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| <b>Classes Start:</b> | Sept 2    | Nov 13    | Feb 1     | April 20  |
| <b>Notice by:</b>     | Sept 2    | Oct 16    | Jan 8     | March 19  |

# VIRTUAL PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Our next Parent Advisory Committee Meeting will be October 20th at 7:00 p.m. Please email [bm@wrps11.ca](mailto:bm@wrps11.ca) if you would like to take part.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Please make sure that our offices have your most up-to-date contact information, including email and phone numbers. Any updated information can be emailed into [BM@wrps11.ca](mailto:BM@wrps11.ca) or by calling 780-388-3900.

## MARK YOUR CALENDERS

### October

- 9 - No School (JESD Day)
- 12 - No School
- 15 - Parent Teacher Interviews (4:00 - 7:00 pm)
- 16 - Awards Day
- 20 - Parent Advisory Meeting @ 7PM
- 21 - School Photo Day
- 30 - No School (JESD Day)

### November

- 2 - ELA 30-1/30-2 Diploma Part A
- 4 - ELA 30-1/30-2 Diploma Part AB
- 10 - Parent Teacher Interviews (4:00 - 7:00 pm)
- 11 - No School
- 13 - Q2 Begins
- 16 - School Photo Re-Take Day
- 19 - No School (JESD Day)
- 20 - No School

**Responding to Symptoms**  
If you are symptomatic, you should not be at school.

**You have 1 of the Top 5 symptoms:**

- Fever
- New or worsening cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Running nose
- Sore throat

**You have other symptoms:**

- Chills
- Painful Swallowing
- Stuffy nose
- Headache
- Muscle or joint aches
- Feeling unwell, fatigue or severe exhaustion
- Gastrointestinal symptoms
- Loss of sense of smell or taste
- Conjunctivities (pink eye)

You are legally required to self isolate for 10 days from start of symptoms or until symptoms resolve, whichever takes longer. You should also get tested for COVID.

If you test negative and have no known exposure to the virus, you can return to school 24 hours after your symptoms resolve.

You must stay home until your symptoms resolve so that you do not infect others.

Please also complete the [AHS Self-Assessment](#) online or call 811.