



# Evergreen School Division

Box 1200 • Gimli, Manitoba • R0C 1B0 • Ph. (204) 642-6260 • Fax (204) 642-7273 • [www.esd.ca](http://www.esd.ca)

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March 3, 2021

Dear Parents /Caregivers:

Next week we will reach a new milestone with the pandemic – the one-year anniversary of the date the provincial government responded to COVID-19 by announcing suspended classes and asking that we ‘stay home, stay safe’. One year later, we are still living with the impact of the pandemic, and it appears this will be the case for many months to come.

### **Restricted ‘orange’**

As the COVID response continues to evolve, it is challenging to make plans. Although the province is cautiously lifting restrictions, there is uncertainty regarding the vaccine roll-out and variants of concern. Manitoba Education has informed School Divisions that schools are likely to continue in Pandemic Response Level restricted ‘orange’ until the end of June, with adjustments to be announced following changes to provincial restrictions.

### **Public health guidelines**

Overall, students have adjusted fairly well to the public health expectations. Although reminders are sometimes necessary, largely students understand that compliance with health orders is a requirement for attendance at school and act accordingly.

### **Attendance**

Daily attendance is essential to student learning. As COVID-19 cases in our communities remains low, student and staff attendance is better than predicted.

### **Student learning and well-being**

Despite the unusual year, in general, students’ academic progress is on par with previous years. We continue to assess for gaps in learning related to last years’ suspension of classes and/or related to absences and missed work in the current year. Staff continue to support student well-being by being sensitive to students’ emotional needs and making recommendations for support.

### **Transportation**

Despite creative efforts and ongoing recruitment, we continue to have a critical shortage of bus drivers. Consequently, there have been occasions when we have had no choice but to cancel bus routes as there are no drivers available. We ask that parents develop alternate arrangements in the event of a route cancellation. Further, we continue to recruit new drivers and provide training and assistance with the licensing process to interested candidates. Please consider recommending this work to friends and family who may be a fit for the position. Those interested in learning more about becoming a bus driver are asked to contact the Transportation Department at 204 642-6263.

Although we are all tired of the pandemic and the demands and confusion that accompanies the ongoing response, we, the Evergreen community, have successfully managed it for a year. Thank you for your ongoing patience, support and understanding. Together, we’ll see this through a bit longer.

Sincerely,

Roza Gray  
Superintendent /CEO