



# BLACKIE SCHOOL

"Building Bright Futures Together"

P. O. Box 310, Blackie, Alberta, Canada T0L 0J0 Phone - (403) 601-1752 Fax - (403) 684-3756

Dear Blackie Families,

Welcome back to another exciting school year! We hope that you have had the opportunity to rest, relax and spend time with your friends and families over the summer months. Here, at school, we are preparing for the start of the year, though we are doing so under some unique circumstances.

As you are likely aware, there have been some challenges in the construction process that have necessitated a shift in the learning environment for the start of the 2021 school year.

To begin the year, our school population will occupy six empty classrooms at Spitzee School in High River. Please know that while we are using spaces in Spitzee School, our class configuration remains unchanged and cohorting will remain a priority. We are grateful to the Spitzee staff and community for accommodating us for the first part of the school year.

## **Location:**

While Initial communication to families indicated that our Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten programs would continue to run in Blackie at alternate sites, we have made the decision to bring Kindergarten into High River with the rest of the school.

Junior Kindergarten will remain at an alternate site in Blackie, which will support parents with drop off and pick up since busing is not provided for this program.

## **Transportation and School Hours:**

Regular bus routes between Blackie school and student homes **will remain the same** before and after school.

Students who walk to school or who are dropped off by parents in the morning, **will need to be at Blackie by 8:00 a.m.**

<b>8:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Departure from Blackie School - Pick up will be on John Street, south of Blackie School</b> <i>All Blackie School students will load onto two dedicated school buses for transportation to Spitzee School. Staff members will accompany the students.</i>
<b>8:25 a.m.</b>	<b>Arrival at Spitzee School</b> <i>Blackie school students will enter immediately upon arrival and the day will begin.</i>
<b>10:25 - 10:40 a.m.</b>	<b>Morning Break</b> <i>Dedicated for Blackie School students only</i>
<b>12:00 - 12:20 p.m.</b>	<b>Lunch Break Outside</b> <i>Dedicated for Blackie School students only</i>
<b>12:20 - 12:40 p.m.</b>	<b>Lunch Eating Time</b> <i>Blackie School students will eat in their classrooms with their teachers</i>
<b>2:45 p.m.</b>	<b>Departure from Spitzee School</b> <i>All Blackie School students will load onto two dedicated school buses for transportation back to Blackie. Staff members will accompany the students.</i>
<b>Approximately 3:05 p.m. - 3:10 p.m.</b>	<b>Arrival at Blackie</b> <i>Dismissal/transfer to buses for transportation home</i>

**Parking at Blackie:**

Parents, who are dropping off or picking up students at Blackie, are asked to park along the **east side of John Street**.

**Parking at Spitzee:**

If you are visiting/volunteering during school hours, please park along the North side of Macleod Trail, across from the school. Spitzee has crosswalks at either end of the school for you to use.

If you are simply dropping off students in the morning and picking up at the end of the day, please drop off along the south side of Macleod Trail near to the playground.  
(Behind the bus drop-off location)

**Cohorting:**

The health and safety of our school community has continued to be our top priority. With that in mind, we have purposefully structured our day with staggered breaks in order to keep our students together with their home school.

Each school's timetable has been designed to ensure dedicated student access to both the school gym and Learning Commons. All homeroom classes will be contained within their own learning spaces. There will also be opportunities for students to continue with nature-based learning.

**First Day for Students:**

Our first official attendance day for Blackie students will be Tuesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Meet the Teacher:**

On Thursday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> between 3:45 and 4:30 p.m., we would like to invite families to visit our new spaces and meet our teachers. **Please contact our Office Administrator, Ms. Amy Wight at 403-601-1752 if you plan on attending.** Families may also choose to drop off school supplies at this time.

**Social Media:**

We welcome you to follow our school Instagram and Twitter where we share latest news from our school community.

We are looking forward to a successful school start-up and are certain that this plan allows for a safe, student-focused learning environment where our students can continue to thrive.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our entire Blackie School community for the patience, trust and flexibility demonstrated as we have navigated the complexities of modernizing a school. We know that everyone is eagerly anticipating a return to a newly remodeled classroom wing. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Chase Ellis and Tammi Andrew