



# GONZAGA MIDDLE SCHOOL

*Changing Lives – Fulfilling Potential*

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December 8, 2020

## COVID-19 Response Planning –UPDATE 3:

**Schools remain Orange (Restricted) but new two week Temporary Remote Learning Period for Grades 7-12 after Christmas Break – Further GMS Plan Changes effective January 4, 2021**

Dear Gonzaga Middle School Families,

Manitoba Public Health will likely maintain the public health restrictions at Red (Critical) COVID-19 Response Level across Manitoba for the foreseeable future. Manitoba Public Health also continues to emphasize the importance of everyone staying home except for obtaining essential goods or going to school (as it is allowed). They also have restricted gatherings to only people in the same house and are asking schools to emphasize how important this is for all of us to remember during the Christmas break.

Despite the Red (Critical) restrictions, the Manitoba Government recently announced that schools will remain at the Orange (Restricted) COVID-19 Response Level with one important change:

Following the regularly scheduled two week Christmas Break students in Grades 7 to 12 will move to temporary remote learning. The two-week temporary remote learning period will be January 4-18, 2021.

For this two week period, regular in-person classroom learning will be available to K-6 students, as well as to any Grades 7 to 12 students and families that may require learning support in a school or classroom setting.

Manitoba Public Health continues to note that the risk from attending school remains low, but they have added the remote learning for Grades 7-12 to reduce the risk after the Christmas break. Following the two week period they will reassess and likely shift schools back to the current Code Orange arrangements.

At Gonzaga Middle School, as a Grades 6-8 school for underserved children and families, we recognize that student learning at GMS looks different from most schools and that additional supports are often needed.

**GMS is planning for all Grade 6's to attend school January 4-18** (except where arrangements have been made for remote learning). For this two week period, GMS will be cancelling after-school activities. School will end at 3:30 pm each day with the bus picking up students at that time. Teaching and learning will focus on core subjects. Phys Ed will continue also.

**GMS is also planning for all Grade 7's and 8's to move to temporary remote learning through Microsoft Teams January 4-18 except, where on a case-by-case basis, the parent/guardian and school agree that the student needs additional support in school and arrangements are made for students to attend school.** Ms Andrew, and/or a member of the Student Support Team welcome parents/guardians to call if you have any questions. Ms Andrew, and/or a member of the Student Support Team may call some parents/guardians to discuss this possibility as well. Remote teaching and learning will focus on Literacy (ELA) and Mathematics.

**For those attending school, except for the bus pick up times and drop off times changing, there are no changes required to our busing protocols.** Please remember that Phys Ed will take place outside weather permitting – **please make sure students are sent with warm clothes, boots, hats and mitts.** When gym takes place indoors the whole gym space will be used with special gym facemasks being worn.

We acknowledge the incredible support network of parents, guardians, and teachers who are working hard to ensure learning continues no matter where it takes place. **If you have any questions or would like to discuss in-school or remote learning arrangements, please contact the school by Monday, December 14,** so that GMS can make definite plans for which students will be in-person and which will be temporarily remote learning.

#### **Contacting the school or requesting support**

Aside from the issue of temporary remote learning, we also want to be able to help students and families that need support, especially during this continuing difficult time. If you have any questions or would like to request support please call the school at the main number 204-949-7100 or email us or by contacting me, Ms Andrew, Mrs. Mitchell or Ms Faulkner directly.

We care about your child's safety, well-being and education and thank you for your understanding and support.

**Sincerely,**



Tom Lussier  
Executive Director

Rachael Andrew  
Principal