

The Infinity Program: Welcoming Our Students Back (2020-2021)

August 31, 2020

Welcome to the 2020-2021 School Year! The Infinity Program (TIP) welcomes students and staff back to a new year of learning. We have some new members to the TIP team. TIP welcomes the addition of a new staff member, Blair Mooney who joins our teaching staff alongside of Michael Block (teacher) and Jodi Chartrand (treatment worker). In addition, there is a change in administration, Michelle Procter, Student Services Administrator will be overseeing the operations at TIP as well as Student Services Team members Holly Potter (admin assistant), Vicky Brzuskiwicz, (school social worker), Melissa Beer (well-being support worker) and Carla Betker (school psychologist).

The staff of TIP are excited and grateful that we will be welcoming our students back! In-class learning will resume for ISD students on September 8th, 2020. Students attending our alternative campus, The Infinity Program (TIP), will see programming commence on Tuesday, September 15th. During the week of September 8th, TIP teachers, Mr. Michael Block and Mr. Blair Mooney, will meet with students and parents to discuss programming for the 2020-2021 school year. Programming and operations at TIP will be guided by the contents of Manitoba Education's publication entitled, [*Welcoming Our Students Back: Restoring Safe Schools*](#).

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Return to School, What to Expect?

- Parents and caregivers need to monitor their child daily for symptoms and exposures before sending them to school. Parents and caregivers are responsible for ensuring their children are not displaying symptoms before sending them to school or on the bus.
- The Province has mandated that all students in grades 4-12 must wear non-medical face masks when 2 meters of social distancing cannot be maintained. Non-medical masks will be provided at TIP if needed, but students are encouraged to bring their own non-medical masks to school.
- At lunch, students may eat their own prepared lunch in the designated eating areas, students should not be sharing food.

Student Learning

- TIP students will return for in-class learning Tuesday to Friday each week.
- The need to appropriately physical distance during the school day will see us moving to cohorts should our enrolment necessitate. Cohorts involve keeping groups of students together and avoiding interaction with other groups of students.
- Attendance in the TIP program will be discussed and planned for on an individualized basis according to the needs of each student. This will be done in collaboration with parents/guardians, students, teachers, and other professional support staff as needed (stakeholders).
- All stakeholders at TIP will have very timely access to well-being support staff as needed. The TIP program will have access to divisional support services including a well-being support worker, school social worker, and school psychologist. Students or families requiring well-being services will access supports through the classroom teacher.

- Student Programming will focus on core curriculum and required courses. Individualized plans will be developed for each student attending TIP.
- Specialty programming that involves attending another school will be suspended until further notice.
- Physical education programming will occur outdoors.

Transportation

- ISD school buses will be running in September. Students will be assigned a seat on the bus. Masks are mandatory.
- Families are welcome to transport their own child to school if they wish to do so.
- Private transportation of students by TIP staff is suspended until further notice.
- Drop off of students is at the back of the building. The back door is the entrance and exit for TIP. This is not the entrance for visitors.

Building Preparedness

Visiting the TIP Building

- In order to keep our buildings as safe as possible, we are limiting access to the TIP building. If you need to see your child, please call TIP at 204-467-2638 or 204-791-4926 (cell number). We ask all visitors come to the front doors of the building and your child will meet you there. Meetings can be prearranged to ensure we have a space to host a meeting. Face masks are mandatory for all people entering the building.

Increased Cleaning, Sanitization, and Hand Hygiene:

- Staff and students will wash their hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds at the following times: at the start of the day and before going home, after going to the washroom, before and after eating, after getting hands dirty, after wiping noses or handling dirty tissues, after coughing/sneezing/blowing nose, after cleaning tasks (staff).
- Hand sanitizer, hand soap, and necessary cleaning supplies will be provided at the school.
- Staff and students will increase the cleaning frequency paying particular attention to high touch areas.

Physical Distancing Needs in Entrances, Hallways, Classrooms and Shared Spaces:

- Whenever possible staff and students will maintain a two-meter distance from others.
- Students will ensure they maintain a two-meter distance from others when in entrance or space outside of the building.
- Students will have a seating plan in these classrooms.

Remove or Reduce the Use of Learning Materials That Cannot be Sanitized:

- When possible, materials will be individualized for students. Materials that cannot be individualized or sanitized will be removed from circulation or bagged for 96 hours prior to being recirculated.

Students Exhibiting Symptoms at School:

- Students exhibiting symptoms at TIP will be isolated in the conference room and be provided with a medical mask to be worn. Parents or caregivers will be notified to come and pick up their child immediately. TIP will require each family to have a plan in place for urgent student pick-up.

Communicating the Importance of Hand Hygiene, Symptom Monitoring, and Other Public Health Measures:

- This information will be clearly visible at entrances and washroom areas. We will be integrating this information into ongoing teaching.
- All visitors and volunteers must adhere to self-screening, physical distancing and recommended hygiene practices.

The team at TIP looks forward to welcoming our students back. Please do not hesitate to reach out to the staff at TIP with any concerns you may have. We will communicate updates to our plan as needed directly to our TIP families via email and our website.

If you have any questions or concerns about our return to school plan, please do not hesitate to contact Michelle Procter, Student Services Administrator at 204-467-2683 or email mprocter@isd21.mb.ca.

Sincerely,

Michelle Procter

Michelle Procter
Student Services Administrator
Interlake School Division