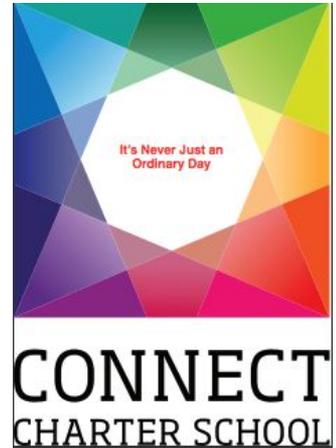


Connect Charter School Parent Survey Results and Re-entry Considerations

June 2020



The following questions pertain to the school administration's response to the pandemic.

221 Responses

Responsiveness to the needs of the school community:

96.8% very responsive

Attention to student health and safety:

98.6% very responsive

Communication:

99.1% very responsive

Pandemic Response

I think the school did a good job of anticipating this was coming and getting the kids set up on their technology in advance of the school closing.

Relationships were stated to be to top priority, but kids were not placed in cohorts with friends. In the older grades peer relationships are paramount to feelings of belonging. This was tough for my children.

The daily communication was excellent at the beginning. the reduction of communication frequency overtime makes sense and I have confidence that things will be shared as needed.

“

I think the school has done a great job. My child has not enjoyed school at home at all (has found it very boring compared to "normal") but I feel the school has done the best job they can given the circumstances.

We have been extremely pleased with the level of communication and the thoughtfulness of every communicate to the community. We have always valued the collaborative nature of Connect, both between the teachers/admin and with the school/parent community. It has given us confidence that our child is cared for academically and socially which has been really important. The teachers were thoughtful in their approach to e-learning and implemented supports quickly. Thank you for all of this.

I appreciated how quickly CCS moved online & I feel the teachers have done a great job of educating students in this time of uncertainty. It's been much appreciated.

While the girls are on zoom with their teachers they do learn but they only have 4 hours per week. It should be double that at least or structured in a way that they can have more assignments that they can do independently.

The following questions pertain to the development and implementation of our online teaching and learning platform.

221 Responses

Introduction of the program to the school community:

97.8% exemplary

Schedule and duration of core classes:

76.9% exemplary; 23.1% unsatisfactory

Value of extracurricular clubs and activities:

61.6% exemplary; 38.4% unsatisfactory

Connected e-Learning

I think everything has been done very well. I wish there was more formal class time, but I do understand the teachers do not have unlimited capacity.

I know my youngest child is happy with his learning...but I struggle with how small the time commitment is. I am trying to work from home, and would request more structured class times.

Our child could use less 'class' time and more assignments/projects. Maybe shorter instructional videos? So much respect for the teachers - really appreciate all of their hard work!

Zoom meetings could be cut down a bit - maybe 45 min. 1 Hour is quite long (sometimes 25 mins of attendance). Connecting is key for students, however it could be more concise.

“

e-learning is hard and it is not ideal for my kids but considering the situation, the school and teachers have been great at trying to set it up and trying to engage kids. I am finding that e-learning is becoming a strain as a parent. The classes themselves are great and the kids willingly attend those but the assignments and completion of work is becoming more and more of a struggle. I am not enjoying the parent that I am becoming in trying to manage their school assignments, activity levels (having nowhere to go and no sport activities has made them very inactive) and the 'normal' parenting issues.

However, no matter how forward the technology is, it doesn't match being in the classroom collaborating with peers and teachers face-to-face.

While I think they are valuable, we haven't participated in clubs or activities.

Connected e-Learning

I think this is so specific to the family. We could have been much more diligent about his school work. I actually appreciate the way Connect has managed this as they made a stressful situation much better than it could have been. I have friends with terrible stories of 7 hours of school and homework a day. It is hard on parents, teachers and students. Parents almost crying to get their kids to do their homework. Very happy with your response and can hardly wait until the fall (I hope!)

Both of my children thrived at home using online learning. They were able to focus and get assignments done with fewer distractions from other students. In talking with other parents with children attending other schools, it is apparent that Connect Charter was able to pivot quickly and offer quality, meaningful elearning to our students. A big "thank you" to all the teachers, Dr Butterfield, and the support staff.

“

I appreciate that there was a constant schedule and the learning tasks were mostly understandable. Sometimes there seemed to be a bit much to complete. It definitely went beyond the 5 hours a week for my children to complete.

I would like to see more emphasis put on extracurricular clubs and activities and how might they build on the core courses

School Reopening: Alberta Education has indicated three possible scenarios for schools to consider for the fall of 2020.

221 Responses

**Scenario 1. School resumes full operations as scheduled on August 20, 2020.
65.2% most supportive; 34.8% least supportive**

**Scenario 1b. School resumes full or partial operation on September 1, 2020.
68.5% most supportive; 31.6% least supportive**

**School is partially reopened with restrictions on physical distancing and limits on the number of people in a space. Possibly students attend in shifts or on alternating days.
53% most supportive; 47.1% least supportive**

**Connected e-Learning continues until spread of the virus subsides to zero or a vaccine is available.
20.8% most supportive; 79.2 least supportive**

School Reopening: Alberta Education has indicated three possible scenarios for schools to consider for the fall of 2020. 221 Responses

	1 Most supportive	2	3	4 Least supportive
Scenario 1: Resume full operations on Aug. 20	48%	17.2%	14%	20.8%
Scenario 1b: Resume full operations on Sept. 1	22.6%	45.7%	16.7%	14.9%
Scenario 2: Resume partial operations on Sept. 1	28.1%	24.9%	28.1%	19%
Scenario 3: Resume or continue e-	10.4%	10.4%	18.1%	61.1%

Reopening Scenarios

“

Our strong feeling is that there is very likely to be a spike in cases when other students return to school (public schools) and cooler weather keeps everyone indoors. I am sure Connect is planning for multiple scenarios, but it may be that we get going in person and then we have to return to e-Learning. In anticipation of that happening, I am really hoping we can get in at least a few weeks in person to really, really have a chance for our child...to establish a relationship with [their] new teachers (and classmates, but teachers would be highest priority). The great thing about e-Learning this year is that those relationships were already well established.

We have a family member who has a compromised immune system and can't risk daily exposure to numerous people.

To be clear, I want my children back in school, full time with all previous activities reinstated.

Could the school do more offsite learning e.g. North Glenmore, Sandy Beach etc, thereby reduce the number of kids in the school building at any one time. Weather permitting.

There really is no need to keep kids away from school.

Although I understand that it is not always going to be possible, if it is school on alternating days that siblings would be placed on the same day to help with scheduling on my end.

I would feel most comfortable with alternating days, or 24-48 hours of cleaning in between school days.

Parents should be given the choice to continue online/in person learning if the spread of virus has not subsided by fall. Teachers teach in classroom while broadcasting for those who choose to learn from home.

I can't imagine something as important as school being put on hold until there is a vaccine.

We would be most supportive of a plan that allows at least partial reopening of the school (possibly combined with continued online learning), but follows all health guidelines and regulations set out by Alberta Health and the provincial government.

Reopening Scenarios

The recycled ventilation in classrooms just feels like it will promote spread. And being tied to a chair all day and all the social distancing protocols seems stressful.

It would be nice to see the kids go back to school even if it was part time. Especially when the winter months come and we're dealing with dark and cold. I think for mental health that is the best solution. And what if there's no vaccine? There's no guarantee we're going to get one.

I understand wanting to keep risks to a minimum but I also believe that risk will happen- at the grocery store, restaurant and hairdresser- in person learning is far more of a priority than many other activities we are resuming. Our kids need to know that their learning and mental health is at least as important as these other community activities. We can do our best to limit risk, and to respond quickly if people become sick but some risk is acceptable.

I am pretty open to the top three choices & trust CCS to make the best decision in accordance with AHS guidelines. While I may prefer for my student to be back full time I also accept that may not be possible.

“

Kids must get back to school, I accept the risk. My younger [child's] mental health has declined (anxiety and depression) and [they](and I) cannot continue with elearning.

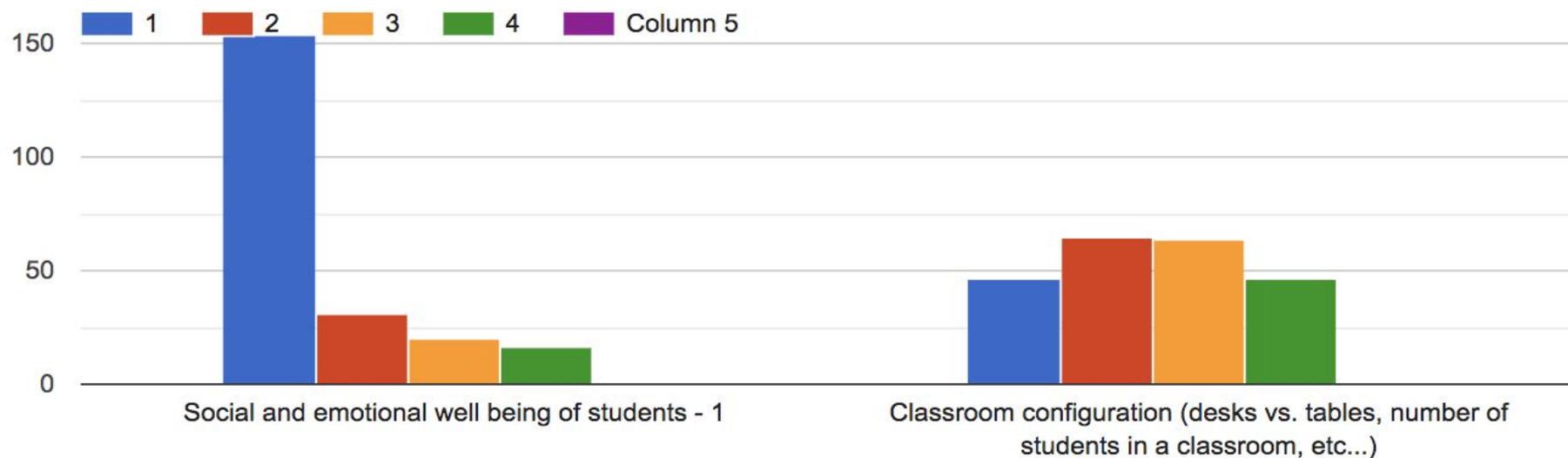
This is a very difficult decision and the fall seems very far away in light of how much is changing daily right now. I am concerned that it isn't practical to have the level of cleaning/sanitizing in the school that is needed to be truly safe for everyone, being in a relatively small space for hours a day with everyone talking is putting everyone at higher risk (time and space are the two risk factors), kids are notorious for bad hygiene, etc.

It's very hard to predict what will happen with this virus over the summer and what my comfort levels will be! However, would really like the opportunity for outdoor learning whenever possible; that seems to be the safest way for people to congregate now.

I believe it's better to maintain the e learning and get better at it, until the program can continue with more normalcy. Can the school handle outside learning with groups of less than 50? Or outside learning 1x a week? Outside school? Forest school? Weaselhead school?

I am very supportive of school re-opening August 20 as planned. Part time school or staggered days I would only support if the alternative is online learning.

Rank the following considerations for the 'health and safety of students' in order of priority to you with 1 being most important.



Health and Safety of Students

The school should have zero tolerance to have any child or teacher in the school with symptoms. Parents and kids will learn to stay home if any symptoms are present as they will be sent home immediately if found to have symptoms at school. This does not mean you need to start doing temperature checks. I would advise against temp checks. We initially had temperature checks at the hospital for staff and visitors and they have now stopped them. They are not effective.

Students should not be allowed to enter the building unless they've had their temperature taken. If they show any symptoms of being sick they should be isolated immediately and sent home.

Very concerned that parents will send sick kids to school.

We all know kids get sick with multiple viruses it would be chaos to try to limit kids just because they have a runny nose.

There are so few children that have been sick due to COVID these questions are kind of irrelevant.

If students are isolating while others are in class, connected e-learning or webcam should be available so students can keep up with course content provided they are feeling well enough.

“

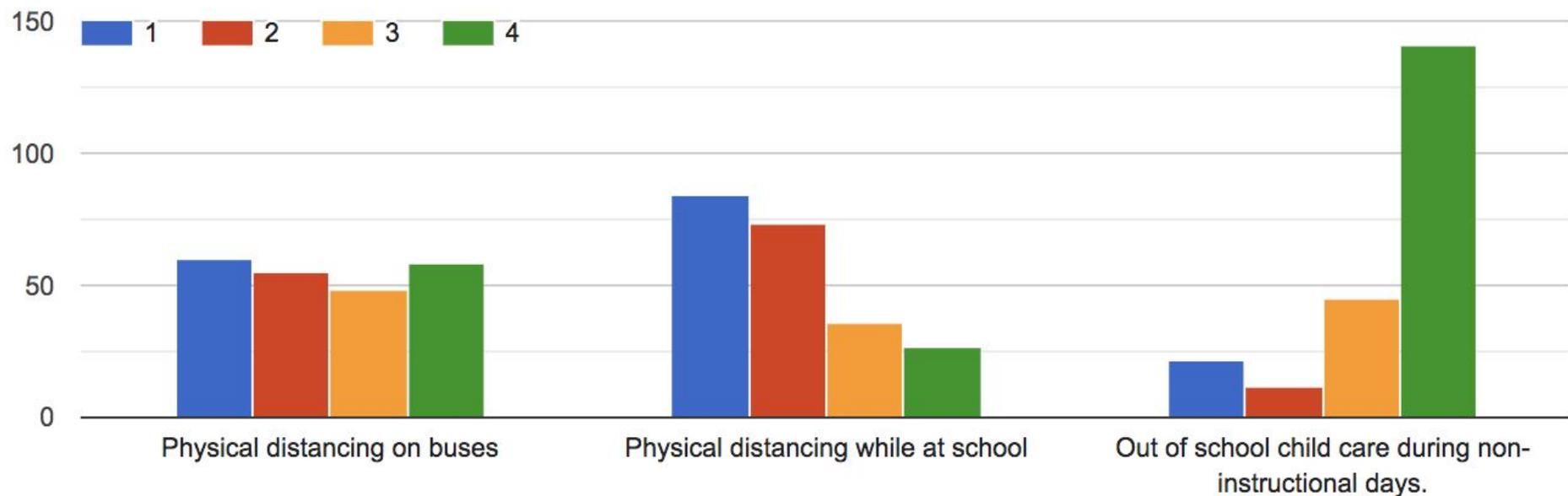
Anyone with symptoms is a MUST to stay home and I fear that parents may still try to send their students and then it's up to the Connect staff to have to monitor and is that realistic? The scarier part is the asymptomatic people who are carrying the virus and the resulting transmission at school. Asking everyone to wear a mask for 7 hours isn't practical especially to wear it properly (no touching once it's in your face, etc). Will there be enough resources to have surfaces cleaned properly?

I don't necessarily trust the testing and don't think that anyone should be forced to test. I wouldn't rest easy with the false negatives anyway. I will feel more safe when we know more about it and how to treat it. I don't think I'll be confident, with any restrictions in place, to send my kids back at this point. I think it will not be a positive experience for them to be in class, and possibly stuck in one room all day, with plexiglass, tons of bleaching, many restrictions and no playground.

I think it is important for the school to be prepared to return to elearning at any time, as I believe that we are extremely likely to see second and third waves of virus outbreak.

What communication would we all get in finding out if there was a positive case in school? ie: would we (and also how quickly) find out if there was someone that tested positive or would there be privacy concerns in letting everyone know about any positive cases.

Rank the following considerations for the 'logistics of attending school' in order of priority to you with 1 being most important.



Logistics of returning to school

I am concerned about physical distancing, but not more than I am concerned about the students educational and state of mind benefits achieved through a return to a close to normal school situation. I would be happy with a modified schedule, part online part in class or anything that gets them back at least substantially. I am less concerned about bussing because I could drive if I am uncomfortable.

Consistent schedule in order for parents to coordinate work and siblings at other schools.

Would like options for students to maintain distancing but it's important not to burn staff out with a hybrid model.

We need to get back to school full time. Period.

My concern is the bus , our bus is packed completely full with 3 kids to a row. We will definitely need to have an additional bus so that each child gets their own row.

“

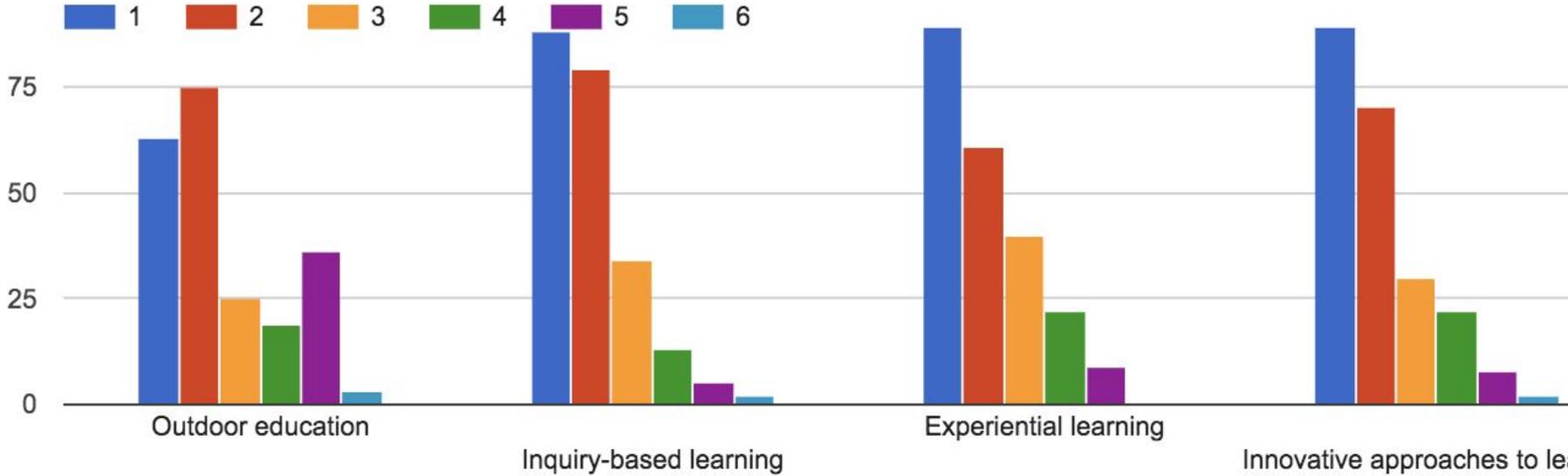
Policing physical distancing for such a large group of children would be next to impossible. The air they breath will be shared with all no matter how far apart you keep them. As a parent I accept this. I would completely understand and support a zero tolerance policy for children being sent to school with any symptoms though.

Schools should reopen on August 20th. Full days for all students. If some parents aren't comfortable they can keep their children home. For those needing/ wanting to go it should be an option.

With respect to busing, we have registered our son for busing however we may elect to drive him and pick him up on most days depending on the COVID-19 situation

We don't use the bus or need child care. Masks should be considered for buses and at school when subjected to tight quarters.

Rank the following considerations for 'educational emphasis' in order of priority to you with 1 being most important.



Educational Emphasis

“

It's why we are at Connect. The inquiry based, hands-on experiential learning is a huge draw for us as learners. I rated outdoor ed as a bit lower only because I can supplement that with community sports and family activities but the rest is uniquely Connect.

Outdoors are safer and are a pillar of our school - this gives a great option.

As much as is possible to have students outdoors, would like to see that!

The kids learn and grow so much from the camping/ field experiences. Again if some families aren't comfortable then they should move their kids to another school or home school them

I think outdoor learning experiences are very possible within a social distancing environment.

Outdoor classes and smaller classes would be ideal.

I would appreciate less of a reliance on technology if students will be continuing on in an e-learning approach. My kids are on the computer or iPad all day!

For the Virtual Learning, I enjoy how there is possibly still Virtual tours of certain places that the students would have gone to still be able to explore.

Small group outdoor activities would be great if physical distance can be maintained.

As long as curriculum outcomes can be achieved through online learning, I support using the on campus time for enrichment and social engagement!

School Council

If physical distancing and small gathering restrictions carry through to the fall, please share your suggestions with us on how school council can continue to support parent engagement.

We have finally gotten traction on remote meetings for parents - please don't lose that. This needs to remain even after we return to normal

Small groups can still meet and if the group is larger than authorized, 1/2 in library and 1/2 in the gym with a zoom call connect both groups so we still get that connected feel

Make masks and social distancing essential until there is a vaccine

Personally, my engagement comes through communication from the school. So from a council perspective, meetings online and email communication will be sufficient until the world opens up again.

“

Thank you for asking for input. We are fortunate to both be working (Mom and Dad) for at least the time being. We sincerely appreciate the efforts of school council, however, the honest answer is that at this time we are just trying to make it through each week and make sure our son gets his assignments in, etc.

Virtual meetings have been helpful, where commenting is enabled

People need to get sick and get over it. School needs to resume no matter what.

Keep doing what you are doing - it has been more than enough through these times. And let us know what the school needs for support - ask for help, let parents help where there are needs.

Remote online learning and meetings will still be the primary tools for school until the second wave in this fall is over.

I don't attend in-person council activities anyway so I don't have any suggestions.

School Council has traditionally relied on Fun Lunch and Balzac Meats for school based fundraising. Should these fundraising opportunities not be possible in the fall, do you have any ideas on fundraising/sponsorship to assist our school with new needs that might be required?



Fun Lunch: Because provincial decisions will not be made until August about school in the fall, fun lunch is not able to plan a schedule for the Fall. As well, due to physical distancing and sanitizing the ability to plan a proper fun lunch is very challenging. We appreciate your understanding and we will continue to do the best we can, as always, for our school and our students. New Fun Lunch Committee volunteers are required for this program.

Balzac Meats: status unknown at this time.

- *Bottle drive where proceeds go to the school (through a service/company like Skip the Depot so that bottles don't have to go to the school – they can be picked up by Skip the Depot from people's homes).*
- *Cheque writing campaign.*
- *Coffee fundraiser (where coffee is shipped to families).*
- *I suspect Balzac Meats will still be an option. Why not ask a local supplier to give back a portion of proceeds from purchased school supplies. There are on-line ordering options for this as well but local would be nice.*
- *I also recall a grocery chain (Safeway? but Superstore would be nice) simply selling gift cards to the families with a portion of the proceeds going to the school. Parent pays \$100 for a \$100 grocery card and school receives a portion. No actual cost to parents in this difficult financial time. Parents were encouraged to buy ahead if possible or purchase cards through the program every month for all of their grocery needs.*
- *Online auction*
- *Keep fun lunch! Just get back to normal. We're all accepting of the risk now, we need to move on.*

Fundraising continued

- *Reach out to corporations that are thriving and pitch the technology, community, sustainability and innovation aspect of the school for a one time donation - this is the direction that most companies are going in. If you have a parent connected to corporate marketing they could develop a pitch letter and marketing materials that the school could also distribute to the parent community asking them to reach out to their workplaces. Also, my company has a community giving program where my volunteer hours are tracked (for any thing I volunteer for) and they give me donation dollars for a non profit of my choice. If Connect has a non profit account, I can elect to contribute my dollars there. In general, if funds get tight - leverage the parent community on a one time basis.*
- <https://www.momentumfundraising.ca/cookie-dough/>
- *Would continue Balzac as physical distancing is easy to maintain. Would suggest other fundraisers that help families fill fridges, acquire things they may need but reduce them needing to go to the store (vegetables/fruit/Simon Pies) that can be also done online with a single file pick up in separate cars.*
- *Other ideas - seasonal plants, Mabel labels, water bottles,*
- *Fun lunches may be difficult to maintain so would cancel*
- *I would think that there are enough talented parents and students with wares and skills to market that you could likely pull together a pretty impressive silent auction within the school that would offer services, goods or other items as well as go towards getting to know some of the creative and talented people at the school.*
- *I imagine with the uncertainty we are living in, we won't know what the needs look like until they come up. I suggest a cash call might be a good idea once the need is identified. There might also be some government funding available that we could dip into (aka COVID bucks). The other thought is that with such high unemployment rate in Alberta, we should not do any fundraising this year.*
- *School could set up Flipgive account and parents can sign up.*
- *Beer Advent Calendar? Mabel's Labels? Purdy's Chocolate?*
- *Oh my goodness I will be so upset if there is no fun lunch. I also like the Balzac fundraiser. Barring that I would rather just write a cheque.*

How are we preparing for the return of students?

Primary considerations:

- Student and staff health and safety - both physical and mental
- Follow guidelines provided by AHS and AE
- Be as prepared as possible for all the 'what ifs'
- Communicate regularly and effectively with our community
- When possible foresee potential challenges; respond appropriately and quickly
- See <https://www.connectcharter.ca> for guiding documents

Connect Charter School 2020-2021 (Approved)

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e-mail: office@connectcharter.ca
web site: www.connectcharter.ca

Students' First/Last Day of School

PD/Planning Day - No Classes

School Closure

Days for Teachers' Professional Conferences

Organizational Day - No Classes

Staff Retreat - No Classes

Holidays

Sept. 7 Labour Day
Oct. 12 Thanksgiving Day
Nov. 11 Remembrance Day
Feb. 15 Family Day
Apr. 2 Good Friday
May 24 Victoria Day

Total Operational Days 197
Total Instructional Days 175
Total PD / Retreat Days 15
Total Organizational / Conferences 7

August 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

November 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

February 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

May 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September 2020

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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

December 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

March 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

June 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

October 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

January 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

April 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

July 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Scenario #1: School operations resume at normal levels

Considerations:

- Normal operations - All students are back at school
- Students remain in cohort groups in one classroom to minimize the risk of virus spread - teachers move between classes
- Effective physical distancing desirable but difficult
- Regular and intense cleaning of the school
- Flow of foot traffic through the halls
- Increased attention to health/wellness curriculum - daily in school
- Staggered breaks and lunch times
- Opportunity to engage in outdoor learning - and local outdoor field trips
- Designated entrance/exit doors for specific grades
- Hand hygiene - Handwashing stations and sanitizer

Scenario #2: Partial Re-entry with Restrictions and Modifications

Considerations:

- Half the students attend at a time
- Emphasis on core learning (math, science, language arts, social studies)
- Increased attention to health/wellness curriculum - daily in school
- Staggered breaks and lunch times
- Opportunity to engage in outdoor learning - and local outdoor field trips
- Students remain in cohort groups in one classroom - teachers move between classes
- Maintaining high expectation for student achievement and working to learn from our recent success with e-learning
- Utilizing staff to uphold a blended delivery model - EA's, complementary teachers, administrators
- Robust retraining of our facilities staff to uphold disinfecting processes required
- Physical distancing is required
- Siblings will be on same scheduled days for classes
- Buses may only transport 12 students at a time - AHS recommendation that parents drive whenever possible
- Sanitizing to happen regularly and deep cleaning when students not in the building



Scenario #3: Continue or Resume e-Learning

Considerations:

- Social isolation factor
- Less efficient teaching and learning
- Parental anxiety
- Apply our learning from spring e-learning experience
- Increased hours of school work

Summative Comments...and a Commitment

- Adherence to AHS guidelines - if displaying symptoms...STAY HOME
- Symptomatic students will be isolated and will need to be picked up as soon as possible
- Physical distancing and hand hygiene remain priorities

Commitment:

We are committed to the physical and mental health and well being of your children and our staff. We will adhere to the scientifically informed guidelines put forward by Alberta Health Services. We will do everything within our power to keep your children safe and we need your support and assistance to ensure they do not come to school while sick and that if we need to transition between scenarios that we do so in a way that defines Connect...we embrace any day that isn't ordinary!