



# FORESTBURG SCHOOL

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*"Our School, Our Community"*

June 3rd, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

For the 2020-21 School Year, Battle River School Division (BRSD) made the decision to move all high school programs to a quarter system. The quarter system was organized around four 10 week learning cycles, with the intention that if we had to move between in person and online learning, that only having to focus on two subjects at a time would be better for student's focus and mental health. In addition, grade 12 Diploma Exams were made optional, in class final exams were reduced in weighting, and students were given the option to complete a final project instead of a final exam.

As we now begin planning for the 2021-2022 school year, BRSD has given each highschool the choice of remaining with the quarter system or returning to the semester system. After consulting with parents, students and staff, Forestburg School has made the decision to return to the Semester System for the 2021-22 school year. Listed below are some of the considerations that contributed to this decision.

- Start and end dates for each quarter results in only 36-41 days of instruction based on Diploma writing dates. All indications are that Diploma exams will be reintroduced at 30% of a students final grade for 2021-2022.
- As sporting events, assemblies, presentations, and cultural events are re-established, time becomes an important consideration within a quarter system.
- Pace of learning compounds impacts on students with attendance concerns or those experiencing illnesses or having to be absent for various other reasons.
- Challenges of balanced course load in the quarter system for small high schools.
- Consistency/time for learning for complementary courses like French as a Second Language and Instrumental Music Band.
- Inability to shield elementary and jr high students and teachers from scheduling challenges when staff are so integrated across all four divisions in a small rural school.

As we finally begin to look forward to the school experience we would all like to have again, I would like to thank each member of our school community for your cooperation and support throughout this challenging year and look forward to working with you again.

If you have any questions or concerns about the impacts this decision may have on your child, please reach out to me at the school and we can discuss it together.

Yours in Education,

Mr. Gordon Thompson  
Principal  
Forestburg School