

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – BACK TO SCHOOL IN JASPER

Q: When will students return to École Jasper Elementary and Jasper Junior/Senior High School?

- We expect students will return to in person, in school learning, on September 17th, 2024.

Q: We won't be in Jasper when school starts on the 17th, and we are not sure when we can return. What is our option?

- If you are residing in another municipality for the foreseeable future, with **no known return timeline**, please arrange for your child to attend a school where you are living.
- Please contact that local school authority. When families move back to Jasper, they are welcome to register at the Jasper schools at that time.

Q: We're planning to temporarily be in Hinton for the start of the school year. What are our options?

- A temporary transportation service will be available from Hinton to Jasper beginning on September 17th.
- Parents must register for the temporary bus service to Jasper. The centralized pick-up location in Hinton will be shared at that time. Parents can email Transportation@gypsd.ca.

Q: What steps are required to clean up the school? Is it possible to complete this work more quickly?

- The health and safety of your children and staff is a top priority at GYPSD, and that's why we're taking the necessary steps to ensure safe, quality spaces for our school community.
- As you may know, although our schools stood up well to the fire, an assessment of the building found that smoke, ash, and dust were present. This has necessitated a thorough cleaning of all areas to ensure the health and safety of students and staff. This is a normal and necessary procedure when school buildings are exposed to such situations.
- The cleaning required goes beyond what is usually associated with janitorial work and requires remediation specialists to ensure the safety of the spaces. For example, all ceiling tiles need to be replaced, as they may be absorbing ash particles. All ventilation systems require inspection and cleaning of exposed components to ensure air quality.
- Grande Yellowhead Public School Division (GYPSD) has been working with the Government of Alberta to expedite the procurement of resources such as cleaning contractors so that the Jasper schools can reopen as soon as possible.
- Remediation work is underway and will allow the building to open on September 17th, pending any unforeseen circumstances.
- Teachers will be permitted to access their classrooms on the weekend before the 17th.

Q: Will air quality tests be carried out in the building before students return?

- Yes, expert air quality assessments will be carried out before the students and staff return.

Q: How will teachers catch up on instruction time if students don't return until September 17th?

- Instructional hours at Jasper schools normally provide for a higher number of hours than ministerial requirements.
- With the change to the start date, we will make one adjustment. We'll be extending the ÉJES school day to 3:03 pm, beginning September 17th, to the end of the school year.
- No changes are required for the Jr/Sr High School schedule.

Q: Except for the September 17th back-to-school date, will the school calendar for 2024-2025 remain the same?

- Yes. [2024/25 School Year.](#)

Q: My child is in high school (grades 10-12). Is there an option for them to connect with their teacher before the in-person learning beginning on September 17th?

- Yes. High school students will be contacted by their teachers via their GYPSD email with information and details.

Q: What is the government doing to help teachers find permanent housing in Jasper?

- Housing for school employees has been identified as a priority for the schools' reopening. School [staff needing housing have registered with the Municipality of Jasper.](#)

Q: Will the school or Division be offering psychological support and resources to staff and students?

- Yes, in addition to the employee services available to staff, our students will be supported internally by our BEST coaches, Wellness Navigators, Division Psychologist and Family School Liaison Counsellors in both of our schools in Jasper.
- GYPSD's Educational Psychologist works collaboratively with staff to support the emotional and behavioural needs of students and staff. She also supports our Family School Liaison Counsellors that work in each of our schools.
- GYPSD's Family School Liaison Counsellors (FSLCs) provide one-on-one targeted counseling sessions with students and staff. Our FSLC's support students with emotional, social, family and school concerns.
- Our Wellness Navigators provide mental health and well-being promotion and prevention to youth and families.
- Our BEST program is an Alberta Health Services Mental Health Capacity Building school initiative. BEST stands for Bringing Empowered Students Together. Our BEST Coaches deliver evidence-based universal classroom programming.
- These services will be offered in abundance starting on the first day of school and continuous throughout the school year.
- The Inclusion team is also offering **Wellness Drop-in sessions** prior to school starting.



- These will run in **Hinton** at the Hinton Learning Services Centre 149 Athabasca Ave, Hinton, AB on **September 3, 5, 10, and 12 from 1-4 pm, and,**
- In **Jasper** at Commemoration Park 1324 Pyramid Lake Road on **September 4, 6, 11, and 13 from 1-4 pm.**
- The schools will connect with Community Resources as needed. The Alberta government will also be providing additional supports to students through the Department of Mental Health and Addictions.

Q: Where can I get more information?

- View the online [Parent Information Session recording](#).
- GYPSD information is regularly updated on the [GYPSD website](https://www.gypsd.ca/wildfire-and-air-quality-information). <https://www.gypsd.ca/wildfire-and-air-quality-information>