

September 4, 2020

Dear Families,

We are excited about welcoming back students – in person and through remote learning – to the 2020-21 school year. The pandemic has brought many changes to our school and it's families, but I know that we can rise to the occasion if we work together.

Thank you for keeping up with the communications coming from HWDSB, and for completing important forms and surveys as required.

We are taking many actions to prevent COVID-19 at our school. You will notice that safety is guiding our programming choices. Here are some of the important points to remember:

### **Attestation**

Before a student can enter the school, we require that their family completes an attestation that they have read, understood, and will abide by expectations. Find this on the [Parent Portal](#). (**Back up location** <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/about/covid19/student-screening-translated-documents/>).

### **Daily COVID-19 Screening**

HWDSB COVID-19 Student Screening Checklist is to be completed daily before arriving at school. The checklist is found on the Parent Portal as well as on the [HWDSB website](#). If you answered YES to any of the screening questions, or if you refuse to answer the questions, the student has failed the screening and must not attend school. The family should contact Public Health (905) 974-9848 or their family doctor for testing. Please contact the school using [SafeArrival](#) to report the absence. If the student is tested for COVID-19, your school would appreciate knowing the outcome of that test.

### **Staggered Start Details**

As you know, we will be opening our school with a staggered start timeline. This means that not all students will begin on the same day. Please see the chart below, note which group your child falls into and reach out if you have more questions:

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 7	TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 8	WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 9	THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 10	FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 11
<b>LABOUR DAY HOLIDAY</b>	Staff Transition to New Assignments  Remote Learning Day School Training	Staff Transition to New Assignments  Remote Learning Day School Training	Students that Require Special Education Supports/Supports with Transitions and Mental Health  JK Orientation  Remote Learning Day School Welcome	Students that Require Special Education Supports/Supports with Transitions and Mental Health  JK Orientation  Remote Learning Day School Welcome
MONDAY SEPTEMBER 14	TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 15	WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 16	THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 17	FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 18
<b>GROUP A</b>  Last Name Alpha A to K (approximately ½ class)	<b>GROUP B</b>  Last Name Alpha L to Z (approximately ½ class)	<b>ALL STUDENTS RETURN TO SCHOOL (Full Classes)</b>	<b>ALL STUDENTS (Full Classes)</b>	<b>ALL STUDENTS (Full Classes)</b>

### **New Routines and Protocols**

School operations are changing significantly to ensure that we can provide a safe learning environment for students. Please look at the School Specific Plan for information about classroom set up, nutrition breaks, mandatory masks for students and entry and dismissal.

While it is important every year to label your child's belongings – it is even more important this year. Please ensure your child's name is on their masks, water bottle and belongings.

### **Water Bottles**

Drinking fountains in all schools will be bagged and not used. Please be sure to send your child with a reusable water bottle so they stay hydrated, in addition to their non-medical mask.

### **Visiting Schools**

This year, our school must significantly limit or even prohibit visitors to school, including parents, to support a safe and healthy learning environment. We ask families to call or email our school if they need to supply information or contact a staff member. Also, it is strongly recommended that parents do not drop off items during the school day.

### **Junior Kindergarten**

The FDK staff will be contacting parents directly to arrange a time to visit the school. Please only have one caregiver accompany with the child to help us limit the number of adults in the building.

### **Elementary Reorganization**

Some students will have a different teacher than what was on their June report card. If your child's teacher has changed, the school will contact you with this information. Some changes were also necessary to limit the number of contacts that students had. We appreciate your flexibility and patience as we plan to ensure a safe and predictable back to school.

I will continue to send updates as we receive added information. Thank you for understanding the challenges of planning the new school year and for sharing our commitment to a safe and successful school year.

Learn more about COVID-19 precautions at HWDSB at [www.hwdsb.on.ca/covid19](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/covid19).

If you have any questions, or think your child might struggle with school, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Jenn George,

Principal