

September 10, 2020

Dear families,

Thank you for keeping up with the communications coming from HWDSB, and for completing important forms and surveys as required. We know that this was not easy, and we are grateful for your patience and prompt replies as we prepare to welcome our Cootes Paradise students.

As we approach the first day of school, we are busy preparing for your child's arrival. Many safety measures, including physical distancing, directional markers, hand sanitation and the wearing of masks, have been put in place to ensure a safe and healthy environment. If you have not already done so, please review the plan on our website at

<https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/cootesparadise/2020/09/02/important-cootes-paradise-school-re-opening-site-plan/> .

Prior to the school year beginning, please take a moment to read the following information carefully:

Virtual Back to School Tour:

We have also prepared a mini introduction video sharing the new look of our school. Please join us in this virtual tour:

<https://hwdsb.tv/media/cootes-paradise-welcome-back-2020/>

First Day of School

Families will return to school on a staggered entry schedule as per the table below:

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 14	TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 15	WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 16	THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 17	FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 18
GROUP A Last Name Alpha A to K (approximately ½ class)	GROUP B Last Name Alpha L to Z (approximately ½ class)	ALL STUDENTS RETURN TO SCHOOL (Full Classes)	ALL STUDENTS (Full Classes)	ALL STUDENTS (Full Classes)

Attestation

Before a student can enter a school, we require that their family complete an attestation that they have read, understood, and will abide by expectations. Find this on the [Parent Portal](#). ([Backup location](#) for forms and translations.)

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.

New routines and protocols

As per our site specific plan, our school routines and protocols have changed significantly in order to support the safety and well-being of all students and staff. Please read the important information located here: [Site Plan Protocols for Families](#)

Keep 2 meters apart at all times – Masks for Adults:

We ask that when proceeding to school entry gates, families adhere to physical distancing protocols. Please ensure that you keep 2 meters apart from other families at all times. Please note that any adult entering school property is required to wear a mask. If you are entering the school building a medical mask is necessary.

Student Masks Required:

Masks are mandatory for all students in FDK to grade 5. An extra mask placed in a LABELLED baggie in your child's backpack is encouraged. All staff will be wearing masks as well.

Morning Playground Entry:

In an effort to ensure physical distancing for our students and staff, we ask that parents refrain from entering the playground area. Parents will be required to *remain outside of the playground area* and to drop off their child by the entry gates.

Note: Only **one** parent of those students in **grade 1 – 3** will be permitted to walk their child to their designated cohort line provided that they wear a mask. For **FDK students**, staff will escort students from the entry gate to their designated cohort line.

Dismissal Exit:

At the end of the school day, students will be dismissed to their class cohort lines. Parents will be required to *remain outside of the playground area* and their child will meet them at the entry gate or other designated area you have chosen with your child.

Note: Only **one** parent of those students in **grade 1 – 3** will be permitted to meet their child at their designated cohort line provided that they wear a mask. For **FDK students**, staff will escort students from their designated cohort line to the exit gate.

Entry/Dismissal Cohort Lines

Our playground has been marked to support the physical distancing of class cohorts. The playground has been divided into 9 pods. When arriving to school, students are asked to make their way to their class cohort line. After school, students will be dismissed from their pod cohort line. Please click on the link below to access the class locations by class:

[Entry/Exit Protocols – Class Line Up and Pods – Grade 1 - 5](#)

[Exit/Entry Protocol – Class Line Up and Pods - FDK](#)

Water Bottles

Drinking fountains in all schools will be bagged and not used. Please be sure to send your child with a labelled 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.

Litter-less Lunches

We encourage students to come prepared with litter-less lunches as a means to minimize contact. Students will be asked to dispose of food waste at home.

Class Assignments

With the beginning of remote learning and modifications to class cap sizes, changes have been made to reorganize classes and to ensure cohorting between families, and before and after school care. Class assignments are now complete and posted on the Parent Portal. Due to class sizes and cohorting no further changes can be made.

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

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Sincerely,

Mr. Fede & Mrs. Gojsic