

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 its 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 a 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](#). ([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.

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

**New routines and protocols**

School operations are changing significantly to ensure that we can provide a safe learning environment for students. Please refer to our school specific protocols posted to our website. These will cover everything from parking lots, classroom set up, nutrition breaks, mandatory masks for students and more.

**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 Orientation**

Kindergarten Educators will be reaching out to all families September 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Elementary reorganization**

Grade 1 to 8 Educators will be reaching out to all families September 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>.

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 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,

Laura Bartkiw

Principal