



**Friday, September 4th, 2020.**

**Dear Earl Kitchener families,**

We are excited to be welcoming back students (both 'in person' and through remote learning) to the 2020-2021 school year! The pandemic has brought many changes to our school and to families, but I know that we can rise to the occasion by working through challenges 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. Please know that safety is our primary guide and 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 each day 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.** Families should contact Public Health (905) 974-9848 or their family doctor for testing. Please contact the school using [SafeArrival](#) to report any absences and if a student is tested for COVID-19, the 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 and staff. **We are finishing school-specific protocols and expect to post these to our website in the days ahead.** This information will cover everything from parking lots to classroom set up, nutrition breaks, mandatory masks for students and more (please remember to send your child to school with a 'non-medical' mask).

### Water Bottles

Drinking fountains in all schools will be bagged and not used. We are currently having 'hydration stations' installed and ask that you please be sure to send your child with a reusable water bottle so they stay hydrated.

### 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 the school if you 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 in touch with our new families starting the week of September 8<sup>th</sup> with details and invitations for short visits on Friday, September 11<sup>th</sup>.

## **Elementary reorganization**

This week, we underwent a school re-organization based on the number of students attending 'in person' (as opposed to attending the 'Remote Learning School'). You will be contacted by your child's teacher at some point during the week of September 8<sup>th</sup> with regards to placement and in many cases, classroom and teacher assignments have changed.

I will continue to send updates as we receive additional information. Thank you for your patience, for your understanding the challenges of school planning and for sharing our commitment to ensuring a safe and successful school year for all!

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

**Sincerely,**

**David Thorne and Nancy Kucic**

**Earl Kitchener School**