



Welcome Back!

Gatestone Elementary School 2020-2021

Principal Message:

Welcome everyone to a new school year at Gatestone! Although there will be many changes to our daily routines and procedures at Gatestone due to Covid-19, we will continue to work together to make this year safe and comfortable for our students and community. This year through our Learn, Disrupt, and Rebuild ([Learn.Disrupt.Reuild@hwdsb.on.ca](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca)) initiative, students will engage and learn about ways to build a community of care. Students will participate in various learning opportunities daily to help develop safer and more equitable, inclusive learning environments. Student will explore new safety routines about attending school during a pandemic, learn how to keep one another safe, both physically and emotionally, develop an understanding of the connection between identity, equity, mental health and well-being, and create a foundation for deeper conversations and learning throughout the school year. Students will also continue to demonstrate our six Core Values at Gatestone. ***RESPECT, POSITIVITY, ENGAGEMENT, TEAMWORK, COMMUNITY, and FEELING SAFE AND SUPPORTED.***

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Mr. Hazell to our Gatestone community. Mr. Hazell will be covering for our Vice-Principal, Ms. M. Biederman while she is taking care of her new baby. We are excited and ready to support our families and students as schools re-open this September.

Communication with families will be very different this year as we adhere to public health protocols to keep all students and staff safe in the building. Communication will occur through our school website, twitter account, and e-mails to families. The posting of community updates will occur weekly on our website and through SchoolMessenger. Please subscribe to the Gatestone Website (<http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/gatestone/>). You can subscribe by clicking “subscribe” on the bottom left of the home page. Our Twitter account is @GatestoneSchool. Should you need to connect with me please feel free to contact me by phone at the school or through e-mail kreillys@hwdsb.on.ca.

Respectfully,

Kelly Reilly-Scott

Principal

Schedule for Re-opening Sept. 8-18 - Revised

August 31 - September 7	Schools remain closed week of August 31-September 4. Office staff will be available to answer phones and e-mails.
Tuesday, September 8	Schools Closed for Students
Wednesday, September 9	Schools Closed for Students
Thursday, September 10	Schools open for students requiring supports with transition & JK Orientation. Parents will be contacted for scheduled times.
Friday, September 11	Schools open for students requiring supports with transition & JK Orientation. Parents will be contacted for scheduled times.
Monday, Sept. 14	STAGGERED START TO SCHOOL FOR ALL STUDENTS Group A starts school (Group B does not attend) Last Name A-K
Tuesday, September 15	Group B starts school (Group A does not attend) Last Name L-Z
September 16 – 18	<i>All students attend school</i>

SEPTEMBER START UP DETAILS

WELCOME TO THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR



Many thanks to our caretaking team who spent the summer working hard to get our school ready so we have spacious classrooms that allow for physical distancing and clean working spaces.

Our caretaking team will be working countless hours daily to keep our schools germ free. Our caretaking team will maintain sanitized work and learning areas, manage extra thorough cleanings of washrooms and touch points, support frequent sanitizing of classroom equipment and resources, and run overall daily operations to ensure a clean and safe environment.

Welcome New Staff and Welcome Back Existing Staff to our Gatestone Community

Mr. Hazell	Covering for our Vice-Principal, Ms. Biederman
Ms. Nighswander	Kindergarten (returning from leave)
Ms. Rego	Kindergarten DECE
Mr. Smith	Junior Grades
Ms. Wunsche	Junior Comprehensive Program
Ms. Sorman	Junior Grades (Mrs. Taylor is currently on leave)
Ms. Zalter	Intermediate Grades (Ms. Lamarre is currently on leave)
Ms. Kennedy	Educational Assistant
Ms. Rezo	Educational Assistant

COMMUNICATION

This year we will continue to communicate with families through online platforms (the HWDSB HUB, MS Teams, teacher e-mail). Visitors must go through a medical screening before entering the building. Meetings will take place online through MS Teams unless there are special circumstances. Visits to our main office is limited except for emergency situations. Families should communicate with the school through e-mail or phone. Primary and junior students will receive an agenda as a communication tool as well. We will share an updated staff list with e-mails attached for families next week. Phone calls or e-mail will be the preferred communication between teacher and parents. Please subscribe to our website for weekly community updates throughout the year.

SCHOOL REORGANIZATION

The HWDSB will be reorganizing schools the week of August 31. Families will be contacted if they have been impacted due to the school re-organization at the end of the week and your child’s new class placement will be shared. We apologize that there may be changes from tentative class placements set in June. Due to available space in classrooms and the HWDSB classroom cap recommendations, the school will not be

able to accommodate any further changes for the assigned class placement. Our staff is dedicated to building supportive, inclusive and safe classrooms for all of our students. The office will not be accepting requests for specific staff members or peer groups.

GATESTONE SCHOOL HOURS


SCHOOL BELL TIMES 2019-2020

School Grounds Open	8:45
Entry Bell	9:00
1 st Nutritional Break	11:00 – 11:40
2 nd Nutritional Break	1:20 – 2:00
Dismissal	3:20
School Grounds Close	3:35



STUDENTS REQUIRING TRANSPORTATION

BUS TRANSPORTATION

Busing is only available for our  Kindergarten students who receive confirmation of transportation during the month of August. Parents **not intending** to use the bus this year must contact the HWSTS website, <https://www.hamiltonschoolbus.ca/>, and click on the link “Intentions to not use the School Bus”.

Students will have a seating plan on the bus this year and must remain in the assigned seat. Cohorts (students in the same class) and siblings will sit closest to one another on the bus. Students will be required to wear masks on the school bus. ***Due to limited spacing on buses, courtesy requests will be paused at this time. There will be no exceptions. We appreciate families understanding to allow for space on our buses. Siblings in Grades 1-8 are not eligible for the school bus.***

CLASSROOM SET UP & SUPPLIES

Students will have their own desk area assigned. Our cubby areas and locker use are on pause until further notice. Students will leave items in their desk area and store backpacks and coats under their desks or chairs. Students must bring all of their belongings, except for their classroom supplies that may remain in desks, home with them at the end of the day. Equipment or resources shared between a cohort (one

class) will be sanitized or left for 72 hours prior to sharing with another student. Gatestone will supply students with required materials for learning, however, families may choose to purchase specific materials for school.

Here are supplies you may consider purchasing for your child for Grades 1-8. These supplies must not be shared with other students in the class. The school will distribute notebooks, duotangs, and agendas for individual students.

- Pencils
- Pencil crayons
- Markers
- Small case to store materials
- A pair of scissors
- Calculator (junior/intermediate students)
- Glue Stick

More information will be shared next week for Kindergarten families. Kindergarten students should have a backpack to store indoor shoes, spare clothes and lunch.

GATESTONE DAILY PROCEDURES AND ROUTINES

Families will receive further detailed routines and procedures at Gatestone next week and further information to come for parents who have chosen remote online learning in September (e.g., technology needs and returns, entry/dismissal, nutrition break, classroom environment, visitors in schools). Please continue to monitor the HWDSB website for family updates as well.

“Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success.”