



Welcome Back!

Gatestone Elementary School 2020-2021

Monday, September 14	Day 5	Staggered Start Students with Last Name: A-K Attend Only School Grounds Open at 8:45AM. Due to Covid-19 Safety Procedures, our Main office is closed to visitors. Please call 905-573-7731 if you need assistance from our main office.
Tuesday, September 15	Day 1	Staggered Start Students with Last Name: L-Z Attend Only
Wednesday, September 16	Day 2	All Students Attend
Thursday, September 17	Day 3	All Students Attend
Friday, September 18	Day 4	All Students Attend

Gatestone Families,

We are excited about welcoming back students Monday, September 14 (Students Last Name A-K) and Tuesday, September 15 (Students Last Name L-Z). 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.). **Students will not be able to attend class if the attestation form is not completed.**

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.

Entry/Dismissal

Our School Playground is **closed** until 8:45AM. Please do not send your child to school prior to 8:45AM. At entry it will be a different routine for parents and students than in the past. Students will go straight to their assigned class line and wait for the bell. We will continue to encourage physical distancing in the class lines as well. A map of assigned class lines has been posted to help parents on their child's first day. Our staff will also be out to support.

Due to Covid-19 safety procedures, we ask parents with older students (Grades 4-8) to please drop off your child at our gates or front of the school as we will need to limit traffic on our pathways around the school. Parents with younger students (Kindergarten to Grade 3), please wait on our field (if needed) maintaining physical distance from others and a supervisor can direct your child to their class line (if needed). Kindergarten parents, we ask after dropping off your child at the Kindergarten gate, to quickly exit the front gated area to allow for space of other families that are also dropping off their children. We appreciate your understanding here.

Our parking lot remains closed due to safety of our students walking, biking or arriving by bus. Gatestone is a "walking" school, however in special circumstances if you need to drive your child to school please park on adjacent streets, not in front of the school, and walk your child (if needed) to the school grounds.

At the end of the day procedures will be similar to entry as students will line up in their class lines and then each class will be dismissed one at a time. We are trying to limit students crossing other class cohorts.

New routines and protocols

Please review our Gatestone Elementary Site Plan for new information about school operations and routines.

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.

Technology

Students returning to in-class learning that borrowed a school ipad last school year should wait to return the device until a protocol is shared regarding the drop off process. A process in the upcoming weeks will be communicated to families that have chosen online learning and require a device.

Students with a Medical Plan of Care

Our office has e-mailed parents to update or acknowledge their child's medical plan of care for this school year. Students with severe allergies requiring an epi-pen must have their epi-pen on person starting the first day of school. Please also send a second epi-pen for our office with your child labelling that the epi-pen is for the office. Students with asthma should have their puffer on person as well. If a second puffer is required to be stored at the office, please send this in with your child with a label stating to deliver to the office.

Thank you Gatestone Community

Gatestone staff sincerely thanks our Gatestone families for your patience with us during these unprecedented times. We appreciate your understanding of new procedures and routines that are occurring at school and for students participating in remote online learning. We will continue to do our best to support your needs and answer your questions as we work to re-open schools safely.

Learn more about COVID-19 precautions at HWDSB at www.hwdsb.on.ca/covid19.



GATESTONE STAFF



Staff Name	Grade
Marie Pliura	Kindergarten 1 (A)
Jennifer Nighswander	Kindergarten 2 (B)
Krysta Tortola	DECE Kinder 2 (B)
Kylie Schmidt	Kindergarten 3 (C)
Sharon Pauls	DECE Kinder 3 (C)
Gillian Vinall	Kindergarten 4 (D)
Aleksandra Rego	DECE Kinder 4 (D)
Corene O'Marra	1A
Katie Benedict	1/2A
Roseanna Cino	1/2B
Andrea Brown	2/3A
Amanda Flis	3A
Andrew Macnab	3/4A
Penny Johnson	4A
Michele Wunsche	Junior Comprehensive Program 69
Melissa Kuzcerepa	4B
Melissa Bartlett	5A
Colleen Nash	5B
Jessica Whittle	6A
Jennifer Taylor (LTO Devan Sorman)	6B
James (Jim) Smith	6/7
Tammy Caco	7A
Brenda Gould	7B
Suzy Graham	8A
Laura Lamarre (LTO Julia Phillips)	8B
Jessica Penner	8C
David Pidberezny	Intermediate Comprehensive Program 68
Melanie Barber	Learning Commons & Cov.
Erin Salverda	Learning Commons & Cov.
Yan Shi	Student Success
Lisa Dunstall	LRT
Marlo Moore	LRT
Jamie Lamarre	Intermediate Core French
Steve McCormack	Music/French/Coverage
Amanda Verbeek	Junior Core French

Dan Lane	Physical Education
Sandy Batenburg	Reading Specialist
Educational Assistants: Alana Gaudin Katie Kersey Petina Barnett Cindy Kennedy Linda Rezo	
Custodial Staff: Leon Plevel (Daytime Caretaker) Gail Minshall (Evening Caretaker) Zorka Brdar (Evening Caretaker) Rada Bilbija (Evening Caretaker)	
Office Staff: Karen Ashton: Office Administrator Katy Mason: Office Administrator Kelly Reilly-Scott: Principal Dave Hazell: Principal covering for Ms. Biderman Melissa Biederman: Vice-Principal	