



September 21 – September 25

Gatestone Elementary School 2020-2021

Monday, September 21	Day 5	<p>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.</p> <p>Families that borrowed technology during school closure may now return devices to the school – see process below.</p>
Tuesday, September 22	Day 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:30AM Fire Drill <p>Families that borrowed technology during school closure may now return devices to the school – see process below.</p>
Wednesday, September 23	Day 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:30AM School Wide Virtual Assembly on MS Teams (Students will remain in their classroom for the assembly) <p>Families that borrowed technology during school closure may now return devices to the school – see process below.</p>
Thursday, September 24	Day 3	<p>Families that borrowed technology during school closure may now return devices to the school – see process below.</p>
Friday, September 25	Day 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12:00PM Fire Drill • Technology Returns should be completed

Technology Returns

We are now collecting technology devices families borrowed during our school closure. If you have technology to return, please place the technology in a clear bag, return the ipad, charger and cube and label your child’s name on the bag. Homeroom teachers will collect the bagged device and deliver it to the office. Please return the technology by September 25.

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.

There is now a code in SafeArrival parents can use if your child has Covid-19 symptoms. If your child is experiencing Covid-19 symptoms the child should isolate at home. Siblings may still attend school if they are not presenting with any symptoms. Parents are encouraged to have their child tested. If the Covid-19 test is negative students stay home until 24 hours without symptoms. If parents choose not to send their child for a test, then the child stays home at least 14 days and needs to be without symptoms for 24 hours prior to returning to school. If your child tests positive for Covid-19, then siblings must also remain at home. The child with the positive test will self isolate for at least 14 days and can return to school after 24 hours without symptoms. Siblings are encouraged to be tested. If not tested, siblings remain home for 14 days and may return to school as long as they are symptom free after 14 days.

<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>

Safe School Procedures

We will continue to practice safe school procedures this year. Throughout the year, we will practice six Fire Drills (3 in Fall and 3 in Spring), one Lockdown, one Hold and Secure, one Shelter in Place, and one Evacuation Drill (Bomb Threat).

In actual emergencies students will evacuate the building quickly and orderly. To protect students during the Covid-19 pandemic, our fire drills, evacuation drill, and lockdown drill will be practiced differently to protect students and maintain physical distancing.

During our Fire Drill students will learn about the alarm sound, review their primary and secondary exits with their teacher, practice exiting the building at these exits, and practice lining up outside. Students will line up outside with physical distance (2 metres apart). Our Evacuation drill will follow a similar process as a Fire Drill. During our Lockdown Drill students will still remain in their classroom, but sit on the floor beside their desk rather than a separate area in the classroom. In the event of a real Lockdown, teachers will direct students away from any windows or open spaces.

Below are the processes staff and students follow during emergencies.

Fire (Evacuation) - Refer to HWDSB Fire Evacuation Procedures

Bomb Threat and Other Explosive Devices (Emergency Evacuation)

In the event that a bomb threat is received, an explosive device is discovered or reported, or an explosive incident takes place the school will evacuate.

- A person receiving a bomb threat by telephone should try to keep the caller on line;
- All bomb threats should be taken seriously and reported to the Principal or designate in the building;
- Principal or designate should contact Superintendent and Corporate Communications;
- Ensure main entrance is unlocked for police to enter.

Upon receiving a phone call regarding a BOMB THREAT:

1. Record exact wording of threat.
2. Record phone number
3. Ask questions. *What time will the bomb explode? Where is the bomb? What does it look like? Where are you calling from? Why did you place the bomb? What is your name? Identify characteristics (e.g., male, female, age, voice, emotion). Identify time of call and date.*

Lockdown Procedure

A procedure used in response to a major incident or threat of violence with the school, or in relation to the school.

Defined by police as the restriction of movement during the time of a potentially serious violent threat or violent incident that would endanger the lives of students and staff.

- Used when there is a violent incident or thread of serious violence within the school, or in relation to the school;
- The threat is inside the school, or is on school property, and poses an immediate threat to the students and staff;
- Police will notify the school when Lockdown is ended.

Hold and Secure

A procedure used when the school is secured due to an ongoing situation outside and not related to the school that requires all persons to remain in the building, but continue with regular programming (e.g., bank robbery near the school).

- School continues to function as normal, but all persons must remain in the building;
- All movement in and out of the school is restricted;
- Exterior windows should be covered or blinds drawn, lights dimmed;
- Police will notify the school the Hold and Secure is done.

Shelter in Place

A procedure used when there is an environmental, or weather related situation, where it is necessary to keep all occupants within the school to protect them (e.g., chemical spill outside, extreme weather conditions).

- People remain in the building with doors and windows closed;
- Normal operations continue in the building. Fans including heating and air conditioning units, should be turned off to prevent outdoor air from entering the building.

Physical Distancing

Teachers have been practicing physical distancing (2 metres apart) with students during entry and dismissal times as well as during nutrition break. We are still working through these routines and have needed to remind students frequently about the importance of this practice. It would be helpful if our Gatestone parents can also have these discussions at home with their children about why physical distancing is so important at school (e.g., keeping others around you safe in a pandemic, staying

healthy, not spreading germs). Our staff will be sharing ideas around different games students may play that allow for physical distancing.

Masks

Students are not required to wear masks outside during nutrition break. We are encouraging students to keep their masks on during entry and dismissal times when traffic is busier on our field and walkways. Please speak to your child about the importance of wearing their mask during these short times for the safety of others and their own safety.

A friendly reminder that parents are required to wear a non-medical mask when on school property. Please wait outside of the school zone if you do not have a mask. We appreciate your understanding here.

Entry Time

We are now moving to a direct entry process to support traffic flow on our property. Parents with children Grades 4-8 should not be entering school property. Please say your goodbyes at our gates or front sidewalk. Parents with younger children (Kindergarten- Gr.3) that need to support them to their entry door, please exit the property once your child has been dropped off to allow for space for other families also needing to drop off their child.

Although supervision begins at 8:45AM, students will be going directly to their assigned seat in their classroom. If able, sending your child closer to the bell time (9:00AM) would be beneficial so students are not sitting for lengthy periods of time before class.

Dismissal Time

Classroom lines are exiting one class at a time from older grades to younger grades with specific direction (side pathway, back of field gate, city pathway near parking lot side). Please remind your children when exiting they should continue to exit with their cohort in a single file line until they are off school property. This will help students from crossing into other cohorts.

