



## ***Welcome Back! September 8-10***

### **Gatestone Elementary School 2021-2022**

**Friday, September 3, 2021.**

Dear Gatestone families,

Gatestone staff is excited to welcome back students once again, in person and remotely. The pandemic continues to affect many of our school operations and our Gatestone families. We will continue to work together to keep our students and families safe! Below are some important reminders and some changes to our protocols. Please also review the Gatestone Site Plan in the Community Updates for further details regarding our school routines and adherence to public health measures.

We appreciate that families may have a lot of questions as they prepare to send their children back to classes and are committed to sharing updates as we receive new information. We also invite families to keep up with communications from HWDSB by [subscribing to email updates](#) or following @hwdsb on social media.

A friendly reminder that the first day of school will be **Wednesday, September 8 for Grades, 1-8 and Thursday, September 9 for all Grades, Kindergarten - 8**. We understand that this falls on the last day of Rosh Hashanah, and will be working directly with families who require accommodation for this day. Please reach out to the school if you have any questions.

We know that safety is on the minds of every family sending their child/ren back to school. We are taking many actions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our classes while giving our students meaningful experiences which focus on both their physical and emotional well-being. Here are some important points for families to remember as students prepare for the start of the school year.

We will continue to send updates as we receive added information and thank you for being proactive in following communications from HWDSB.

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.

## Attestation

Before a student can enter a school, we require that their family completes an attestation form in the parent portal for the first day of school, September 8<sup>th</sup>. Students must have this attestation form completed to attend school. You can locate the attestation form 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. This year students will need to present proof of completed screening daily. More information will be shared with families soon regarding this process. If your child does not pass the daily screener, 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.

## Visiting Schools

This year, our school must significantly continue to 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. Parents are asked to not drop off items during the school day to avoid unnecessary traffic and exposure on school grounds. Please contact the school first if you believe you need to bring an item to the school. We may be able to problem solve

to avoid the extra traffic on the school grounds. Students should come prepared for learning daily with a lunch, water bottle, appropriate clothing and learning materials.

## Junior Kindergarten Orientation

Our Kindergarten staff has e-mailed or phoned our families of JK students or those students new to SK to set up a classroom visit on Wednesday, September 8. We ask one parent only attend. A medical screening will be completed prior to entering the building. Parents must sign in at our main office prior to visiting the classroom and must wear our Board PPE (medical mask provided at the office).

## Technology

Students returning to in-class learning that borrowed a school ipad last school year and have not yet returned the device, should bring the device back on the first day with student name and current grade labelled. We appreciate families support in returning these devices in a timely manner so we can redistribute for in-person learning.

## School Council

Our 1<sup>st</sup> School Council Information session will take place on MS Teams in the evening of September 15. All families are welcome. We encourage our families you to attend this meeting to find out more about our school council and different ways our family community can help. Nominations forms for council will be sent home in early September and there will be another council meeting the evening of September 29<sup>th</sup> on MS Teams to determine council positions and voting members. Please see our website, School Council Page, for further details about Council.



## Busing

Year 1 or Year 2 Kindergarten students that are assigned to a bus should be riding the bus to and from school. If your child is participating in morning or after school care with Umbrella Day Care, please notify transportation immediately of the times your child will be attending Umbrella. Transportation will then notify the school of the updated busing information for your child. Parents/guardians are still advised to also notify your child's homeroom teacher and main office of any changes to busing transportation. This

provides the school with an accurate list of when your child should be riding the bus to and from school.

Busing is only provided for our Year 1 and Year 2 Kindergarten students and a small group of students that live outside of the required walking kilometres to Gatestone.

To locate your child's bus stop information, please log into the parent portal on the HWSTS website. [www.hamiltonschoolbus.ca](http://www.hamiltonschoolbus.ca).

### **Special Shout Out to our Gatestone Community**

I sincerely want to thank our Gatestone families for your patience this summer waiting to hear news of new protocols. We appreciate your understanding of new procedures as we work through existing and some new routines at Gatestone. 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](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/covid19).

If you have any questions, or think your child might struggle with school, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Kelly Reilly-Scott  
Principal

## Previous Updates – August 30 – September 3<sup>rd</sup>

### Gatestone Staff Information 2021-2022 School Year

Staff Name	Assignment
Steve McCormack	JSA
Sharon Pauls	DECE JSA
Roseanna Cino	JSB
Krysta Tortola	DECE JSB
Kylie Schmidt	JSC
Aleksandra Rego	DECE JSC
Amanda Zona (previously Ms. Flis)	JSD
Judith Feaver	DECE JSD
Katie Benedict	Grade 1A
Jennifer Nighswander	Grade 1B
Andrea Brown	Grade 2A
Corene O'Marra	Grade 2B
Penny Johnson	Grade 3B
Andrew Macnab	Grade 3B
Melissa Kuczerepa	Grade 4A
David Pidberezny	Grade 4B
Michele Wunsche	Jr/Int Comprehensive Program
Melissa Bartlett	Grade 5A
Colleen Nash	Grade 5B
Jessica Whittle	Grade 5/6A
Jennifer Taylor/Alyssa Stewart	Grade 6A
Brenda Gould	Grade 6/7A
Devan Sorman	Grade 6/7B
Tammy Caco	Grade 7A
Laura Lamarre	Grade 7/8A
Suzy Graham	Grade 8A
Jessica Penner	Grade 8B
Leeanne Smith	Learning Commons & Coverage
Lisa Dunstall	Resource Support LRT/Pr.Coverage
Marlo Moore	Resource Support LRT/Pr. Coverage
Jamie Lamarre	Intermediate Core French
Amanda Verbeek	Junior Core French
Dan Lane	Physical Education

Cassandra Muraca	Instrumental Music Junior/Intermediate
Evan Haskell-Cowan	Grade 8 Remote Teacher
Sarah Coburn	JK/SK Remote Teacher
<b>Staff Name</b>	<b>Assignment</b>
Humaira Naz	JK/SK Remote DECE
Afroze Ahtisham	Remote/In-Person
<b>Educational Assistants:</b>	
Marion Blake-Foster LTO(Alana Gaudin)	Educational Assistant
Katie Kersley	Educational Assistant
Petina Barnett	Educational Assistant
Cindy Kennedy	Educational Assistant
Linda Rezo	Educational Assistant
<b>Custodial Staff:</b>	
Leon Plevel (Daytime Caretaker)	Caretaking Team
Lorna McQueen (Daytime Caretaker)	Caretaking Team
Rosa Palmieri (Evening Caretaker)	Caretaking Team
Nada Hrastov (Evening Caretaker)	Caretaking Team
Malgorazata Frak (Evening Caretaker)	Caretaking Team
<b>Office Staff:</b>	
Karen Ashton: Office Administrator	Office
Katy Mason: Office Administrator	Office
Kelly Reilly-Scott: Principal	Office
Melissa Biederman: Vice-Principal	Office

## Class Assignments for September 2021

Families had the opportunity in May of 2021 to share any information regarding a specific learning environment for September 2021. Class placements are complete. **Due to class size caps and adhering to Public Health Measures, we are not able to make changes to class placements.** Our staff is always prepared to support learners that may feel anxious or worried about moving to a new grade, class or working with new peers or teachers. As a school community we recognize transitions can be challenging for some of our students. Staff are trained to support in these transitions and ready to help problem solve and guide when necessary. Please do not request changes to the office for class placements for September 2021 as we are not able to honour changes at this time for the start up. HWDSB will monitor our school enrolment numbers in September and determine whether a reorganization at the end of September is necessary. All schools follow the same process yearly.

## Gatestone Bell Times 2021-2022

<b>Entry 9:00 – 9:15</b>	<b>School Grounds Open</b>
<b>AM</b>	
<b>9:15 – 9:55</b>	<b>Period 1</b>
<b>9:55 – 10:35</b>	<b>Period 2</b>
<b>10:35 – 11:15</b>	<b>Period 3</b>
<b>11:15 – 11:35</b>	<b>Grade 5-8, Outside Nutrition Break Grade 1-4, Inside Nutrition Break</b>
<b>11:35 – 11:55</b>	<b>Grade 1-4, Outside Nutrition Break Grade 5-8, Inside Nutrition Break</b>
<b>11:55 – 12:25</b>	<b>Period 4</b>
<b>PM</b>	
<b>12:25 – 12:55</b>	<b>Period 5</b>
<b>12:55 – 1:35</b>	<b>Period 6</b>
<b>1:35 – 1:55</b>	<b>Grade 5-8 Outside Nutrition Break Grade 1-4 Inside Nutrition Break</b>
<b>1:55 – 2:15</b>	<b>Grade 1-4 Outside Nutrition Break Grade 5-8 Inside Nutrition Break</b>
<b>2:15 – 2:55</b>	<b>Period 7</b>
<b>2:55 – 3:35</b>	<b>Period 8</b>
<b>3:35 – 3:55</b>	<b>Dismissal</b>
<b>3:55</b>	<b>School Grounds Close</b>

## Umbrella Child Care

Before and After care is available at Gatestone's site. Umbrella Child Care is organized through Umbrella Care only. Our main office does not manage registrations with Umbrella. Please review the link to contact Umbrella Care if you are seeking child care before and after school.

<https://www.umbrellafamily.com/home/centres/gatestone/>

## Remote Learning Transitions

HWDSB is providing an opportunity for elementary students to transition between in-person and Remote Learning later this fall.

**Starting Friday, September 3, families who want a change for their child/ren between learning models can make their choice in the Parent Portal. The survey will close one week later, Friday, September 10, and students will make their transition between learning models in early October.**

Families requesting a transition between remote and in-person learning this September are reminded that students will begin the school year in their original selection and will not complete their transition until a later date. Students who did not previously select the Remote Learning option in the June 2021 survey are considered in-person learners by default.

Join the Elementary Remote Learning Parent Information Session on September 1 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. for more information.