



January 17 – January 21

## Gatestone Elementary School 2021-2022

### Week at a Glance

Monday, January 17	Day 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>In-Person Learning Begins</li></ul> Please make sure to screen your child daily. <a href="https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/">https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/</a>
Tuesday, January 18	Day 3	Please complete your daily screener.
Wednesday, January 19	Day 4	Please complete your daily screener.
Thursday, January 20	Day 5	Please complete your daily screener.
Friday, January 21	Day 1	Please complete your daily screener.

### Preparing for School Re-opening

#### Transition Opportunity to Move to Remote Learning

Due to the wide spread of Omicron, HWDSB is offering another transition opportunity for families wishing to request remote learning. This is only for families that will not be sending their child back to in-person learning. Once requesting the transition, the placement will continue until the end of June. The survey is open Thursday, January 13 and closes Thursday, January 20<sup>th</sup> by 4PM. We will not be able to take requests after January 20<sup>th</sup>. Only families with students currently attending in-person learning, that are interested in moving to remote learning for the remainder of the year, need to complete this survey. If you are having difficulty locating the survey, please connect with our school main office for support before January 20<sup>th</sup>.

Survey Link with Further Information

- [Elementary – Optional Transition to Full-time Remote Learning](#)

## Public Health Guidance

The Ministry of Health published [COVID-19: Interim Guidance for Schools and Child Care: Omicron Surge](#). Also, please find two updated decision guides created by Hamilton Public Health Services schools will follow when a student is symptomatic.

- [Symptomatic Child At Home – Decision Guide](#)
- [Symptomatic Child at School or Child Care – Decision Guide](#)

*When in doubt, please contact the school before sending your child to school. Any child with a symptom (common or less common) will not pass the screener and should follow the appropriate isolation guidelines. We appreciate families working together to keep schools safe and everyone healthy.*

### Student Daily Screening

Student daily screening will begin again starting January 17th and continue until further notice. Our younger students will receive a calendar for the month of January. Parents will need to initial each day, once the screener has been completed, to verify their child has passed the screener. Please do not initial the days ahead on the screener as the purpose of this tool is to remind us to screen daily and work through the screener questions each day. Older students (typically Grade 6-8) that are able to read the screener and answer the questions may complete the screener in the morning with their classroom teacher. Students may also complete this on their device as well. The green check mark will determine if they have passed the screener and can attend school. Thank you for your support here!

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

### Reporting

Due to the limited availability of testing and changes to case and contact management practices, which include assuming anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 has the virus rather than a cold or flu, we are unable to provide accurate numbers for cases in classrooms. However, we recognize that parents are accustomed to knowing if there is a case in their child's school or class and we are committed to transparency with our families and stakeholders as much as is possible given the changes noted above.

- Principals will report absentee rates (staff and students) to the provincial government daily.
- This number will be shared with the Board as a percentage of students and staff and posted on the Board website. **Please note this will not include a class-by-class breakdown, only an overall number of absences or percentage of staff/student absences and will be noted for the *previous* day.**

- If a school's absence rate for students or staff reaches 30%, principals will report that to Public Health and will follow Public Health guidance.

### ***Additional Measures***

We will continue to reduce the number of contacts within our schools in any way possible. This includes:

- A pause on any in-person high-contact/high-intensity activities, as well as band and choir.
- There will be a pause on **all extra curricular activities** (except for those activities that run virtually) until further notice
- School Photographs are on pause
- Students will remain with their classroom cohorts during recesses and lunch breaks, even while outside.
- School boards are permitted to mix contacts if necessary to continue school operations due to staffing shortages. If this occurs, classrooms may be combined into larger areas (gyms, libraries) where they can be supervised by a teacher with physical distance between the cohorts. We are also using all of the resources available, including retired teachers and principals, occasional teachers, student teachers and emergency instructors to support keeping our schools open without having to mix cohorts.
- Closing a school due to an unsafe staffing level will be considered only as a last resort

### **Devices – Returning to the School**

Please have your child return their borrowed device to Gatestone on Monday, January 17<sup>th</sup>. **Please include a label on the device with your child's name and grade.** The name is important for system tracking. Without your child's name on the device, we will not be able to identify if the device was returned according to school records. **Please make sure to return chords and chargers as well.** Thank you for your assistance here.

### **Short Term Asynchronous Learning**

Elementary Short Term Virtual Learning will be offered for parents who do not wish to send their child back for in-person learning for a short period of time. The Short-term virtual learning will be asynchronous. Current classroom teachers will not provide the learning. HWDSB School Programs will provide learning packages accessed through <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/elementary/elementary-remote-learning-2021-22/learn-at-home/> and supplement through a regular MS Teams event that will:

- Have a live component at scheduled hours;
- Enable questions regarding the learning packages to be asked and responded to in the chat function;
- Not provide 1:1 support;

The Short-Term Virtual Learning Model will continue to February 18, 2022 depending on the evolving situation with COVID-19 in the province. The learning packages on [www.hwdsb.on.ca](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca) can be translated through Google Translate. MS Teams provides captioning in different languages. There are also resources for students and families at the HWDSB Learn4Success , Centre4Success and Enrichment and Innovation websites. Individualized learning packages will not be available for students.

Families that choose to participate in asynchronous learning for the next few weeks, rather than have their child attend in-person, **must notify the main office**. Our office will require a temporary excusal form. Our main office will send the form to parents/guardians via email for signature.

*Looking forward to having our students return for in-person learning.*