

September 4, 2020

Dear Families,

We are excited about welcoming back students – in person and through remote learning – to the 2020-21 school year. The pandemic has brought many changes to our school and its families, but I know that we can rise to the occasion if we work together.

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.)

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.

Staggered start details

As you know, we will be opening our school with a staggered start timeline. This means that not all students will begin on the same day. Please see the chart below, note which group your child falls into, and reach out if you have more questions:

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 7	TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 8	WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 9	THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 10	FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 11
LABOUR DAY HOLIDAY	Staff Transition to New Assignments Remote Learning Day School Training	Staff Transition to New Assignments Remote Learning Day School Training	Students that Require Special Education Supports/Supports with Transitions and Mental Health JK Orientation Remote Learning Day School Welcome	Students that Require Special Education Supports/Supports with Transitions and Mental Health JK Orientation Remote Learning Day School Welcome
MONDAY SEPTEMBER 14	TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 15	WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 16	THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 17	FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 18
GROUP A Last Name Alpha A to K (approximately 1/3 class)	GROUP B Last Name Alpha L to Z (approximately 1/3 class)	ALL STUDENTS RETURN TO SCHOOL (Full Classes)	ALL STUDENTS (Full Classes)	ALL STUDENTS (Full Classes)

New routines and protocols

School operations are changing significantly to ensure that we can provide a safe learning environment for students. We are finishing school-specific protocols and expect to post these to our website in the days ahead. These will cover everything from parking lots, classroom set up, nutrition breaks, mandatory masks for students and more.

Water Bottles

Drinking fountains in all schools will be bagged and not used. Please be sure to send your child with a reusable water bottle so they stay hydrated, in addition to their non-medical mask.

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.

Junior Kindergarten Orientation

Staff will be calling families of Junior Kindergarten students to arrange for a visit to the classroom. One parent will be invited to attend with their child. You will both need to be wearing a mask for you visit.

These short visits (5-10 mins) will take place on Sept. 10 and Sept. 11.

Elementary reorganization

Many changes have occurred at G. L. Armstrong with students choosing the online learning option. Therefore, we have had to re-arrange many of our classes. Check the Parent Portal, beginning on Tuesday, Sept. 8 under "My Schedule" to find out what class your child will be in. We will not be making any class changes at this time as further re-organization may occur at a later date.

I will continue to send updates as we receive added information. Thank you for understanding the challenges of planning the new school year, and for sharing our commitment to safe and successful school year.

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

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

Sincerely,

Karen Koop, Principal

Susan Boshier, Vice Principal