

Monday, September 7, 2020

Dear Ridgemount families,

We are excited about welcoming back students (both '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 ½ class) | GROUP B Last Name Alpha L to Z (approximately ½ 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

Kindergarten educators will be in touch with our new families starting September 8th with details and invitations for short visits on September 10th or 11th.

Elementary reorganization

This week, we underwent a school re-organization. You will be contacted by your child's teacher at some point during the week of September 8th with regards to placement. In many cases, your child's classroom and teacher might have changed.

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

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

Sincerely,

Mr. G. Carey – Principal & Mme. N. Kucic – Vice Principal

Ridgemount Elementary School