



Sunday, October 25, 2020

Dear Ridgemount families,

We are happy to share that our students, staff and families have been doing all they can to support our new safety protocols and routines. Our staff and students are doing an exceptional job following our new routines and protocols. We will continue to work together to review and practice our new protocols and routines to ensure our HWDSB protocols are in place. **Please be sure to wear masks when on or near the school premises especially during busy drop off and pick up times.**

For information around school Halloween celebrations please contact your child's teacher or ensure that you review all communication shared with you by your child's teacher. There will be several restrictions this year given our covid protocols however, we hope to try to manage some safe and enjoyable school activities.

Thank you to those of you that joined us for our school council meeting last Monday. We are happy to announce that our School Council Co-Charis are Donna Taylor-Andrews and Phi Erwood. Thank you to both of you for representing our school community. Our School Council Meetings will be as follows:

- Monday, January 18, 2020
- Monday, March 8, 2020,
- Monday, May 10, 2020

We will continue to host our meetings using the MS Teams platform and will send out more information (including instruction and the link to join our meeting) closer to the dates of the meetings. We will post our agendas and meeting minutes on our website under the School Council & Meeting Minutes tab.

Thank you to everyone that took part in our first meeting.

Thank you for keeping up with the communications coming from HWDSB, and for completing important forms, daily screening and reminding students of safety protocols as required. Please be sure to connect with your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns. A reminder to stay updated and informed please register for our website by logging on to www.hwdsb.on.ca/ridgemount/

School reorganization

We will continue to send updates as we receive added information or if any changes to staff or schedules are required. Thank you for your patience, for your understanding the challenges of planning this school year, and for sharing our commitment to ensuring a safe and successful school year for all.

This week and next the HWDSB will be going through another reorganization process. Elementary school reorganization is a coordinated response to yearly enrolment fluctuations with minimal disruption to

learning, staff assignments and the day-to-day operation of schools. We will keep you updated as this process impacts our school and staffing at Ridgemount.

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 and Absences

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. . **If a student is tested for COVID-19, we would appreciate knowing the outcome of that test as soon as possible.**

A reminder that our school day begins at 8:45 am and ends at 3:05 pm. We ask that students arrive on time or just before 8:45 am so that we can ensure the safe supervision of students during entry. Please also arrive at the school at 3:05pm for dismissal. Families are asked to remain outside of the school grounds and students will be released to them by their teachers at the end of the day.

Please contact the school using [SafeArrival](#) to report the absence. If you require assistance accessing the SafeArrival app please contact the school at 905 575 1535

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.

A reminder that parents/guardians are asked not to bring in lunches throughout the day. Please ensure students have an adequate lunch for both nutrition breaks as we are limiting the number of visitors to the school.

Transportation

Thank you to all of our staff and families for their patience as we work out our transportation and busing plans. We have been working on reviewing bus lists, developing seating plans and connecting with the transportation department and our families to finalize our bus lists.

A reminder to all families using transportation to please sign up to the HWSTS parent portal <https://www.hamiltonschoolbus.ca/parents/> so that you will be notified if the bus will be delayed longer than 10 minutes.

[Parent's Portal - Hamilton-Wentworth Student Transportation Services](https://www.hamiltonschoolbus.ca/parents/)

Thank you for visiting the HWSTS Parent Portal. We are pleased to offer this new information tool to provide parents / guardians of students enhanced information and features regarding their student transportation services.

www.hamiltonschoolbus.ca

Please be sure to contact the school if your child is eligible for busing but will not be riding the bus or if your child is only riding the bus one way so that the transportation department can plan accordingly. If you are picking your child up at the end of the day and they are students that normally take the bus you must go the front entrance of the school and buzz the office for assistance. Thank you.

Parking Lot and Pick Up and Drop Off

A reminder that for the safety of our staff and students, families will not be permitted to enter the school parking lot throughout the school day. Families are asked to follow the parking signs posted on Ronaldshay and Hester streets and to ensure students safely enter the school using the sidewalks and the proper entrance by the portable. The parking bylaw officers have been patrolling and giving warnings that they will be ticketing those parked illegally in the upcoming weeks. Please do not park in our school bus loading zones (Along the west side of Ronaldshay beside the Kindergarten during entry in the mornings and at the front entrance on Hester at dismissal time).

Please be sure to wear masks when on or near the school premises especially during busy drop off and pick up times.

A reminder that there is not lost and found collection at Ridgemount this year due to covid restrictions. If valuable items are found they are turned into the office so please contact us if your child has lost something valuable. Clothing items will be gathered in a bag and after a short time disposed of or donated to a local charity.

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

Sincerely,

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