



Sunday, January 3, 2021

Happy New Year Ridgemount Families!

We welcome everyone back and hope for a very healthy and prosperous New Year. We hope that everyone had some quality family time over the last couple of weeks and that everyone is safe and healthy.

A reminder that remote at home learning will occur from January 4 – 8, 2021 and we will resume in person on Monday, January 11, 2021 back at school

- The Elementary Remote Learning Program, and students already learning remotely, are not impacted by these changes.

Provincial requirements and timelines are set by the Ministry of Education and may change.

The shift to remote learning does not change the school day or school schedules, but for many, it does require connecting in different ways to continue learning. We are implementing our remote learning plan that involves supports such as device deployment, virtual classroom guidelines, resources for students in special education and much more.

As we prepare for learning in the new year, we want families to understand what to expect.

Elementary (in-person schools)

Monday January 4

Transition day: educators will contact families to help prepare for remote learning in the morning, then prepare for remote instruction for the week

Device Pick-up: families who identified the need for a board device will have been contacted regarding pick up.

Tuesday January 5

Full remote school day; educators will provide schedules to families for each day

The full school day will be scheduled with breaks

Teachers will be available to students during their timetables and provide a blend of connected (synchronous) and independent (asynchronous) learning ([PPM 164](#))

Kindergarten Students with Remote ACCESS -January 4 – Educators will email a 5-day learning program package for families without access to remote learning; copies will be available for pick up at the school

Grade 1-8 Students with Remote Access -Educators will contact families without remote learning access to

You can learn more about remote learning preparations at hwdsb.info/remoted2021 and please reach out to your child’s school if you have questions.

We know that this period has been one of constant change and adjustment. Thank you for helping us ensure that learning continues across HWDSB.

We are planning to have a school photo day in February of 2020 and a Grade 8 Grad photo day soon after photo day, stay tuned!

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 as the weather turns colder to ensure that students are wearing appropriate clothing (boots, gloves, hats, winter jackets). We are able to store winter clothing in lockers and be sure to label all clothing as due to covid restrictions there is no lost and found collection at Ridgemount. If valuable items are found they are turned into the office so please contact us if your child has lost something valuable. Clothing items found in classrooms, lockers or hallways will be gathered in a bag and after a short time disposed of or donated to a local charity.

Please be sure to wear masks when on or near the school premises especially during busy drop off and pick up times. We are also encouraging students to wear masks when outdoors at recess, especially when they are playing closer contact activities.. Students are still encouraged to social distance and there is plenty of space in each cohort year to remove themselves and take a mask break.

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/

Attestation and Attestation for Return to School Forms

Before a student can enter a school or after a student has been asked to self isolate for a period of time, we require that their family completes an attestation or attestation return to school form. Please be sure to read, and follow the instructions and abide by the expectations included on the forms. Find this on the [Parent Portal](#). ([Backup location](#) for forms and translations or contact the school and we will assist you with locating the appropriate form.

If for any reason your child is instructed by Public Health to self isolate for a period of time parents/guardians must review and complete the **Attestation for retrain to school after illness OR self isolation form before their child can return to school. Please be sure to complete and return this form. The form can be found here:**

<https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/ridgemount/files/2020/11/Attestation-for-return-to-school-after-illness-OR-self-isolation-1.pdf>

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. The earliest we have supervision on the playground is 8:30am so please do not drop your children off before this time. 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

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.

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

Stay healthy, safe and enjoy the holiday break everyone!

Mr. G Carey – Principal

