



Friday, August 28, 2020

Dear Families

I hope this finds you all healthy and enjoying your summer. I recognize that these uncertain times are very stressful, and I understand that you have many questions with regards to what school will look like in September. On Monday, August 17th, updated re-opening plans for September were shared with Trustees. [Click here to review our working plans.](#) Also, posted on the Grand Erie website is a [Frequently Asked Questions page](#), providing answers to some of our most common back-to-school questions. Finally, to inform you more fully, a Grand Erie Guide for Back-to-School 2020-21 has been posted on our website. [Click here to reach the website https://www.granderie.ca/](https://www.granderie.ca/) This guide, which is a living document, provides more specifics about what school will look like for your children.

It will take all of us working together to ensure that everything goes as smoothly and as safely as possible. Here are a few updates for you.

You were given the option of your child attending in-class or online. Thank you for sharing your intentions with us.

- If you have opted for face-to-face learning, school officially begins on Thursday, September 10th.
- We will have a staggered start to the new school year in order to support students learning new routines and for new health and safety practices to be reinforced.
 - Students with a surname beginning with A-L will attend Thursday, September 10th. The next day these students will attend is Monday, September 14th.
 - Students with a surname beginning with M-Z will attend Friday, September 11th. The next day these students will attend is Tuesday, September 15th.
 - Students in self-contained or Section 23 classrooms will attend Thursday, September 10th and can continue to attend all days.
 - Wednesday, September 16th – all students will attend.
- If you have opted for virtual learning, the start date will be relayed to you soon.
- **If you have completed the survey but have changed your mind, please contact the school directly.**

School Procedures

- At this time, students in Grades 4-8 will be required to wear masks except while they eat or are outside and can practice physical distancing. Students will be provided with many opportunities to be outside. Grade 3 students will be required to wear masks if they are in a split Grade 3/4 classroom. While masks for students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 are not mandatory, they are strongly encouraged.
- Students will be instructed to wash and/or sanitize their hands frequently throughout the day. Cleaning and disinfecting by our custodial staff will occur regularly throughout the day.
- Parents and visitors will be permitted by appointment only. Please be respectful of this, and do not congregate on the school yard before or after-school with other parents or families

- Teachers will send an email the week before school and will introduce themselves so that you will know who your children's teachers are and they will include some basic guidelines to get us started including where to meet them on the first day.
 - In order to minimize contact and avoid sharing materials, we are asking that each student comes with their own lunch, filled water bottle and a pencil case filled with supplies. Any materials your child may not have with them will be provided by your child's teacher.
 - Please note desks will need to be kept clear of all items for cleaning and disinfecting, therefore items will be stored in desk. Lockers and cubbies will not be used at this time.
 - Backpacks will be allowed and will remain with your child at their desk.
 - All staff will be wearing medical masks and eye protection or a face shield.
 - Students will be kept within their classroom cohort and additional staff will rotate into each classroom cohort.
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- Please take some time in the coming weeks to review the following with your child:
 - Practice physical distancing.
 - Practice wearing a mask, as well as safe removal and storage of masks (e.g.: small container, special bag, etc.).
 - Practice frequent hand washing and sanitizing as well as taking care of belongings.

Please continue to monitor our school and board websites and twitter accounts for updates. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to our school.

Finally, we're all in this together. Our goal is to work with each other to provide a safe and successful return for students and a great start to the year for all families. We're counting on you to be part of this team! Please be patient as we all learn new routines. Respect the health and safety protocols that are in place to protect your child and all students and staff in our building. Recognize that this is new to all of us – none of us have all the answers with COVID-19. As we get more information or things change, we will share it with you. Demonstrate leadership for your child and all students in our school by remaining calm and positive. We will all get through this together!

Kind Regards,



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