

Norwood NEWSLETTER #4

Step-by-step, piece-by-piece, we have made it to the final day of preparations as we all get ready to open our school for this coming week's staggered entry. What a wild ride it has been... we have planned, re-planned and then planned again every aspect of the daily life in our school to take every step to make it safer for our students. The past few weeks have been hard with protocols that continuously change but, it has been with the best interest of our students and safety of our community at heart. Enjoy your last few days of not making school lunches!

Ok, what's the plan?

Here's our plan all in one place! We've made it as simple as possible.

Remember, we are staggering entry next week intentionally so that our planning can be adapted and changed and so that students can be taught the new procedures. I promise you, our plans will change many times during the coming weeks and months, but it is our starting point.

We cannot completely eliminate risk, but our plan allows us to minimize it.

PLEASE READ EVERYTHING HERE CAREFULLY.

Before School

- All families, staff and students are asked to use the self-screening assessment each and every day. A link is here: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/>
- The KPRDSB Checklist is an easy one to keep posted in your house as a reminder.
- Anyone who is sick must stay home - this includes staff and students.
- Make sure your child does not have any toys or stuffed animals - items from home stay home.

Arrival At School

DROPPING OFF:

- Students should never arrive before 8:40. There is no supervision at all prior to that point.
- Please arrive at school prior to 8:55 as late arrivals are very difficult to manage with our COVID protocols.
- There are no parents allowed in the school yard.
- Parents dropping off will say goodbye to their children at the primary or junior gate.
- Do not surround the gates as we need sightlines and the ability to social distance. Parents must stand behind the white lines on the primary side and away from the fence.

BUSING:

KEEP OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY SAFE



Do not come to school if...



You or someone you are in close contact with have travelled outside of Canada in the past 14 days



You have been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19



You have any of the following symptoms

- Fever
- New or worse cough
- Shortness of breath
- Difficulty breathing
- Sore throat
- Headaches
- Diarrhea
- Unexplained fatigue/malaise/muscle aches
- Chills
- Runny nose/nasal congestion without known cause
- Nausea/vomiting
- Pink eye (conjunctivitis)
- Difficulty walking
- Abdominal pain
- Decrease or loss of sense of smell or taste



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- When possible, we still encourage students to use the bus to decrease drop off traffic.
- Each bus will be unloaded one at a time and grade 1-grade 6 students will all enter the school from their assigned doors..
 - **HOWEVER**- Next week all grade 1-6 students will be met on the yard by their teachers holding signs. Students should look for them!

ONCE IN THE BUILDING:

- No Indoor Shoes - students will wear the same pair of shoes all day.
- Backpacks and jackets will go into the school and be kept on the back of student chairs.
- Pre-wrapped snacks, such as applesauce and granola bars, will be available upon arrival in the classrooms for hungry students.

During School

- Students will be cohorted into groups of about 50 (2 classes of similar age), but will spend almost all of their time with their same classmates
- We will try and spend as much time as possible out of doors. Dress to be outside! Layers, sunscreen, hats, etc. are all recommended!
- We will be limiting movement in the hallways:
 - Teachers will travel with students throughout the school to help remind them of social distancing protocols
 - Planning time teachers will travel to the students, so that the children can remain in a single location
 - We will be limiting the number of students who can leave the classroom at a time to 1. We will record when students leave the classroom to track potential contacts in the school.

MASKS:

- When inside the building, students in Grade 4-8 must wear a mask that fits to their head with ties or loops. Scarves, bandanas and gaiters are not permitted.
- We strongly encourage students in K-3 to wear a mask and will be working with children in these grades to build their stamina for wearing a mask for increased durations.
- All of our staff are required to wear a medical-grade mask when inside the building. Some may wear a face shield. Staff are permitted to remove their mask and shield when students are not in the immediate room and when social distancing from other staff members can be observed.

RECESS & LUNCH:

- We have 2-40 minute breaks each day.
- We will be flipping our eating times so half the school is outside while the other is eating. This will allow time for the custodians to clean the rooms without students in them.
 - Students will not be allowed to share food
 - Students cannot bring items from home - toys, stuffed animals, etc.
 - Students will wear their masks while walking through the halls and then put masks in their pockets
 - As always, there is no sharing food
 - We will have a "Boomerang" lunch where students will bring home any packages or uneaten food.
 - When eating, students may remove their masks and must remain in their desks.

VISITORS:

- We are limiting visitors into our building. We will primarily be using phone calls & video conferencing.
- When dropping off or picking up students, adults will not be permitted to come into the school or yard.
 - Please minimize picking up students early - this will be very difficult to facilitate
- Visitors to the school are by appointment only.
 - Complete a self-screening questionnaire
 - Wear a mask and then change to a medical grade mask (provided at the office)

Going Home

- Teachers will cohort and walk students to their bus lines in the primary yards. While one teacher takes students to the bus lanes the other will take walkers to the appropriate gate. Students are encouraged to stay socially distanced as they head home or walk to their bus.
- We ask that Kindergarten students are picked up by 3pm if not on a bus. This is temporary and the classroom teacher will notify you within the first few weeks when the time changes to our regular 3:15 pick up time.

Staggered Entry Next Week

- Monday, September 14th: Last names A-H
 - Tuesday, September 15th: Last names I-R
 - Wednesday, September 16th: Last names S-Z
 - Thursday, September 17th: All Grade 1-6 students welcome back!
 - Friday, September 18th: All students K-6 welcome back!
- *** Your day may have changed depending if your child's teacher has told you otherwise

Clothing: Be sure your child *dresses appropriately for the weather*. In addition to recess, teachers will be spending more time outside for learning. The more time outside the less time students have to wear masks. Just remember, the shoes they wear to school are the shoes they wear for the day until further notice.

Masks: Make sure to send 2 masks that are labelled every day. We have been telling families to keep one in a plastic bag while the other is in use. When students go outside they are expected to wear a mask until they have exited the building. Once they leave they will put their masks in their pockets. You may want to send a bag for that as well, some parents are using cloth drawstring bags that can be washed.

Thank You!

Thank you all for your continued support. Your phone calls and emails of gratitude have not gone unnoticed and they truly have filled our buckets! We are looking forward to welcoming kids back to the school on Monday!

MORNING CHECKLIST



School morning routines might look a little different this year, so we have put together a checklist to help!

In addition to getting dressed, eating breakfast, brushing hair and teeth, families also need to think about the following items:



Daily COVID self-assessment

- o Review the self-assessment checklist each day with your children before sending them to school. If they answer 'yes' to any of the questions, keep your child home; contact a medical professional for direction, or complete the Ontario government's online self-assessment for further direction: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment>



Masks

- o Send students with at least two masks per day in case one gets dirty.
- o Remind children about how to wear and handle masks properly.
- o Send a paper bag for storing masks in back packs.



Wash or sanitize hands

- o Before and after bus transportation, and
- o Upon arrival at school.
- o Students will be reminded to wash or sanitize hands frequently during the school day.



KAWARTHA PINE RIDGE
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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