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September 6, 2020

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

Happy Sunday everyone. I trust you are enjoying the sun with family.

I am certain that by now most parents have reviewed the YCDSB re-entry plan which is posted on the school board's website ([www.ycdsb.ca](http://www.ycdsb.ca)). Please note that the plan is fluid, and updates are included in the re-entry plan on a daily basis. This plan includes information on classroom set up, washrooms, procedures for addressing student's exhibiting signs of COVID- 19, the procedures students are to follow with their parents prior to coming to school and much more.

As I have shared in previous email's this year we will be adopting a staggered opening/ entry where different groups/ grades/ cohorts of students will enter school on specific dates. In partnership with York Public Health recommendations the YCDSB has set the following staggered re-entry dates:

September 8 and 9: no students will attend school. During this period, staff will be preparing for learning during COVID-19.

September 10: Grades 1-3

September 11: JK/SK

September 14: Grades 7 & 8

September 15: Grades 4-6

All elementary students will be in school by Tuesday, September 15, 2020

As outlined in the re-entry plan, and in partnership with York Region Public Health, we are following all of the recommendations to equip staff with the tools and training to ensure that the safety, health and wellbeing of all staff and students is maintained at all times. This week, staff participated in three PA Days where they engaged in training modules and professional development related to the following topics:

Safe Schools Training

Health & Safety Training Modules

Mental Health/Well-Being and Anti-Bullying Training

## Bullying and Human Rights Training

An intro. to Anti-Racism and Anti-Discrimination

An intro. to the new Math curriculum.

We know many of our students will be preparing for back to school as well. If you are shopping for back school items this week, you are reminded, as per the Ministry of Education's direction, students in Grades 4 to 12 will be required to wear non-medical or cloth masks while in school, with accommodations for those with a medical condition. Students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 will be encouraged, but not required, to wear masks. Please note that the see-through, clear plastic mask often referred to as a mingle mask is NOT allowed. They are not an approved mask. It is also recommended that students have their own school supplies (pencils, crayons, markers, ruler, safety scissors etc) as there is NO sharing of supplies or materials. A reusable water bottle is required as our water fountains are closed and only our bottle filling station will be used to fill water bottles. NO drinking will be permitted at the water fountains or the water bottle filling station.

Planning and practicing the logistics of health and safety protocols are big tasks. This week, we encourage you to take some time to encourage your child(ren) to practice wearing a mask as well as properly putting on the mask, taking it off and storing it. Parents are invited to watch this video <https://vimeo.com/449324526?ref=em-share>. If you are unable to access this link, please copy and paste to your browser. For instructions on proper mask wearing procedures, please go to the 11-minute mark of the video. **Students must bring either a paper bag or breathable cloth bag in which to store their masks at their desks during recess times.** Plastic bags are not preferred.

### COVID Self Assessment and Student Assessment.

Each day prior to coming to school, parents should undergo an assessment of their children to determine if the child is symptom free, and if the child feels able to come to school. Please access the link for further information. [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1X\\_q81ani6UIHiokTCOCRZq6tKDqs6lLa/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1X_q81ani6UIHiokTCOCRZq6tKDqs6lLa/view). Students exhibiting symptoms should not come to school.

If a child comes to school exhibiting symptoms or if a child becomes ill at school, the child will be directed to a wellness/isolation room where he/she will be supervised until such time as a parent/ guardian or other adult with permission can come to pick the child up. The child should then get assessed to determine if quarantine is necessary.

If your family will participate in Remote Learning, you will receive information directly from the Principal assigned for remote learning in the coming days. Students returning for face-to-face learning will learn who their teacher is prior to the first day of school. I will send an email to all families through School Messenger one or two days prior to the start of school. As you can appreciate, the reorganization of students and classes will be challenging

Below is the tentative class structure for the start of the school year. Please note that we cannot accept requests. This structure may change throughout the year as parents can change their child's learning format at designated entry points. JK/SK ( 3 classes) 1, 2 , 3, 3/4, 5, 6/7, 7/8 and 8.

When students arrive at school, they will line up in their class lines which will be a minimum of 2 meters apart. Students will put their arms out stretched in front of them to ensure they are a good distance from the child in front of them. Students will sanitize hands upon entry to the school. They will walk directly to their classrooms and will sit at their desk which will be labelled with their name. Belongings will be hung on the backs of their chairs or under their desks. Coat racks are not being used at this time. Recess will be staggered as is noted in the Board re-entry plan. Washrooms have been marked with maximum capacities. Students will clip their own personal clothes peg (we will provide) at the entrance of the

washroom. If capacity has been reached as noted by the clothes pegs, students will wait at the socially distanced marker on the floor outside the washroom.

If your children will be riding the bus to and from school, please visit [www.schoolbuscity.com](http://www.schoolbuscity.com) for information related to pick up and drop off times. Staff will create a seating plan for the bus and students will have assigned seats. We are being asked to ensure that siblings are seated together or students in the same class cohort are seated together on the bus. As in class, children in grades 4-8 must wear a mask on the bus and the bus stop and younger students are strongly encouraged to as well

I know it will be an anxious time for many of our families as it is for many of our staff. We have worked hard to put in place all our safety protocols and I will be emailing you the entry and exit plans prior to the first day of school.

#### **Accessing Students, School or School Personnel**

Due to COVID- 19 Health and Safety Protocols, we ask that parents refrain from entering the building. Meetings are encouraged to be by phone or virtual. If a face to face meeting is essential, it must be pre-arranged. A COVID self-assessment will be necessary and you will be directed to follow specific protocols when you arrive at the school.

#### **Measures to Create Safer Environments**

In an effort to create safe, healthy environments for our staff and students we have made every effort to implement:

- Physical distancing in the classroom
- Reduced capacity in bathrooms
- Distanced waiting areas for bathrooms
- Signage directing students and promoting best hygiene practices
- PPE for all staff
- Sanitizing gel/ liquid for all classrooms
- Cleaner for use by all staff
- Specific flow of traffic to limit contact
- Cohorting of students

More information pertaining to entry procedures, exit procedures, class placement, and daily routines will be forthcoming.

We are all aware that going back to school after this long break will be an adjustment for everyone. There will be challenges, uncertainties and mixed emotions. We will continue to do our best to support and 'nurture hope' at the school.

Yours in Catholic Education

R. M. Amos

Principal