

Hello McMahon Families!

As you prepare your child for the new school year, I just wanted to send out a guide for the first week of school. There have been a significant amount of changes to our daily routines at school, even from June. Since a majority of our students haven't attended school since March, we want to ensure a smooth transition back for them. To help facilitate the safe return to school, we are reducing the number of students that attend during the first two days of school. This will help teachers and students learn the new routines in a smaller group setting.

Here is our student schedule for next week: (students do not attend school on Tuesday or Wednesday)

Thursday September 10 **Students with last names starting with A-K attend for full day**

Friday September 11 **Students with last names starting with L – Z attend for full day**

On Monday September 14, all students will attend for full days as usual and follow the new routines and protocols.

Your child's teacher name and room number will be emailed to you on Wednesday September 9th. If you don't receive an email, you can call the school. Also, on Thursday morning there will be staff members with class lists located at the basketball court, the front of the school and the primary end. Please remember to socially distance at all times when on school grounds.

For the first day of school, students should bring a water bottle, snack and lunch, pencil box with pencils, eraser, pencil sharpener, something to colour with, scissors, and a glue stick. Each teacher will provide more information about when to send the remaining school supplies to school. This is important as there will be no sharing of supplies or food between students. For lunches, we have implemented a "pack-in and pack-out" policy. That means that all materials leftover from lunch will return home, including packaging, juice boxes, etc.

Please discuss and remind your child that we will be emphasizing the following:

1. Staying home if you are sick
2. washing of hands when they arrive at school, before and after recess and lunch, before and after eating, after using the washroom, after using a tissue and before they go home at the end of the day.
3. for the occasional cough or sneeze, students need to cough or sneeze into their elbow.
4. minimizing physical contact with other students.
5. It is important not to touch their face (eyes, nose, and mouth)
6. students may wear a mask if they would like but students need to manage it on their own. Staff will not be able to help. Masks need to be put on, adjusted and removed with clean hands. Staff are required to socially distance and must wear a mask in the classroom where they can't socially distance from others.

Daily Schedule:

8:30-8:50am Students are arriving at school to reduce congestion at the classroom doors
Recess There are two different 30-minute recess times. These are determined by learning group.

Lunch There are two different 30-minute lunch times. These are determined by learning group.
2:00-2:23pm Parents may pick up their child from school.

Traffic in the hallways will be minimized; one person out of the classroom for washroom breaks.

Classrooms are organized into learning groups. Intermediate classes are closer to 60 in a group and primary classes are closer to 45. Recess and lunch breaks are organized according to learning groups and areas on the playgrounds and fields will be separated based on learning groups.

Our draft return to school plan has been posted on our school website. Please read it and if you have suggestions or notice something was missed, let me know. Our health and safety committee will be looking at it on Tuesday Sept 8 during our meeting. A day custodian will be cleaning touch points throughout the school and then our afterschool custodians will continue their regular shifts.

This is a unique start to the school year as Grades 1-6 students are starting in their new classes from day 1. We have had many new registrations and some families leaving our school. Still others are registering at Summit Learning and their child's spot will be saved in our school. Just know that we are doing our best to ensure a smooth and successful transition. We know that procedures and protocols will change and we will adjust accordingly. Also, we will modify our plans as we develop better ones together.

Please email me if you have any questions and will get back to you as soon as I can.

Enjoy your long weekend 😊

Sincerely,

Hardeep Grewal
Principal