



Monday, August 31, 2020

Dear Parents / Guardians,

We are very excited to be coming together as a school community after much anticipation. School and board staff continue to work diligently to prepare our school site for a safe return to school.

Due to the uncertainty of our current circumstances, we can appreciate everyone being both excited and nervous at the same time. To support our transition back to school, families will be receiving classroom teacher information through School Cash Online on Friday, September 4.

Please know that class lists continue to be tentative due to ongoing registrations, virtual learning and in-class learning registrations. This has significant staffing implications due to evolving enrolment. We will require patience, flexibility and understanding on behalf of our students and families. Working together as a home-school partnership will allow for a positive school start-up. Staffing and classroom changes will be directed by the Board office. This process may occur during the first two weeks of school which may lead to classes being revised. Our staff takes great care in considering students' needs when creating class placement.

On your child's first day of school, please note that students will be meeting their respective teacher at a pre-determined meeting spot on the school yard as will be communicated through School Cash Online. Please know that due to our COVID safety protocols, parents and guardians are unable to wait with your child(ren) on the school yard as was previous practice on the first day of school. We thank you in advance for your cooperation and understanding.

Kindergarten Staggered Start:

Monday, Sept. 7	Tuesday, Sept. 8	Wednesday, Sept. 9	Thursday, Sept. 10	Friday, Sept. 11
Labour Day – No School	Year 1 visits	All Year 2 students attend and continue to attend everyday	All Year 2 students attend school and half of the Year 1 students attend	All Year 2 students attend school and the other half of the Year 1 students attend

Grades 1-8 Staggered Start:

Monday, Sept. 7	Tuesday, Sept. 8	Wednesday, Sept. 9	Thursday, Sept. 10	Friday, Sept. 11
Labour Day – No School	Gr. 1 and 2	Gr. 1, 2, 3 and 4	Gr. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6	Gr. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8

Please know that additional staff will be on the yard to assist students locating the proper entrance if required. **If it is raining, please direct your child to meet staff at their designated entrance while maintaining a social distance.** Staff will be waiting inside to greet and receive your child upon arrival before the school bell.

St. Isidore Virtual School

Monday, Sept. 14	Tuesday, Sept. 15	Wednesday, Sept. 16	Thursday, Sept. 17	Friday, Sept. 18
Elementary Virtual School begins			Secondary Virtual School begins	

If you have chosen Virtual Learning, please expect further communication. Virtual Learning at St. Isidore begins on Monday, September 14. If you decide to return to our school at one of the specified transition dates, your child will be placed in a classroom where space permits.

Considerations for your child's school day:

- Families are required to complete a self-assessment each day prior to attending school (<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/>)
- Your child should remain at home if feeling unwell; please notify the office
- Students (JK-Gr. 8) are required to wear a mask; an exemption form is required for a student in grades 4-8 if unable to wear a mask for the day;
- Students must remain socially distant in the gymnasium as well as outside.
- Students must wear masks to and from their destination (outside, gymnasium). Students may remove their masks to participate in physical activity as per recommendations by the World Health Organization and the Region of Waterloo Public Health
- It is recommended that students store their masks in a labelled Ziplock bag or paper bag as appropriate. Please provide one for your child.
- Students should come to school expecting to participate in physical activity every day both inside and outside
- Students will not have access to the changeroom and therefore will not be changing for Physical Education class

- Physical Education and Daily Physical Activity (DPA) activities will be equipment-less and physically distanced.
- Personal belongings and sports equipment should remain at home at this time.
- Classrooms will be assigned specific areas of the school yard during AM, lunch, and PM recesses to allow for contact tracing if/when needed and allow for physical distancing
- Students are not permitted to touch any equipment with their hands during Phys. Ed. / DPA and recess
- To the extent possible, staff and students will endeavor to maintain social distancing when within the school and classroom environment
- Water fountains are not available; please provide a refillable water bottle that may be refilled at our water bottle filling stations
- All utensils (ie. Spoon, fork) for snacks and lunch need to be included in your child's lunch bag
- Students will be reminded/encouraged to use hand sanitizer and/or wash hands frequently through the day
- Learning kits will be provided and need to remain at school
- All Chromebooks, computers and laptops are to be wiped by students and staff users, before and after use.

Parents / Visitors / Volunteers:

- Due to increased steps that are being taken to minimize contacts in our school, parents should refrain from entering the school unless they have prior approval to do so
- All visitors must have approval from the Administrator prior to entering the site
- Volunteer opportunities will be reduced to minimize the number of contacts in our school
- Where possible, visitors are asked to call the main office to notify them of their arrival and wait outside away from the entrance, or in their vehicle until the office is ready to receive them
- All parents and visitors must complete the self-assessment checklist before entering the school
- All visitors must sign in
- NON-ESSENTIAL external visitors will be prohibited
- Visitors granted access are required to wear a face covering to enter the school and sanitize hands upon entry
- If a visitor does not have access to a face covering, one will be provided by the Administrator/Office staff
- Visitors are required to follow appropriate entry and exit protocols

Extended Day Program:

- All individuals including children attending before and after school programs, staff, parents/guardians, and visitors must be screened each day before entering the program
- Only one person may come into the school to pick up your child(ren)

Leaving School Property for Lunch

- As per the safety protocols of COVID-19, students may only **go to their own home** for lunch as indicated in the Lunch Arrangements form (Walker) or being picked up / signed out by a parent
- All students are encouraged to remain at the school for the full day

Bussing

- If you have any questions related to bussing, please visit the Student Transportation website bpweb.stswr.ca for more information

Additional information may be found in the links below:

<https://www.wcdsb.ca/operational-guidelines/>

<https://www.wcdsb.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/36/2020/08/Minister-Letter-Parent-Guidance-EN.pdf>

Please know that information continues to change and evolve at a rapid pace. Consequently, routines and procedures may need to be revisited and refined. We understand that a conventional return to school will require patience and understanding to support students with the learning curve ahead and our new reality to ensure safety for all.

#strongertogether

#CelticPride

Sincerely,

Cathy Kuntz
Principal