

St. Mary's Elementary School



Back-to-school Plan

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Our Current Mandate

- ▶ In-class instruction will resume in September.
- ▶ We are following the advice of the NS Chief Medical Officer of Health and the IWK in order to balance students' academic, social and developmental needs during this pandemic.
- ▶ Schools are being organized to create as much space as possible in classrooms to physically distance students and minimize contact.
- ▶ Build and maintain close communication with parent/guardians to continue to support child and student well-being and learning
- ▶ Find ways to conduct classes outside, when safe to do so, with priority given to physical education classes and activities.
- ▶ Teachers will focus on ensuring that every student transitions effectively to their new grade level.



2020-21 Bell Schedule

- ▶ 8:45-8:55 Supervision begins inside the classroom(Students cannot be dropped off prior to 8:45 AM).
- ▶ 8:55 In class instruction
- ▶ 10:00-10:45 Staggered Recess
- ▶ 11:25-1:25 Staggered Lunch
- ▶ 3:00 Dismissal for the day

Communication Between Home and School

- ▶ Communication will be conducted virtually by phone, video-conferencing or through email and newsletters.
- ▶ In person meetings will not be permitted until Public Health indicates that it is safe to do so.
- ▶ It is important for families to keep in close communication with their child's classroom teacher.
- ▶ Please consider filling the Consent for Publication of Student Personal Information and Student Work form that will be sent home in the first week. Our staff would really like to send pictures of what is going on in our school through, email, class and school websites and Twitter. As always, no names of students would be used when "Tweeting" photos!

▶ **Frequent and positive communication between families and teacher are a very important cornerstone in the success of all students.**

All Students MUST Pre-Screen Before Coming into School

- ▶ We all have a collective responsibility to adhere to public health measures that are in place to maintain the safety of all citizens. This includes the education system.
- ▶ Monitoring for symptoms is important to identify any potential cases of COVID-19 as quickly as possible. Students need to stay home when they are ill, even if their symptoms are mild.
- ▶ The COVID-19 Daily Checklist can be found at:
<https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/docs/Daily-COVID-checklist-en.pdf>

COVID-19 Daily Checklist

It is important to closely monitor your health and the health of those you care for. Please consider these questions each day before leaving home and entering public spaces.

If you are feeling sick, you should **stay home or go home immediately**, and follow the instructions below.

- 1 Are you feeling sick?**
If yes, stay home and avoid public spaces, including work, school/child care, and shopping.
- 2 Do you have any of these symptoms?**
 - Fever (i.e. chills, sweats)
 - Cough or worsening of a previous cough
 - Sore throat
 - Headache
 - Shortness of breath
 - Muscle aches
 - Sneezing
 - Nasal congestion/runny nose
 - Hoarse voice
 - Diarrhea
 - Unusual fatigue
 - Loss of sense of smell or taste
 - Red, purple or bluish lesions (spots) on the feet, toes or fingers without clear cause
- 3 In the last 14 days, have you travelled outside Atlantic Canada?**
If yes, you must stay home. You are required by law to self-isolate for 14 days upon return to Atlantic Canada.
- 4 In the last 14 days, have you had close contact (within 2 metres / 6 feet) with someone confirmed to have COVID-19?**
If yes, you must stay home. You are required by law to self-isolate if you have been identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19. If you haven't spoken with Public Health or been tested, you should contact 811 to be screened for testing for COVID-19.
- 5 Are you waiting for results from a COVID-19 test?**
If yes, stay home. You are required by law to self-isolate while awaiting COVID-19 test results. Please follow instructions given by Public Health.

Revised July 15, 2020

novascotia.ca/coronavirus

Face Masks



- ▶ Students in Gr. 4 to 6 will be required to wear a mask in school at all times in the hallway and when physical distancing is not possible.
- ▶ If students can be seated two metres apart, facing the same direction, they may remove their mask while at their desk.
- ▶ Children in Primary to Gr. 3 are not required to wear a mask in school.
- ▶ Masks can be removed when students are eating and drinking or taking part in indoor physical activity when a mask cannot be worn.
- ▶ Masks are not required during outdoor activities.
- ▶ Each student (P-6) will be provided with two cloth face masks on the first day of school.
- ▶ We will also have a supply of disposable masks if a child forgets or loses one during the day.

Hand-Washing/Sanitizing

- Frequent hand washing/ sanitizing is important for everyone entering the school.
- Alcohol-based hand sanitizer are installed throughout the school, such as at entry points and washrooms. Classes are all equipped with Sanitizing dispensers.
- Classroom teachers will observe while the child thoroughly rubs in the sanitizer.
- Practice hand hygiene (wash hands or use hand sanitizer) often; including but not limited to:

➤ Before:

- Entering the school/classroom
- Eating/drinking/handling food
- Outdoor activities

➤ After:

- Sneezing
- Coughing
- Blowing your nose
- Outdoor activities
- Eating/Drinking
- Cleaning



Visitors



- ▶ A strong relationship between home and school is important to student well-being and success. Under the Back to School plan, visitors, including parents/guardians, will not be permitted in the school at this point.
- ▶ As a school, we will use alternative ways to engage with parents/guardians that do not require you to physically enter the building. Teachers will continue to reach out to you as it relates to your child's education and well-being. We encourage you to communicate regularly with the school and your child's teachers by email, telephone or video conference.
- ▶ People will not be allowed to congregate in groups outside the school, as per the COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for Schools. Please drop-off your child(ren) and then leave the property immediately.

A Day in the Life of an Student...

- ▶ **The school day will be structured to minimize class (cohort) movement with in the building.**
- ▶ Students in P to Gr. 6 will stay with their class (cohort) throughout the day, where possible. For the most part, staff will come to the students to limit interaction (i.e Music, Core French, Library will take place in the homeroom class).
- ▶ Non-essential furniture will be removed from classrooms and desks/tables will be spaced out as much as possible to allow students to have more physical distance.
- ▶ Students will notice additional signage including directional signs to control flow in hallways, common areas, and outside spaces. Signage includes traffic flow arrows, physical distancing reminders, and designated Entrances & Exits.
- ▶ An essential part of the Back to School plan is to maximize time spent outdoors. More classes will be held outdoors, when possible, to encourage physical movement and support our students' well-being.

Morning Arrival Procedure



- ▶ Students are to arrive no earlier than 8:45am.
- ▶ Parents who accompany their children to school are asked to drop their child off at the gate or the pylons in an effort to avoid congestion.
- ▶ Students are to enter their designated door immediately upon arrival and go directly to class.
- ▶ Grade 4-6 students are to enter the school wearing a mask and all students (P-6) will sanitize their hands before entering the classroom. Masks are optional for P-Gr.3 students.

School Entrances



Afternoon Dismissal Procedure



- ▶ Students in grade 4-6 will be dismissed through their designated door.
- ▶ Students in grade P-3 will be walked to the pylons separating the playground from the parking lot
- ▶ Parents/Guardians are asked to not crowd entrances and exits and to model proper physical distancing practices.
- ▶ Students will take home all items belonging to them (clothing, boots, shoes, lunch bags in the event of sudden school closure).
- ▶ All students who are not accompanied by an adult **MUST** go directly home or to their child care provider.



Student Pick Up & Drop Off (Late, Appointments, etc.)

- ▶ **During the school day (following morning arrival and before afternoon dismissal), all drop-offs and pickups will be done outside the main office doors.** Please ring the office buzzer and we will greet you at the door.
- ▶ During pick-up please be mindful of existing Public Health protocols if you choose to return to the playground with your child after school.



Recess and Lunch Procedures

- ▶ Students will go outside for recess in small cohorts (2 classes at a time). They will have access to the playground and the paved courts.
- ▶ Lunch time will be staggered and will take place from 11:30am-1:35pm.
- ▶ Class schedules will be sent home on the first day of school.
- ▶ There will be no hot-lunch program to start the year so students will have to bring a packed lunch that can be eaten at their desk (please remember to include any utensils that are needed).
- ▶ Students will eat for 25 min. and play for 25min.
- ▶ Desks will be sanitized while students are outside playing.
- ▶ When it is time to come in, they will enter through their designated cohort entry and will immediately sanitize hands.



Student Illness at School

- If a student becomes ill at school, they will be masked and isolated and parents/guardians will be called immediately to pick up their child.
- If either Parent or Guardian is unreachable, we will then call the Emergency Contact to pick up the student. (It is very important to ensure that your contact information and other emergency contacts for your child are kept up to date with the school during the school year).
- Students with symptoms should be assessed through 811 to determine whether COVID-19 testing is required. If COVID-19 testing is required, individuals must follow public health advice for returning to school. If testing for COVID-19 is not required, they can return once fever (with no medications) and other symptoms have resolved for 24 hours.

Additional Important Information

- Children attending the Southend Daycare will receive information from the daycare.



- The **EXCEL After School program** is operating. EXCEL will be communicating directly with registered families.

- **Bottle filling stations** and/or other sources of safe drinking will still be available. Sending your child with a **full water bottle** in the morning is greatly appreciated.



Signage Around the School

