

St. Mary's Elementary School



**Back-to-school Plan
2021-2022**

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Our Current Mandate

- 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.
- All staff and students will wear a mask, unless eating or drinking
- Build and maintain close communication with parent/guardians to continue to support child and student well-being and learning
- Teachers will focus on ensuring that every student transitions effectively to their new grade level.



2021-22



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 starts
- ▶ 10:15-10:45 Staggered Recess
- ▶ 11:30-1:30 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 be as required.
- 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 for yourself and those you care for each day before leaving home.

1 In the past 48 hours, have you had, or are you currently experiencing:

 Cough (new or worsening)

OR two or more of the following symptoms (new or worsening):

 Fever (i.e. chills/sweats)  Sore throat  Runny nose/nasal congestion  Headache  Shortness of breath

If yes, stay home or go home immediately and avoid public spaces including work, school/child care, and shopping. Book a COVID-19 test. To book a COVID-19 test, visit <https://covid-self-assessment.novascotia.ca/>. If you are unable to access the online tool, call 811. You are required to isolate while awaiting your test result.

2 Have you visited a COVID-19 exposure site?
Visit <https://www.nshhealth.ca/covid-exposures> for a list of COVID-19 exposure sites and public health requirements. You should be tested for COVID-19 and you may also need to isolate. Follow the directions online for isolation requirements.

3 Have you or anyone in your household traveled within the past 14 days or are you entering Nova Scotia from out of province?
If yes, check here: <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/travel/> to see if you are required to isolate due to travel and to determine what your isolation requirements are.

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 may be required to self-isolate. If you haven't spoken with Public Health or been tested, you should complete the online assessment at <https://covid-self-assessment.novascotia.ca/> or contact 811.

5 Have you tested positive for COVID-19?
If yes, you are required to self-isolate. Please follow instructions given by Public Health.

Last updated August 28, 2021

novascotia.ca/coronavirus 

Face Masks



- ▶ Students in Primary to 6 will be required to wear a mask in school at all times in the hallway and when physical distancing is not possible.
- ▶ 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.
- 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 only be invited inside as needed. There is a table by the main door for drop offs belonging to the student (i.e. lunch, forgotten items)
- ▶ As a school, we will continue to 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.



School Supplies/Belongings

- Classroom materials are supplied by the school i.e. crayons, duo-tangs, scissors, pencils, etc.
- Each student requires their own headset to use the school technology
- Indoor shoes are not required unless your child is wearing boots
- Please label your child's backpack, clothing, shoes, headset, and water bottle, especially new items as they may not recognize the item.

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, back driveway, or the pylons by the parking lot in an effort to avoid congestion.
- ▶ Students are to enter their designated door immediately upon arrival and go directly into their class.
- ▶ All students are to enter the school wearing a mask and all students (P-6) will sanitize their hands before entering the classroom.



School Entrances



4/5

4 / 3
9

1 / 2
2 / 3
P

Afternoon Dismissal Procedure



- ▶ Students in grade 3/4, 4/5, and 6 will be dismissed through their designated door.
- ▶ Students in grade P, 1/2, and 2/3 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) as nothing is to left at school.
- ▶ 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 are to be done outside the main office doors. Place the item on the table and then ring the office buzzer. A staff member will come and collect it.**
- ▶ **If a student is arriving late to school or needs to be picked up early for an appointment, please go to the main door and ring the buzzer. A staff member will assist you.**



Recess and Lunch Procedures

- Students will go outside for recess unless raining. They will have access to the playground and the paved courts.
- Lunch time will be staggered and will take place from 11:30am-1:30pm.
- Class schedules will be sent home the first week of school.
- Physical education is on Tuesdays and Thursdays for all classes and on Fridays for students in grades P-3
- 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 30 min. and play for 30 min.
- Desks will be sanitized while students are outside playing.
- When it is time to come in, they will enter through their designated door and will immediately sanitize hands.



Student Illness at School

- If a student becomes ill at school, the 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

