

August 24, 2020

Dear Families,

I hope this finds you all healthy and enjoying your summer. By now you will have seen the plan put forth by the District regarding a safe re-opening for September 2020. I am aware that, although the document is comprehensive, there are still many other questions that are yet to be answered. To better help inform our answers, we had asked you for some information through the parent survey which was sent to you Wednesday August 12th afternoon. The Board will also be posting answers to some specific questions that are not provided in the plan in a "Frequently Asked Questions" webpage on the board website. There are still specific questions that we cannot answer at this time, as we are awaiting more information from the Ministry of Education and Public Health Ontario; but, we will be working as quickly as possible to get this information to you. You will be receiving more specific information from me in the days to come on what the first day of school and our return in September will look like. It will take all of us working together to ensure that everything goes as smoothly and safely as possible. Here are a few updates for you and more detailed procedures will be communicated as we get closer to Sept 8th:

- School begins on Sept 8th and you have been given the option of your child attending face to face or choosing Distance Learning. Please ensure you have completed the survey that was sent to you on August 12th.
- For those who are choosing face-to-face, students in gr 4-8 will be required to wear masks except while they eat or are outside at recess. While masks for students in K-3 are not mandatory at this time they are strongly recommended. All staff will also be wearing masks.
- Students will be kept within their classroom cohort and FSL/STEM/Prep teachers will come to them. Students in each grade will also have their own area on the playground/field that is designated for them, including which doors they enter/exit from. Physical distancing will be enforced while moving throughout the halls and maintained in the classrooms where possible. Students will be instructed to wash and/or sanitize their hands frequently throughout the day. Students are allowed to bring their own personal sanitizer with them.
- Frequent cleaning will occur throughout the day.
- Parents and visitors will be permitted by appointment only.
- Before the start of school please look for an email from your child's teacher. They will introduce themselves so that you will know who your children's teachers are and they will include some basic guidelines to get us started including where to meet them on the first day.
- On Sept 8th all JK/SK students will enter through their own classroom doors. All students in gr 1-8 will meet their teachers on the playground in their pre-determined spot. Parents will not be permitted on the school yard but there will be staff outside help guide your children to their area.
- In order to minimize contact and avoid sharing materials we are asking that each student comes with their own lunch, filled water bottle and a pencil case filled with supplies. Your child's teacher will communicate what these items should include (pencils, markers, scissors etc).

Please take some time in the coming weeks to have your children wear their masks for longer periods of time, as well as safe removal and storage of their mask when they aren't wearing it (eg: small container, special bag etc). Practicing frequent hand washing and sanitizing and taking care of their own belongings will also assist with a smoother transition in September. More information regarding safe

procedures can be found in the District plan (<http://www.bhncdsb.ca/page/school-re-opening-plan-and-continued-communication>) and will be shared as they become necessary closer to the start of school. Beginning the week of August 24th, the school office will have limited office hours and messages will be checked and returned at that time. Please continue to monitor our school and board websites and twitter accounts for updates. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Kind Regards,

Lucas Boluk