



## **Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year!**

We are looking forward to welcoming all of our new and returning students back to École Arbour Vista this September!

As you are aware, the Upper Grand District School Board has put extensive plans in place for the school year. Our school has now created plans that include both operational changes (how we manage the people and resources within the school) and health and safety changes (our response to the COVID pandemic). We hope this document will help answer your questions about the specifics about the opening day and first week of school.

Please also look through our board Parent Handbook, for more detailed information about the changes for this school year. There is also a link to the Board Website and the Parent Question and Answer (Q&A) page.

[Link to Parent Handbook](#)

[Link to Board Website and Parent Q & A](#)

### **Staggered Entry**

We will be having a “staggered entry” process for all students this year. This means that all students will come to school with approximately half of their classmates on alternating days for the first two weeks of school. This will allow us to carefully review and establish safety routines with fewer students in the building. Students will attend school as per the chart below:

### JK to Grade 8 Schedule of staggered entry to the school year – Entry By Last Name

	Mon. Sept. 7	Tues. Sept 8	Wed. Sept 9	Thurs. Sept 10	Fri. Sept 11
All JK/SK and Gr. 1 - 8 students	Labour Day Holiday	DD classes only (full day)	DD classes only (full day)	Last name A - L only (full day)	Last name M - Z only (full day)
	Mon. Sept 14	Tues. Sept 15	Wed. Sept 16	Thurs. Sept 17	Fri. Sept 18
All JK/SK and Gr. 1 - 8 students	Last name A - L only (full day)	Last name A - L only (full day)	Last name M - Z only (full day)	Last name M - Z only (full day)	All JK – Gr. 8 students attend all day

### Before Coming to School

#### COVID-19 Screening:

- All parents must screen their children every day before leaving home for symptoms of COVID-19. If there are symptoms, children need to stay home from school. If COVID-19 is suspected, testing is recommended.
- Link to [self-screening tool](#)

### What to Bring to School

Please keep your child's personal items to a minimum! To support a safe and comfortable environment, students are asked to bring the following items, clearly labelled with their name:

- Knapsack or tote bag for personal belongings
- Face masks - *they may need more than one*
- Personal water bottle
- Seasonal outdoor wear (we are not requiring 'indoor shoes' at this time)
- Only those items that are necessary for the day (e.g., pencil case, calculator, pens, pencils)
- Students may bring their own devices, but they must be wiped by the student upon entry and before leaving at the end of the day

**Note:** Lockers will not be used for the 2020-2021 school year. Students will be required to keep all personal belongings with them throughout the day.

**Note:** Additional information will be provided to families about how the school will help students manage winter boots and coats when cold weather arrives.

## How Will I Know What Class My Child is In?

Homeroom teachers will call parents on Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> or the morning of Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup> to confirm children's attendance on the first day of school. Confirmation of attendance is required for central staffing purposes.

## First Day Procedures

### **Morning Drop Off:**

If you are driving your child(ren) to school and wish to access the school's Kiss and Ride area of the parking lot, please *do not get out of your car*. A staff member will meet your child at your car and direct him/her to his/her teacher on the school yard.

If you are walking your child to school, please direct him/her to their teacher on the yard. You are welcome to watch and wave from the sidewalk or the area adjacent to the tennis courts at Jubilee Park.

Primary students who are bussed will be walked to the back of the school by a staff member and directed, in succession, to their teachers' location on the school yard.

***Kindergarten parents, please wait with your son/daughter on the sidewalk adjacent to the gate and fenced enclosure at the back of the school, where the sidewalk meets the tarmac. He/she will be met a Kindergarten educator who will accompany him/her to his/her class line.***

### **Medication Drop Off / Chromebook Drop Off**

If you have medication to drop off on the first day or wish to return a chromebook, please take it to the table at the front door of the school, where you will be met by a staff member.

***We endeavour to restrict pedestrian traffic on the school yard to staff and students. We ask that parents respectfully follow the instructions noted above to ensure the safe and efficient arrival of your children.***

### **Designated Entry Doors:**

To facilitate speedy entry in the morning and to limit unnecessary travel through the building, each grade/class will be assigned an entry/exit door. This will be the only door that students will use for entering the building, for accessing outdoor activities, including recess, and departing at the end of the school day. Each class's assigned door will be introduced to students during entry on the first day of school.

### **Class Meeting location:**

A detailed map, highlighting the assigned areas on the yard for students to meet parents at the end each school day, is included as an attachment below this post.

### **Late Arrival:**

Students who arrive late will enter through the front door of the school and wait at the main office door,

until accounted for by the office staff. The office will notify the teachers of late students through a call to their classrooms. After acknowledgement of their arrival by the classroom teachers, students will proceed to class.

**Entering the Building:**

At the start of each day and following each recess or outdoor learning activity, classes will line up in their assigned spots on the tarmac. Students will maintain social distancing measures while waiting in line and walking into the school.

**Recess Information:**

Each class (cohort) will be assigned a play space on the yard for recess, noted with pylons. Students are to remain with their class (cohort) during this time. Each class will have their own recess bag of supplies to take outside and play with in their assigned area. Students will wash their hands upon re-entry to the school.

**Lunch Procedures:**

Students will eat lunch in their classrooms while respecting social distancing measures. Students will not be permitted to leave the school for lunch, unless they are accompanied by a parent or going home alone.

**Kindergarten parents** are encouraged to practice opening containers with their child before school starts. Please send containers/packaging that you know your child can open independently.

**End of Day Procedures:**

Parents picking up their child(ren) at the end of the day will meet at their grade's assigned area on the school yard. The pickup location is the same area as the morning drop off.

Similar to drop off in the morning, if you are in the Kiss and Ride area, please do not get out your car. Remain in your car and your child will walk from the tarmac to the Kiss and Ride area to meet you.

Students riding a bus will be called from their classrooms at the end of the day. Bus students will not be lining up in the gym.

### **Communication with the School**

If you have any questions regarding the first day, please email the school [arbourvista.ps@ugdsb.on.ca](mailto:arbourvista.ps@ugdsb.on.ca)

Please note that we will be sending home our regular package of information on the first day of school. Please complete the forms, and return them to your child's teacher as soon as you can.

### **Access to the School**

Only essential visitors are permitted inside the school (e.g., maintenance personnel).

If you are dropping something off for your child, please leave it on the table inside the front door of the

school, noting on the paper provided, your child's name, grade and classroom teacher. This table will be checked frequently. Dropped off items will be delivered to your child's classroom by a staff member.

All parents and visitors will not be permitted inside the school during the pandemic, except in case of emergency. At entry and dismissal times, parents are to remain outside the school and adhere to physical distancing protocols.