



## Arthur Public School

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Principal: Marni Barrow

Vice Principal: Alan Gouk

### Arthur P.S. September 2021 News

Dear Arthur Public School Parents and Guardians,

**Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year!** Welcome back! We would like to extend a warm welcome to all families who are new or returning to the Arthur Public School community. We are looking forward to an enjoyable school year filled with many exciting learning challenges. Staff have been preparing for a safe return to school by setting up classrooms, attending training and reviewing our site plans. When students arrived on the first day of school, they likely noticed a lot of similarities if they were attending APS last year. We will continue to focus and encourage students to physically distance and consistently sanitize their hands throughout the day.

With the start of the new school year, we will continue to work hard to follow all safety protocols to keep our school community safe. As the year progresses, we hope to see additional activities being introduced for our students to participate in during their time at school. As a staff, we are excited and hopeful for a more normalized school year filled with endless learning opportunities and extra-curricular activities. With the support of our parents, staff and students, we are confident that this year we will see more opportunities to make new friends, develop new skills and create new ideas. By working together, we can provide meaningful quality learning where all students can achieve success and stay safe.

At APS, we will continue our focused learning on how to be a super star citizen. One way we will do this is through our intentional equity and character education initiatives that are embedded in our daily practices here at Arthur P.S. As we begin the school year, some common goals are; setting high academic and behaviour expectations, maintaining a positive school climate and engaging our parents/community.

I would like to acknowledge all the extra time and commitment our teachers have put into getting their classrooms and our school ready for another year. As well, a special thank you to Mr. Fowlie and his team for all their hard work over the summer to clean and organize the school in preparation for this school year! You can show your appreciation of all the hard work by encouraging your child(ren) to do their part to help keep our school and playground clean and free from garbage.

With staff, students and parents all following the back to school COVID protocols, our days will run smoothly. Thank you for helping us achieve a safe start to the 2021-22 school year!

Ms. Barrow  
Principal

Mr. Gouk  
Vice Principal

## **Safety First**

During the school day, your child's safety is of the utmost importance to us. **It is imperative that you call the office before 9:00 am if your child is going to be absent or late.** For your convenience, we also have voice mail which allows you to contact the school at any time during the night, over the weekends and early in the morning. The phone number is 519-848-3793. When you leave a message, please be sure to note the child's full name, teacher and reason for absence.

If a child is absent and we have not heard from a parent/guardian, we will attempt to contact the parent/guardian to ensure that the child is safe. If a parent cannot be reached, we will contact the emergency number provided.

It is very important to let the school know if there is **any change** in personal information including home or work numbers, cell numbers, address changes etc. In the event of an unexplained absence or emergency, we will then be able to contact you immediately.



**Face Masks:** Students in all grades, K to 8, must wear a face mask while in the school building. If a child does not bring a face mask to school one will be provided. Face shields cannot be used in place of a face mask. Gaiter/buff/neck warmer cannot be used in place of a face mask. While students are outside their mask may be removed provided that physical distancing is followed.



**Hand Sanitizer:** If you choose to send hand sanitizer with your child to school it must be scent free and contain 60% alcohol.

## **Arrival Plan:**

Staff will be outside to greet students when they arrive on school property to assist them in finding their class line. Students will be expected to stand in their line and wait for the bell to ring. Students will need to be physically distanced. It will be helpful if this was reinforced at home.

When the bell rings the classroom teacher will meet their class at their line. While waiting in line for their turn to enter the building students will be instructed to put on their

masks and will be given hand sanitizer.

Walking students should arrive as close to 9:00 am as possible. (Supervision on the yard will begin at 8:45 am).

Bus students will leave the bus following physical distance protocols and staff will assist them in finding their class line.

Students who receive a drive to school should be dropped off by the driver at the front of the school or on one of the side streets. Students should walk, adhering to physical distancing rules, and enter school property as close to 9:00 am as possible and line up in their physically distanced class line.

**Late Arrival:** Students who arrive late to school will need to enter through the front door of the school, sanitize hands, put on their mask and go directly to the office. The parent/guardian will remain outside. The parent may call the office if they are concerned about their child making it to the office independently. The school phone number will be posted on the front doors.

**Early Pick Up:** If you are picking up your child early from school we ask that you arrive before 2:30 pm. With parents and visitors not allowed in the building at this time in the school year it is necessary for parents/guardians to call the office and leave a message or speak directly to Mrs. Brunkard in order to arrange early pick up in advance. Parents/Guardians will call when they are parked in front of the school (front doors of school). Mrs. Brunkard will release the child to the parent when they can see that the parent is waiting at the front door. The student will sanitize their hands before exiting the building.

**Dismissal Plan:** Teachers will bring their class to their designated line up (where they lined up in the morning on the first day). When the dismissal bell rings, walkers will leave. Bus students will line up in their bus line and wait for their bus to be called to load. Students who are driven will leave the school with the walkers and walk to their prearranged parent meeting spot for pick up.

Kindergarten parents should be physically distanced on school property, no congregating please. Parents of older students should have a meeting spot if possible off school property. Parents of younger students should also arrange to meet their child at a pre-designated area and communicate this with their child and child's teacher if needed.

If for some unforeseen reason a parent is late picking up their child at dismissal, the child will need to put on their mask, sanitize their hands and enter the school with their

teacher. The teacher will bring the student to the front hallway. Parents will then need to call the office when they arrive at the school and follow protocol for early pick-up.

Unstructured play in the school yard after school will not be permitted, please remind your child to go straight home.



**Bus Behaviour:** Students are expected to follow the rules of the bus, listen to the driver, remain in their seats, refrain from eating and drinking anything while on the bus, and follow the directions of the staff when entering or exiting the bus. Students will need to wear a mask onto the bus, while seated on the bus and while exiting the bus. A seating plan will be provided by the bus driver.

**Inclement Weather:** If the weather does not allow for students to wait outside until the bell rings, students will be instructed by a staff member to enter the school and go straight into their classroom. Weather appropriate clothing should be worn to school as students will be outside more often.

**Bike Racks:** Students may ride their bikes or scooters to school. They must adhere to physical distancing rules once they are on school property. Students **must walk** their bike or scooter on school property and park them at the bike racks. *Skateboards are not permitted at school.*

**Indoor Shoes:** Students should bring indoor shoes to school. In the case of inclement weather you may choose to send your child in rain boots and having indoor shoes at school for them to change into.

**Recycling and Composting:** This year due to COVID related safety protocols we will not have recycling bins and compost bins in classrooms at the beginning of the school year. Hopefully, as our safety routines are put in place, we will be able to reintroduce recycling at Arthur P.S. As a result of this information, we are asking that students bring home their containers to be recycled. If possible, consider packing all food items in reusable containers to avoid unnecessary garbage at school. Arthur Public School is an ECO school and we are looking forward to composting and recycling again soon. We do understand the importance of keeping students and families safe and hope that as a community we can work together to reduce our footprint.

**School Emergency Response Training and Annual Drills:** The safety and well-being of our students is our highest priority. Although we hope that an incident that requires a response from emergency personnel will never occur in our school, we must be prepared to respond quickly and effectively in case it does. Each year our school must conduct drills to ensure staff and students are prepared in the event of a real emergency. We will be practicing a fire drill in September following physical distancing protocols.

**Child and Youth Counsellor:** Mrs. Forsey will be at Arthur Public School on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday each week. She can be reached at 519-848-3793. The Child and Youth Counsellor's role is to support students, staff and parents. Some of the topics include social skills development, anger management, bereavement, family separation or divorce, self-esteem, conflict between friends, bullying, anxiety and family issues. Support for the students will be focused on social, emotional and behavioural concerns.

### **Student Accident Insurance:**

Parents/guardians are responsible for expenses related to student injuries on school premises during school activities. Accidents can happen and the costs involved might not be fully covered by Provincial Health Care or employer group insurance plans. The Upper Grand District School Board is empowered under the Education Act to offer Accident and Life Insurance for students.

Information will be sent home with respect to Student Accident Insurance offered by Old Republic Insurance Company of Canada. You should receive:

1. An introduction letter from the Director of Education to parents/guardians
2. A brochure about Student Accident Insurance

Old Republic offers a variety of options, including family rates and multi-year plans, at affordable prices. The cost must be paid by parents/guardians. Insurance can be purchased online at [www.insuremykids.com](http://www.insuremykids.com) or by calling Old Republic toll free at 1-800-463-KIDS (5437). If you have questions, please contact Old Republic directly at the website or phone number listed here. For today's active children, Student Accident Insurance is valuable.

**Visitors to Our School:** For safety reasons, only essential workers will be allowed in UGDSB schools at this time of year. Parents and visitors will not be allowed into the school. Thank you for participating in keeping our school safe.

### **Return to School Forms:**

Your child will be bringing home important forms that must be returned to the school by Monday September 20. You should find in your package:

- Consent for Personal Information
- Student Verification Form
- Acceptable Use of Technology

**School Resources on Website:** For more information concerning school policies and procedures please refer to the school website where you will find the COVID site plan, School Day Schedule, School Year Calendar, code of conduct, staff list and more. See below for link: [arthur.ps@ugdsb.on.ca](mailto:arthur.ps@ugdsb.on.ca)

**Food and Friends:** To start our school year, our Student Snack Program will be supported at home only. Please make sure you send enough food for your child to eat for the two nutrition breaks each day. If you are interested in signing up for the “at home” program, please click on this link for more information:

<https://www.childrensfoundation.org/what-we-do/food-friends/food-friends-at-home>

### **Borrowed Chromebooks**

Do you have an Arthur P.S. Chromebook at home? If so, we would really appreciate it being returned to the school as soon as possible. You can have your child return it to their classroom teacher.

## **Important Message from the Human Resources Department**

### **Re: School Organizations**

Schools have built class lists based on their tentative organizations. Changes may be necessary at your child(ren)'s school in order that our Board remains compliant with Ministry parameters (see below). Any changes would be implemented during the week of September 20th. Principals do not have the option of changing the school organization that is set by the District Staffing Committee of the Board. If changes affect your child(ren), you will be informed by the school.

#### **Ministry of Education Parameters**

- ❖ Full Day Kindergarten Class Size Average for the Board is 26 students
- ❖ 90% of Full Day Kindergarten classes with 29 or fewer students
- ❖ 10% of Full Day Kindergarten classes up to a maximum of 32 students
- ❖ under certain circumstances
- ❖ 90% of the Board's primary classes with 20 or fewer students
- ❖ 10% of the Board's primary classes up to a maximum of 23 students
- ❖ Grade 3/4 classes have a cap of 23 students
- ❖ Junior/Intermediate Class Size Average for the Board is 24.5 students to 1 teacher

**Video Surveillance:** In its efforts to continually review and monitor the safety of our schools, the Upper Grand District School Board has completed a Video Surveillance Project. All schools now have video cameras installed. If you have any questions on how these systems are managed, please refer to the board's Video Surveillance policy (Policy 203) on the board website:

<https://www.ugdsb.ca/board/policy/policy-203-video-surveillance/>

**Students with Life-Threatening Medical Conditions:** UGDSB Policy 518: Students with Life-Threatening Medical Conditions, outlines the roles and responsibilities for all in the educational community to support students with possible life-threatening medical conditions. The prevalent medical conditions covered under this policy are Asthma, Anaphylaxis, Diabetes and Epilepsy/Seizure Disorders. If your child has one of these, or any other life-threatening medical condition, please visit: [www.ugdsb.ca/board/policy](http://www.ugdsb.ca/board/policy) (and look for Policy 518) or contact the school as soon as possible. We will work with you to develop a Plan of Care to support your child.

**Life-Threatening Allergies:** We have children in our school with potential life-threatening allergies (called anaphylaxis) to various foods and other materials. Anaphylaxis is a medical condition that can cause death within minutes. In recent years, anaphylaxis has increased dramatically among students. Although this may not affect your child's class directly, we are letting you know so that you are aware that we aim to create an allergy safe environment at our school. If your child is in a classroom with an anaphylactic child, or your child has anaphylaxis, you will be informed by the classroom teacher. Our school has procedures in place for the prevention and management of anaphylactic reactions. If your child has health concerns of any kind, please tell your child's teacher or the office and we will take the necessary health protection steps. Thank you for your understanding in ensuring an allergy-safe environment for all of our students.

**Smoke and Vape-Free School Environment:** The Upper Grand DSB provides a smoke and vape-free environment for its students, staff and others while on school Board property and at school events. Under our policy, all forms of tobacco, and any processed form of tobacco that may be smoked, inhaled or chewed is included. Additionally, all forms of e-cigarettes are also covered under this policy.

Smudging is the tradition of using sacred smoke from sacred medicines (e.g., tobacco and sage) that forms part of indigenous culture and spirituality. Smudging is allowed in schools under the Smoke-Free Ontario Act. Participation by staff and students is optional in a smudging ceremony.

### **Vaccination Clinic Dates at Wellington Heights Secondary School:**

Wednesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> from 3:15pm – 4:00pm in the WHSS Music Room (open for drop in for any eligible Elementary students and all Elementary staff wanting a vaccination)

Wednesday, October 13<sup>th</sup> from 3:15pm – 4:00pm in the WHSS Music Room (open for drop in for any eligible Elementary students and all Elementary staff wanting a vaccination)

Anyone wanting a vaccination can simply drop in to the school during those times and dates. Public Health has directed people to bring their Health Cards, but if students or staff forget, they can still get a vaccination without their Health Card. More information can be found on our school website at this link: [WHSS Vaccination Clinic Website Link](#)



**Important COVID Screening Reminder:** It is essential that parents use the screening tool to check your child for symptoms prior to coming to school every morning. The Screening Tool is available on our website as well as on the Public Health Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph website.

For your convenience, here is the link to the printable screening tool and the electronic screening tool.

Printable version:

[https://www.wdgppublichealth.ca/sites/default/files/covid\\_screening\\_student\\_child\\_care\\_aoda.pdf](https://www.wdgppublichealth.ca/sites/default/files/covid_screening_student_child_care_aoda.pdf)

Electronic version:

<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>

### **Arthur Public School Schedule**

<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>School Starts</b>
<b>9:00-10:40</b>	<b>Instructional Time</b>
<b>10:40-11:20</b>	<b>First Break</b>
<b>11:20-1:00</b>	<b>Instructional Time</b>
<b>1:00-1:40</b>	<b>Second Nutrition Break</b>
<b>1:40-3:20</b>	<b>Instructional Time</b>
<b>3:20 pm</b>	<b>Dismissal</b>

