



Drayton Heights Public School

Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year!



Hello everyone!

Welcome back!! Whether you are a new or returning student, the staff of Drayton Heights Public School look forward to welcoming all of you to school this Tuesday, September 6, 2022!

We are happy to report that, in consultation with WDG Public Health, the Upper Grand District School Board has eased pandemic protocols for the start of the new school year. We are looking forward to a more typical start to the school year, with assemblies, extracurricular activities, field trips, and more! As a school and Board, we will continue to emphasize appropriate hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette, including the use of alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR). Students will also be given breaks to wash their hands at appropriate times during the school day. Alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) with a minimum 60% alcohol concentration will be available throughout the school and/or plain liquid soap in dispensers, sinks and paper towels in dispensers. At this time, the use of face/N95 masks are optional and a personal choice.

As you prepare for the first day of school, next Tuesday, September 6th, we hope this document will help answer your questions about the specifics about the opening day and first week of school. Please continue to check the Board and School websites for the most up-to-date information.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school next week and to the great year ahead!

Have a wonderful long weekend! We will see you on Tuesday, September 6th, 2022 at 8:50am.

Screening Tool

Screening Tool:

Screening for COVID-19 symptoms and potential exposures is recommended to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

- It is recommended that staff screen for COVID-19 daily BEFORE leaving for work.
- Parents/guardians are asked to perform a daily screening of their child(ren) for COVID-19 BEFORE leaving for school.
- Staff, students and families can use the provincial screening tool for daily screening: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>

All staff and students who are experiencing symptoms identified in the screening tool that are consistent with COVID-19 must not attend school and should follow the guidance provided in the screening tool, which may include seeking appropriate medical attention as required, and/or getting tested for COVID-19.

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 labeled with the student's name:

- **Backpack** or tote bag for personal belongings
- **Personal water bottle** that is labeled (drinking fountains will be open this year as well)
- Seasonal outdoor wear and a pair of "indoor" shoes (athletic shoes for gym)
- Only those items that are necessary for the day (e.g., pencils, pencil crayons, glue stick - for personal use only). **Your child's teacher will let students and families know what additional supplies would be helpful in their class during the staggered entry.**
- **(Completely optional) Face masks** that are labeled with initials/name - they may need more than one

UPDATED: Loaned Technology

If you are a family who has a device that was loaned out, please note that all SEA equipment and/or Chromebooks are expected to be returned to school on Tuesday, September 6th, 2022.

How Will I Know What Class My Child is In?

Classroom teachers will be communicating with families via email on Thursday, September 1st, 2022 regarding first day procedures and other important information pertaining to individual classes for the start of the year.

When coming to the school on the first day, teachers will have large signs indicating their grades and will help to guide students to the appropriate teacher. Students will look for their grade and approach the teacher with the sign on where to line up. Students are welcome to approach any adult on the yard for assistance in locating their new class/teacher as each teacher will have a class list for all grades in the school.

First Day Procedures

Drop Off Procedures:

- Only students will enter onto the school yard
- Parents/Guardians who want to stay can say goodbye at the gate/fence near the bus drop off zone, or at the grassed area beside the parking lot.
- **“Drop and Go” procedures are in effect for the Parent Loop** ([map](#)). Parents are not permitted to be in the yard, but can wait at the side of the Primary Yard behind the pylons. Staff will be available to direct families to the drop off areas
- There will be staff out to help direct students if they are unsure where to go. All teachers will be at their class designated areas at the 8:50 bell. This will be their class ‘spot’ for the remainder of the year when entering first thing in the morning.
- **We ask that walkers be dropped off as close to 8:50am as possible to avoid congregating on the yard and/or having to stand in their class lines for longer than necessary.** Bus students will be supervised upon arrival to school.
- Supervisors will be at the door to monitor greet our students as they enter the school.
- If it rains, students will go to their homeroom classrooms. There will be staff to help to direct students to their classrooms.

Walkers:

- Students are encouraged to **arrive only a few minutes before entry time at 8:50** in order to minimize standing in line for long periods of time. Once at school, students will line up with their classmates until the bell rings.
- Students will enter the yard ([map](#)). There are only 2 areas students can enter the yard. At the Bus Loop (see green arrow on map) and at the Parent Loop (see green arrows on map)

Bus Students:

- Students who arrive on buses will enter the yard at the bus drop off zone in front of the school, and make their way to the back to join their class peers at their designated line up area.

Students Driven to School (by family members):

- The **Parent Loop** (area of the parking lot) will be used as a **“drop and go”** area. Parents can stop, students should get out of the car quickly
- Students should be directed to walk on the grass (near the fence) on the far side of the parking lot. ([map](#))
- **Students should not be walking through the parking lot** - instead, they should walk on the grass leading to the portable to enter the yard
- **Parents should not park in the “parent loop”, the parking lot or leave their car unattended**
- Parents driving their children may park off school property if need be.

Designated Entry Doors:

- To facilitate speedy entry in the morning, 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 (and recess) and departing at the end of the school day.
 - Primary Doors
 - Bus Loop Doors
 - Junior/Intermediate Doors
- The main front door
 - will be used by students arriving after the 8:50 bell
 - Will be used by students leaving early (being picked up by parents who have called)

Class Meeting location:

- Students will enter the yard and find their teacher's name attached to a chair/ pylon. There will be staff to help direct students where to go. Students will meet their teacher and their classmates. When the bell rings, teachers will direct their class to the location where they will line up for entry time; this will be their classes 'spot' for the remainder of the year when entering in the morning.

Late Arrival:

- Students who arrive after 8:50 AM will enter at the main door at the front. The office staff will let your child's teacher know that they are on their way to class. If students arrive later in the day, parents should call the school or walk them to the main entrance and ring the doorbell. Once attendance has been recorded, the student will be directed to their classroom.

Entering the Building:

- Students will line up in designated areas at the entry bell
- Teachers/ supervisors will lead students to their classrooms

Recess Information:

- Before leaving classrooms, students will wash/sanitize their hands
- To allow more space on the yard, classes have been staggered so that there are fewer students outside at the same time (K-3; 4-8)
- At this time, classes will not have designated areas on the yard to play as they did last year. Classes are permitted to interact with each other.
- Upon re-entry from recess, students will line up to be called into the school by their classroom teacher

Lunch Procedures:

- As in past years, students will eat in their classrooms and at their assigned desk/work space
- For younger grades, families should pack food and snacks in containers that they know their child/ren can easily open. We look forward to having student-helpers in younger grades once later in September
- Recyclables and unfinished food items will be sent home with students.

End of Day Procedures:

- Students will exit the school using the same doors they use for entering, teachers will direct students as to which door to use if they take a bus.
- Primary teachers will let parents know specific instructions related to primary students
- Parents/guardians should wait outside of the school yard (the same place students were dropped off in the am) for their child/ren
- Bus students will wait in designated areas inside the school and be called to the bus loading area once their bus arrives.
- Due to the high volume of traffic, the Parent Loop will be closed at the end of the day. Parents picking up students will need to park off school property. The Reform Church across the road has given permission for our families to use their parking lot.

Other Important Information

Medication and Plans of Care:

Please complete [the appropriate form](#) for Life Threatening Medical Conditions and/or the [Consent for Administration of Oral Medication form](#) prior to coming on the first day of school. You can drop off the completed forms with the medication to our office staff on your child's first day of school.

Picking up a student: If you need to pick up your child early, **please call the school office**. We will have your child waiting for you at the front doors. Please call to let us know you have arrived. If you do not have a cell phone, please ring the doorbell. We will dismiss your child out the front doors.

Communication with the School

- When your child/ren is going to be absent from school, please leave a message (messages can be left at any time) at **519-638-3067**.
- If your child is unwell, we ask that you keep them at home and let us know on our attendance line.

Each classroom teacher will indicate the best form of communication between class and home (e.g. email, agenda, communication book, or phone call).

If you would like to arrange an in person meeting, phone call or virtual meeting, please email your child's teacher or contact the office so that we can help make the connection with the classroom teacher.



DHPS is now on Instagram!!

After a discussion with the School Council last year, it was decided that the North Stars should come to Instagram! We hope to use this account to showcase the great things happening at the school this year. From community building, inquiry, and learning, follow us to see what's happening at DHPS this 2022-2023 school year!

Important: This account will not replace the use of the school's website, emails or other forms of communication from the school - it is intended to be a space to share pictures of day-to-day learning activities and special events.

Thanks for following along!

@northstar_dhps

