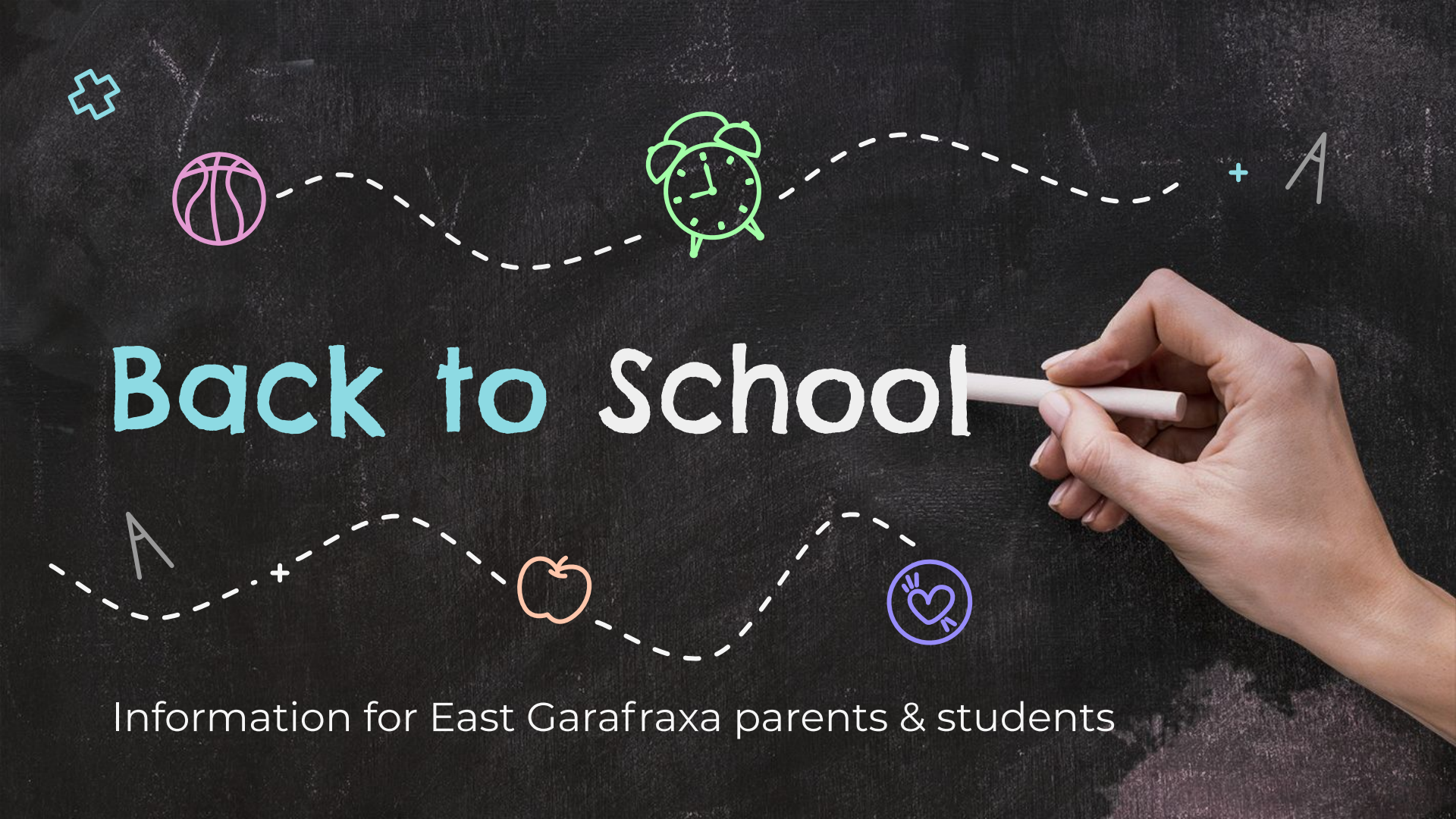

Back to School
Information for East Garafraxa parents & students

Important to Note

This information is being provided to you to help you and your child prepare for the upcoming school year. The information will be relevant to families who have selected the in class learning option. The information is current as of right now, but could change quickly. Changes will be communicated to you as quickly as possible.

Please watch for the following symbols in the presentation.

New and Important Information

Messge from the Board

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

As you are aware, the Upper Grand District School Board has put extensive plans in place for the schoool 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 responses to the COVID pandemic). We hope this document will help answer your questions about the specifics about the opening day and first week

Please also look through our Board's 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

Welcome back to September 2020!

Hello everyone!

The following information is what we know as of September 4th. Any changes will be communicated in future days. Please keep in mind that things are changing quickly and we are trying to make the best decisions possible to keep everyone safe.
Thank you for your ongoing patience and understanding.
In an effort to prepare your child(ren) for September, please feel free to share this information with them so they also understand what to expect (classroom teachers will also be going over new protocols during the first two weeks of the school year/staggered entry).
You will soon receive more information regarding class placements and specifics around drop off and pick-up locations for your child.
We are so excited to see all of the students who are returning. We hope this communication will help to answer many of your questions.

Sincerely Ms Federico

Overview of Information

This presentation includes detailed information about:

- Student cohorts and staggered entry
- First day procedures
- Bus routines - beginning and end of day
- Drop off (late students and items)
- Early Pick Up
- School routines
- What happens if my child feels ill during the school day?

This information is being provided to you to support your child's successful return to in class learning.

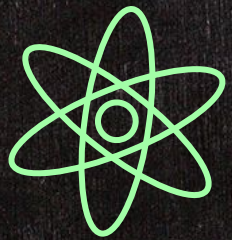
COVID SELF-ASSESSMENT

All parents are required to complete a COVID self assessment for their child BEFORE sending them to school or putting them on the school bus. If your child is sick, they must stay home.

Staff are also required to complete the daily COVID self assessment.

https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/

The First Few Days



East Gary School Times

8:45 am	School Begins
8:45 am -10:45 am	Instructional Time
10:45 am - 11:30 am	First Nutrition Break
11:30 am - 1:00 pm	Instructional Time
1:00 pm - 1:45 pm	Second Nutrition Break
1:45 pm - 3:15 pm	Instructional Time
3:15 pm	Dismissal
3:17 pm	Buses Load

Staggered Entry

We will be having a “staggered entry” 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.

East Gary Staggered Entry

IN- SCHOOL LEARNING: JK to Grade 8 staggered entry to the school year - Entry by Last Name					
	Mon. Sept. 7	Tues. Sept. 8	Wed. Sept. 9	Thurs. Sept. 9	Fri. Sept. 11
All students JK-Grade 8	Labour Day Holiday	No students at school. Staff preparation day	No students at school. Staff preparation 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 students JK - Grade 8	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 full day

First Day - Arriving at School

September 10 (Last names A-L) or September 11 (Last names M-Z)

Arriving by bus

Busses will be unloaded in a way that allows students to walk to the appropriate yard and remain physically distant from other students. Buses will unload in front of the gates. Busses will be unloaded in the order that they come into the parking lot. Staff will greet the students as they get off and direct them to the appropriate area of the tarmac.

Buses are operating at regular capacity and masks are required (seating plan in effect)

NEW

If you are driving your child to school, please arrive after the buses have left, 8:30 am. Parents with younger students will hand off students to Staff - staff will direct /lead student to class line up. Older students will make there way to the gates where they will be directed by staff. Please note that due to COVID restrictions NO parents are allowed in our building or on our school yard.

How Will I know Which Class my Child is in?

Parents/Guardians will receive a phone call on September 8th. from their child's teacher. The teacher will introduce themselves and inform you of room location and where your child should join the class on the first day of school (and each day after that).

They will also be asking you about pick up routines for the end of the day. (ie. Bus? Picked up?)

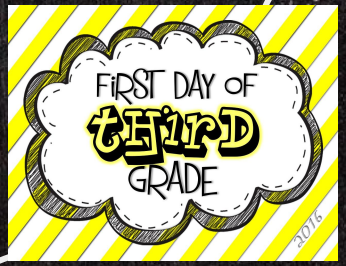
As well will be letting you know how to connect with them throughout the year (ie. email, Google Classroom, School Messenger etc.)

In the beginning of the school year, staff members and greeters will be available in the morning to direct your child to their class meeting place.

First Day - Finding the classroom

The tarmac will be clearly marked for students with teacher names. As students arrive they will be directed to their class meeting area. They are to remain at their meeting area until the bell rings. Teachers will meet their classes at their designated meeting area. Classes will enter the building at the direction of their teacher/supervisors after bell rings. When bell rings they will be directed into the school, at the direction of an adult, from their meeting area to avoid cohorts mixing.

I have left a message for “Mother Nature” and requested that it not rain on the first day. However, if my message wasn’t received and it does rain students will be directed to their classrooms instead of their outdoor meeting areas.



Morning Greeters

Ms. Sousa and Ms. Griffith will meet younger students and bus students at their assigned point of entry first thing in the morning. Greeters will welcome students to school, and remind them to put on a mask and to socially distance as they enter the building. Greeters may also assist with hand sanitizer prior to students entering the school.

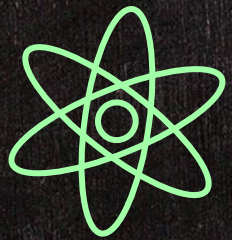
Greeters will also meet students who arrive late (after 8:45 am) to ensure they are physically distanced, write down their name, and direct them to their classroom to meet their class.

First Few Weeks of School

Staggered entry during the first two weeks will allow teachers to work with smaller groups of students to:

- become re-adjusted to routines and the school day.
- teach students strategies to reduce stress and anxiety they may be feeling as they return to school after an extended absence.
- focus on teaching the new health and safety routines that are required for all staff and students.
- build a cooperative, respectful, and inclusvie classroom community that will allow for effective learning all year long.

School Routines



School Routines

Front door will be locked. Only students and essential staff will be allowed entry into the building.

NEW

Dropping off - late arrivals

Late students must come in through the front door and check in at the office. Parents are not to come into the building. If there is any communication that needs to come to the office , please call 519 855-4484. Please remind your child to check into the office before going to the classroom.

Dropping Off items

Only emergency items (i.e. medication, forgotten lunch) should be dropped off. There will be a drop off table outside of the front door. Parents must label the item and call the school to let them know that a drop off has been made.

Picking up your child early

Please give the office as much notice as possible if you are picking up your child early. Once you arrive at the school, please call the office. Parents will need to meet their child at the front door.

The school phone number will be posted on the main door.

School Routines

Lunch

Students will be required to stay in their assigned seat for lunch and they will not be allowed to share food.

Recess

Classes will be assigned a section of the yard and will be encouraged to play with the peers from their class. Students do not need to wear a mask at recess. Classes will be assigned equipment to use at recess. They should not bring equipment from home.

Recycling

Recycling will be limited to paper items only.
We will be encouraging 'boomerang lunches'. Students will take all garbage/recyling home with them at the end of the day.

School Routines

Handwashing

Students will be taught/ reminded of the importance of washing hands regularly.

Students will wash/disinfect their hands: when they enter/exit the building or classroom, before/after eating, before/ after using shared equipment, after coughing/sneezing, etc.

Hand sanitizer will be provided with a priority to the portable and classrooms without sinks.

School Routines

Masks

All students in JK to 8 are required to wear a mask when **inside** the building and the portable, and on the school bus.

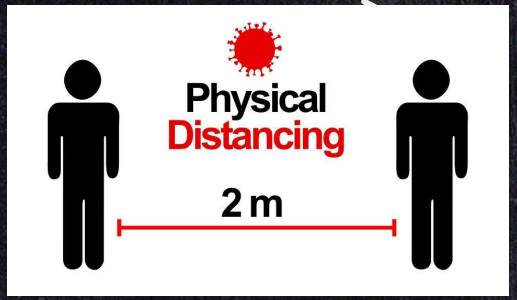
Parents are required to provide the mask. Should you need support with this, please contact the school.

Students are not required to wear masks when outdoors or when eating lunch.

Teachers will be planning outdoor learning opportunities and “mask breaks” throughout the day.

Cloth masks should be washed daily.

School Routines



Kindergarten

Kindergarten students will continue to use the classroom washrooms. They will have access to two kindergarten classroom washrooms.

Washrooms

Students in Grade 1 will use their classroom bathroom. The regular girls' and boys' bathroom as well as the individual bathroom in the same hall will be available to all other students. All bathrooms have been marked with Capacity limits. Students will be accessing bathrooms as required but adhering to the posted capacity limits. Physical distancing will be closely monitored throughout the day.

In order to support physical distancing, some stalls and sinks have been closed in each washroom.

School Routines

End of Day Bussing

Students will be dismissed by class to line up at clearly labelled bus lines on the Intermediate Tarmac. Teachers will walk their students to the appropriate bus line. Bus students will be dismissed from bus lines in order of bus arrival. Staff will be out supervising and monitoring physical distancing during the end of the day.

School Routines

NEW

Picking Your Child Up - Child Does not Regularly Ride the Bus

Please notify the school by 3:05 if your child is not taking the bus.

All students will be dismissed from the tarmac.

Parents will drive by and pick up their child after the buses have been dismissed at 3:35 from the gate.

Please note that due to COVID restrictions parents are **NOT ALLOWED** in the building or on the school yard.

School Routines

Students do not need to bring a second pair of shoes at this time. NEW

Student Personal Belongings NEW

Students are encouraged to bring minimal personal belongings with them to school. All personal items will be stored in the student's backpack, on the back of their chair. Important items to send with your child are: lunch, water bottle, change of clothes (if needed), face mask (perhaps 2), seasonal outdoor wear, pencil case (pens, pencils, pencil crayons, erasers, etc.).

Each student will have their own labelled space in the classroom (desk/table and chair). Students must use only their own designated space/chair.

Suggested School Supplies

Lunch: Student need to be able to open their containers independently, their prepacked food independently, this will limit multiple contact points with your child's personal items. A personal water bottle will also be needed.

Everyone:

- **Pencils**
- **Eraser**
- **Glue stick**
- **Pencil case**
- **Pencil crayons**
- **Scissors**
- **Pencil sharpener**
- **At least 2 face masks (in case one gets soiled or lost)**
- **A baggie/container to store mask when not being used**

Primary:

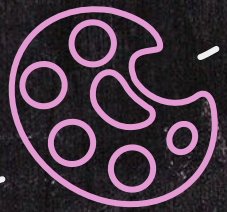
- Box of crayons 24 (gr 1-2)

Junior

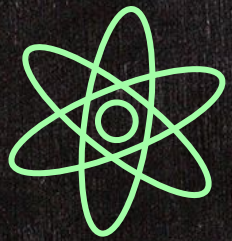
- Clear plastic 30 cm ruler
- Calculator

Intermediate

- 1 large binder
- Calculator
- Dividers (10)
- Lined paper (punched)
- Markers (thin)
- Pens



Communication with School



Communication Methods

Phone

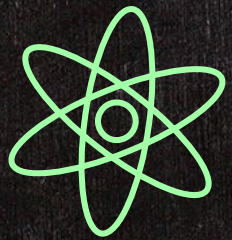
Parents are welcome to call the school and speak to someone in the office or leave a message for their child's teacher.

Email

Please feel free to email your child's teacher or the school office.

All communication between home and school will be done through email, google classroom, or phone calls. We will not be using agendas or sending paper notes back and forth. Agendas will be for recording homework and special events.

Health and Safety



What if my child begins to feel unwell?

If a child begins to feel unwell during the school day, the teacher will call the office and the administrator will assess the situation.

If your child is exhibiting COVID symptoms, they will be escorted by administrator to the isolation room. Parents will be called immediately and your child will need to be picked up immediately (by a parent or designate). The child will be given a medical grade mask and monitored by a school staff while they are in the isolation room. A student's temperature can be taken if a parent gives staff permission to do so. The staff member who is supervising the student is required to wear full PPE (medical mask, face shield, gown, gloves).

Siblings (either at the same school or a different school) may also need to be picked up.

What if my child begins to feel unwell?

If a child begins to feel unwell during the school day, the teacher will call the office and the situation will be assessed by the administrator.

If your child is NOT exhibiting COVID symptoms, they will be assessed by the office staff and a decision will be made as to whether to call the parent and ask to have the child picked up or if the child would benefit from a short rest in the health room.

Health and Safety Protocols

- All students and staff are required to wear face masks while indoors.
- Teachers are encouraged to keep classroom windows open.
- Staff and students are required to wash/sanitize their hands upon entering the building.
- Hallways have been divided down the middle and marked with directional flow arrows.
- To the best of our ability, student desks have been placed at least 1m apart and extra furniture has been removed.
- Carpets have been removed from classrooms.
- The library is currently closed.
- Capacity is limited in common areas, such as washrooms.
- Doors are being left open to reduce touch points.
- Alcohol based hand sanitizer will be available in all rooms. Students will be able to use the hand sanitizer with teacher permission.

Please inform your child's teacher as soon as possible if your child is unable to use hand sanitizer.

Questions???

If, after reading the presentation, you have questions for the school, please send an email to lena.federico@ugdsb.on.on.ca

Questions that pertain to the whole school will be collected and another information presentation will be shared with parents.
If a question pertains to a particular student, the school will contact you.

Thanks!

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