

GRAND VALLEY AND DISTRICT PUBLIC SCHOOL

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Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year!

We are looking forward to welcoming all of our new and returning students back to Grand Valley and District Public School 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” 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.

JK to Grade 8 Schedule of staggered entry to the school year					
	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	Parents Receive Phone calls with class and first day details Students in Remote Learning (DL) receive phone calls this week.	Parents Receive Phone calls with class and first day details	First Day of School if your name begins with A-L	First Day of School if your last name begins with M-Z
	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 at School First Day of Remote Classroom for A-L	Last Name A-L at School First Day of Remote Classroom for M-Z	Last Name M-Z at school	Last Name M-Z at school	All JK - Gr 8 students attend
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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 the student's 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, coat racks, and change rooms 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?

Staff will be calling all families on September 8th and 9th with details about classes and first day routines. The call may show up as "no caller id". Please be prepared to answer such a call from the school on September 8th or 9th.

First Day Procedures

Morning Drop Off:

Between 8:15 and 8:40 priority must be given to our school busses for safe arrival of students at school. Please try to avoid driving into our bus loop at that time as much as possible. If you must drive your children to school. Please wait patiently while we unload busses. We will unload busses one at a time to ensure distancing on our walkways and around out entryways. This will be a slower process than in past years.

Our yard is supervised from 8:30am. Please do not have your children arrive at school prior to 8:30am.

Students walking to school are encouraged to use our sidewalks and cross the road only at the designated cross walk. We will have a crossing guard on duty before and after school.

We will have two access points to our school yard each morning from the front of the building. Students in grades JK to 3 are asked to follow the sidewalk to the north gate. Staff will be there to direct them. Students in grades 4-8 will enter through the front door of the school and proceed through the school into the school yard. Staff will also be in those locations to assist. We will be slowing down entry, and spacing students out as the use our walkways and common areas to emphasize the importance of social distancing. This will be important to maintain at all times throughout the school day.

We ask that each household try to limit themselves to one parent accompanying children to school in order to reduce crowd volumes around the school and support distancing.

At this time, only essential personnel are permitted to enter schools (eg. Maintenance staff) and parents will need to be prepared to leave students with our staff members outside rather than entering the building with children.

It is very important that dogs and other pets are left at home, or remain on the boundary of school property and do not enter the building or school grounds at any time throughout the year.

We will have staff on duty at the front of the school to receive your children and direct them and/or accompany them to meet their teacher on our school yard for their first day, and first weeks of school.

We will have a waiting area set up for our youngest students and new families outside of our north gate entry to the yard.

If you feel that you need to enter the school to drop off medications or important items to the office, please call in so that we can assist you with that. 519 928 2172.

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 (and recess) and departing at the end of the school day.

In the morning, and throughout the day, students will be directed by staff to specific entry points for their respective classes. Entry and exit routines will be reviewed with students during their first few days at school.

School Greeters:

A “Greeter” will meet each student at their assigned point of entry first thing in the morning. Students will be reminded to put on a mask and to socially distance as they enter the building and they may be assisted with hand sanitizer. Staff and additional supervisors “greeters” will be identified by wearing orange safety vests.

Class Meeting location:

Details regarding class meeting location for the first day will be shared via phone calls on Sept 8th and 9th. If you are unclear of details, we will be directing students from our yard access locations and will ensure they are comforted and directed to the appropriate areas.

Late Arrival:

Students who arrive after their class has entered the school, will come through the front door and check in at the office. Only students are to enter the building. Parents and siblings will need to wait outside. If there is any communication that needs to come to the office please call 519 928 2172. Please remind your child if they arrive late, to check in at the office before heading to a classroom.

At entry and dismissal times, parents are to remain outside the school and adhere to physical distancing protocols. Please help us to make this successful by dropping your child off and quickly vacating school property.

Entering the Building:

- Enter school by class, single file, maintaining physical distancing, led by teacher
- Students will enter and exit the building in an orderly, controlled manner
- All students and staff must sanitize their hands and put on masks upon entry into the school and stay physically distanced
- As is customary at GV, students will walk on the right side of hallways and follow directional arrows. It will be important for students to maintain space. Students have always been taught about “personal space”. We will be working with them to understand that “personal space” has expanded and should be respected.

Recess Information:

We are lucky to have a large open yard area at GVDPS. To provide as much room as possible during recess for students to spread out, we will also be staggering recess times so that only half of the students will be on the yard during each recess break. Teachers will be reviewing these schedules and procedures with students during the first few days of school.

Students will not have to wear masks at recess as long as they maintain physical distance from each other and respect each other's space. Our staff will be working on suggestions and ideas for outdoor play and recreation that could incorporate physical distance.

Students will be able to store mask in their desks. (Please provide a container or "baggie". We will have extras on hand) Masks will be taken off for recess and eating time.

Our playground structures and swings will be closed indefinitely while pandemic protocols are in place at school. Students will be asked to stay off these structures at recess and before and after school.

Lunch Procedures:

- Students will eat in their own classrooms and will not be permitted to go to other rooms to eat.
- Students will not be permitted to leave school property during the lunch breaks. If you are setting up a plan for your child to come to your home for lunch it will need to be set up ahead of time through the school office. We will not be allowing students to phone home to set up lunch arrangements on a day to day basis. Students will not be permitted to go to other student homes for lunch.
- Students will not be allowed to share food
- Students will have their own individual space for eating and will need to remain there
- We will introduce school wide "boomerang" lunches meaning we would encourage students to take home their recyclables. We will have garbage facilities in classrooms. School recycling and composting will be limited.
- Outside food orders / deliveries will not be accepted at school as we are directed to have only essential staff within the building.
- Students will be provided many opportunities to wash hands / access sanitizer before and after eating times

End of Day Procedures:

- It will be important to protect our bus loop from additional traffic flow at the end of the day as well as in the morning. Please avoid picking up your students using vehicles at the end of the day unless absolutely necessary. If you are picking your child up. Please have them wait on the sidewalk, and not cross through our parking lot. It will be important to let our busses load and exit before cars try to flow through our traffic loop.
- Students will be dismissed in a similarly organized manner to how they enter the building and classroom, with teacher support to reinforce expectations.
- Parents are asked to wait outside the building at dismissal time and maintain physical distance as much as possible
- Students and families should be vacating school grounds promptly at the end of the day. There should be no unstructured play in the yard after school. These areas will be used by our before and after school programs.
- If you need to communicate with the office in regard to student pick up, please try to do so early in the day. We will need time to retrieve messages and respond appropriately.

Communication with the School

Staff will be calling families on September 8th or 9th to discuss a number of items. Our primary form of communication to families will be through school messenger and google classroom applications. We will not be using agendas this year.

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).

All parents and visitors will not be permitted inside schools 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.