

Hyland Heights Elementary School

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Kaye Martin
Principal

Andrea Papavasiliou
Vice-Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians of HHES Students,

We hope that you and your families are enjoying the summer.

As you know, we are preparing for a very unusual return to school this September. Parents are being asked to complete an online survey by the end of this week to indicate whether or not they will be sending their child back to school or participating in remote learning. This is a difficult and personal decision.

In order to help families make an informed decision, the Upper Grand DSB provided a Parent Guide to Reopening Schools. This guide can be found on our Board and School website. The guide is lengthy and provides very detailed information about what both learning options will look like for your student. In addition, the guide contains information about cleaning protocols, transportation, clubs/teams, field trips, etc.

The purpose of this letter is to provide our families with an overview of some of the points in the guide, primarily the difference between in school and remote learning. The letter does not replace the guide, but provides families, who have not had the time to read the guide in its entirety, with important information.

Elementary school students will have the opportunity to return to school 5 days a week or participate in remote learning. Families cannot choose to have their child participate in both options. Students will only be able to change between remote and in school learning at set points during the school year. Because this is a difficult choice, it is important that families have as much information as possible prior to completing the online survey.

If you choose to send your child back to school, please know that the school staff will work diligently to ensure that your child is safe during their time at school. Many of our school staff also have children and are facing the same choice as you are. At Hyland Heights, our priorities will be safety, student mental health and well-being, and academics. Students have been out of school for 5 ½ months and our first task will be to welcome everyone back and ensure that students are feeling comfortable to learn, rather than anxious or overwhelmed.

In School Learning

- Students continue to be registered at Hyland Heights and are assigned to a homeroom class. This is the regular process for returning to school.
- Students are expected to be at school each day unless they are ill.
- Parents/guardians are asked to perform a daily screening of their child(ren) before leaving for school. An updated list of symptoms will be provided to parents.
- Personal belongings will be kept in the classroom, with the student. Belongings should be taken home each day to be cleaned as needed.
- All curriculum areas will be taught, assessed and reported on.
- Some learning will take place outside.
- When possible, resources will not be shared. If resources need to be shared, they will be disinfected between use.

Remote Learning

- Students remain registered at Hyland Heights.
- Daily attendance will be taken.
- Students will receive a Monday to Friday schedule that includes live whole group and live small group learning sessions.
- Students are assigned to central classrooms. These classrooms may be composed of students from different schools.
- Teachers who are assigned to teach a remote learning class may or may not be from our school.
- Google Classroom will be used to deliver lessons.
- All curriculum areas will be taught, evaluated, and reported on.

Safety Protocols

- Students in grades 4-8 will be required to wear a non-medical or cloth mask indoors in school.
- Students will be taught (reminded) proper hand hygiene. There are sinks and soap in each classroom. Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the school.
- Signage will be placed on walls and floors to help maintain physical distancing.
- Enhanced cleaning protocols will happen throughout the day and evening.
- Desks will be positioned in a way that allows for the greatest amount of physical distancing in classrooms.
- Breaks may be staggered during the day.
- Classroom doors/windows will be left open during the day to allow for ventilation.
- Playground structures and sand boxes will be closed.
- Only essential visitors are permitted inside the school. Parents and other visitors will not be permitted inside the school during the pandemic except in case of emergency.

Transportation

- School buses will likely operate close to capacity.
- Students in grades 4-8 are required to wear a non-medical or cloth face mask while on the bus.
- A seating plan will be developed. Students must sit in their assigned seat. Where possible, students from the same family will sit in the same seat.

Important Links

- Parent Guide - Reopening of Schools [Parent Guide](#)
- Pre-registration Survey - must be completed for all students by August 14 [Pre registration - in school or distance learning](#)
- Transportation Opt Out - if your child is eligible for transportation, but you will not be sending them on the school bus, please click on this link [Transportation Opt Out](#)

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. If you would like more information about any of the items contained in the letter, please read through the Parent Guide. If your question is not answered in the guide, please feel free to email me and I will do my best to find an answer for you.

Sincerely,

Kaye Martin
Principal
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