

JOHN BLACK PUBLIC SCHOOL

150 Lamond St., Fergus, Ontario, N1M 2A1
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Principal: Kathy Gossling-Spears

Office Coordinator: Sheri MacKenzie

Welcome to the 2020-2021 School Year!

We are looking forward to welcoming all of our new and returning students back to John Black 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, the first week of school and beyond.

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 – Entry by Last Name					
	Mon. Sept 7	Tues. Sept 8	Wed. Sept 9	Thurs. Sept 10	Fri. Sept 11
All JK – Gr. 8 students	Labour Day Holiday	D.D. classes only-full day	D.D. classes only-full 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 JK -Gr. 8 students	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 Full Day

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 - classes will be participating in outdoor learning as much as possible. (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 should not bring personal toys, games or sports equipment
- 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: 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?

All JK to Grade 8 students/parents in the school will be called by homeroom teachers on September 8th.

This call will provide an opportunity for teachers to introduce themselves and welcome their students back to school.

First Day Procedures

Morning Drop Off:

Students who arrive by bus will be met by the duty teacher and they will then proceed, socially distanced, to the back of the yard where they will go to their assigned classroom line on the hardtop.

Kiss & Ride procedures: Parents will drop their child(ren) off at the side door entrance of the parking lot where they will be met by our GREETER. They will then proceed, socially distanced, to the hardtop, to line up at their assigned classroom spot. If possible, parents should drop their children off as close to the bell (8:50) as possible allowing for time to disembark and go to their classroom meeting location.

Students who walk will enter the yard by way of the side gate on the north side of the school. They will be required to be socially distanced (unless with a sibling) and then proceed to the hardtop to line up at their assigned classroom spot.

There are teachers on duty on the hardtop each morning. Our bell rings at 8:50. Students are encouraged to come to school as close the bell as possible. ***On the first day all teachers will be on the hardtop to meet their students at their designated line.

Parents/guardians may go on school property only if they are able to be socially distanced from staff, students and other adults. You may not enter the school as per Public Health guidelines.

*Please note that students are not able to play when they arrive at the school in the morning. They are to stay with their assigned class.

If you need to drop off medications please contact the Office Coordinator to make arrangements.

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 and for accessing outdoor activities and recess.

Kindergarten will use the separate entrance to the kindergarten classrooms. One group will enter at a time.

Grade 1-4 classes in the Primary wing (Room 1-4) will use the north side doors. The furthest class will enter first followed by the next class until all classes have entered in a staggered fashion.

Grade 7 and 8 classes will use the Intermediate doors in the middle section of the school. They will enter in a staggered fashion with the furthest class entering first.

Grade 4-6 classes will use the south/east doors off the hardtop with the furthest class entering first.

School Greeters:

A “Greeter” will meet students 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 assist with hand sanitizer.

Class Meeting location:

Each class will have their own area on the hardtop at the back of the school where they will line up and meet their teacher. These areas will be marked in different colours to help students recognize their class meeting location. Dots will also be painted on the hardtop to help with physical distancing when students are lining up.

*Teachers will share this information when they phone on September 8th.

Late Arrival:

The front doors will be locked during the day. If a student is late then their parent/guardian will need to call the school (the number will be on the door) so that an office staff member can meet them at the door.

Entering the Building:

All doors to the building will be locked with the exception of one door to allow students in the portable to access the washroom.

At the beginning of the day students will meet their teacher on the hardtop when the bell rings. They will use hand sanitizer, provided by the teacher, as they enter the building. Students will go directly to their classrooms.

Recess Information:

We will be having half of our classes in the building to eat their lunch while the other half are outside having recess. There will be a 5 minute transition to switch.

Each classroom will have their own designated play area. These areas will be shared with students by their homeroom teacher. Areas will be changed after each week so that students have the opportunity to access the different areas of our school yard. The play structures and sandbox are closed until further notice as per Public Health requirements.

After eating, students will be dismissed one class at a time. Therefore, they may leave their masks in their classroom to avoid being misplaced or soiled.

As mentioned in the What to Bring section, students are unable to bring personal toys, games and sports equipment to school. Recess activities and equipment will be provided by the school for each classroom.

Lunch Procedures:

During lunch, students will remain at their desks/tables to eat. They will be required to clean their hands before and after eating.

Food may not be shared at any time and students must sit in their assigned seats.

Students may not leave the school to go out for lunch or to go downtown.

Students should practice using containers prior to coming to school so they can be independent during lunch.

Students are reminded that they must bring home all of their garbage as we will not be recycling these items. The school will continue to recycle paper and cardboard.

End of Day Procedures:

Students will be escorted to the appropriate doors to exit at the end of the day.

Bused students will exit to the rear of the school yard where they will go to designated locations (the areas used in the morning for classrooms). There will be pylons with signs indicating each bus number. Students will wait, socially distanced, in their bus lines. The duty teacher at the front of the school will walkie to other teachers on duty to send a specific bus to load. Students will load so students at the back of the bus will enter first and continue filling until the last student gets on who will be sitting at the front of the bus.

Intermediate walkers will use the front doors by the learning commons and junior walkers will use the school front doors. Students will be required to exit by class in an orderly and physically distanced manner.

Students who will be picked up will be supervised in a physically distanced line at the side doors of the school. Parents will pull up to the doors, remain in their vehicles and will be asked who they are picking up. The student will then be called to get into their vehicle.

Communication with the School

If you need any information please call the school at 519-843-2665 and speak to our Office Coordinator, Sheri Mackenzie.

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.