

JOHN GALT PUBLIC SCHOOL

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FDK Changes - Letter to UGDSB Kindergarten Parents/Guardians

December 15, 2020

Dear parents/guardians,

This letter is to provide you with information regarding changes for some kindergarten classrooms, beginning in January.

When schools reopened in the fall, they were asked to identify additional space in the school, where possible, to allow for Kindergarten Teachers and Early Childhood Educators to work with smaller groups of students in two separate spaces for parts of the day. Many classes were able to make use of additional space, while still spending time together throughout the day, particularly to start and end the day.

This strategy was intended to promote additional physical distancing as our youngest students learned new health and safety protocols; including wearing a mask, hand sanitization and physical distancing.

The school board has informed elementary schools, who adopted the practice of using two spaces for parts of the day, that they must revert to the Kindergarten practices in place prior to the pandemic, where all kindergarten students are in one main classroom. The reason for this change is to resolve a grievance filed by the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario union (ETFO) related to the board's decision to divide students between the Teacher and the Designated Early Childhood Educator in two spaces during the current pandemic.

Between January 4, 2021 and January 18, 2021, schools will return to past practice, with students and educators learning together in one room. Schools and classes will continue to follow the board's Health & Safety and COVID-19 protocols with respect to wearing a mask, hand sanitization and physical distancing.

We understand that this may cause some concern, however we want to reassure parents that kindergarten students have done a wonderful job this year learning the new health and safety routines required due to the pandemic. Kindergarten Teachers and Early Childhood Educators continue to be committed to providing a safe and caring learning environment for our youngest learners. We appreciate your continued support and understanding.

Thank you,

Amanda Myer



Principal