

École West Park School – Additional Information, September 2020

Introduction

This past week the school staff has been busy finishing off the preparation of the classrooms, so we are ready for students on Tuesday, September 8. Information and requirements from government are changing daily. This has made finalizing plans for students tricky, but I think we are ready! Below, you find some additional details about how school will look beginning on Tuesday. Also please know that as a school, every day we hope to do the following:

- Keep students, staff and visitors safe
- Try our best to lower everyone's anxiety
- Make sure everyone feels cared for
- Have a good laugh
- Learn something new

We look forward to welcoming everyone back!

Allan Jones
Principal

School arrival:

- All students are asked to enter by the East doors. Students in rooms 1-6 are asked to enter the school using the South-East Entrance. Students in rooms 7-12 are asked to enter the school using the North-East entrance.
- Please plan to arrive after 8:30. Due to limited space in the entrance ways, students may have to wait outside for their turn to enter. A staff member will help with this. Students are asked to report to their classroom upon arrival.
- Hand sanitizer will be set up at each door and students will need to use this every time they enter the building. This includes morning arrival and after each recess break.
- **Masks:** all people in the building are required to wear masks. This means that all students, staff and visitors, including parents, will need to wear a mask as they come into the building. One non-medical mask will be supplied to each student on the first day of class. There will be times when the students are able to take their masks off. We are still waiting for the final regulations from the government. I am thinking this is going to one of those things where we will need to be prepared for things to change.
- Family members can come into the building on the first day with their children. Any visitor to the school is required to wear a mask, sanitize their hands when coming in and sign-in at the visitor logbook.

Cohorts:

- Remember, your children are part of two and maybe three cohorts; a homeroom cohort, a recess cohort and possibly a bus cohort.
- The recess cohorts are the grade 4 English students, grade 5 English students, grade 6 English students and the grade 4, 5 & 6 French Immersion students. The groups were

made this way based on numbers. A cohort can be no larger than 75 students. During the school day, at recess, students will be allowed to play with students from their cohort only. Each cohort will have an area assigned to them on the playground and will have to stay there for the recess. Each group will have a chance to play in each area, one recess at a time.

Nutrition/Recess breaks:

- Remember we are following the balanced school day this year and there is a nutrition/recess break from 10:30-11:30 and lunch/recess is from 1:00-2:00.
- Any students who can go home between 10:30-11:30 and/or between 1:00-2:00, please do so.
- Students must wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before eating, before going for recess and after recess.
- Food will be eaten in classrooms and must not be shared.
- Microwaves are not available.
- Recess breaks will need to be staggered to get the students out and back in, one cohort group at a time. Recess cohorts are required to be 4.0m apart while outside which is why each cohort will be assigned to a different area on the playground on a rotating basis. The students will play in their area for the entire recess and the following recess they will be in a different area. A schedule will be shared with the students on the first day.
- Masks:
 - While eating, students can remove their masks.
 - Desks will be pulled as far apart as possible during the eating time to give students as much room as possible.
 - Masks will be left in the classroom because masks do not need to be worn outside.
- Playground:
 - The goal for recess (and PE) is to provide children with an opportunity to play and be active while we minimize risk.
 - Students from one classroom will be allowed to share basic equipment such as a basketball, a skipping rope or play catch.
 - Students within a recess cohort can play games like soccer, or tag where limited hand contact is made with the ball and limited contact is made between children.
- Another document is included with the schedule we will follow, at least to get the week started and see how it goes.

End of day dismissal:

- End of day bus dismissal procedure/times are still being determined. The process required will likely shorten some student's day by up to 15 minutes but will not impact your child's arrival time at home.