



W. A. Day School

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Principal: Dave Fender

Assistant Principal: Leanne Feller

August 31, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians:

The staff at W.A. Day are excited about getting back to in-school teaching. The last several months have involved schooling in a way most of us would never have imagined. Thank you for your patience and your support as we continue to learn and now teach in “near normal” conditions.

The greatest concern for the W.A. Day staff is the health and safety of our students and our colleagues at school. Guidelines which require social distancing and regular handwashing are two of the measures that will be in place as students return to classes. We will also try to limit the number of people our students come in contact with at school by keeping individual classes and grade level cohorts together. For example, rather than moving students through the school to attend music and the learning commons, the learning commons instructor and music teacher will go to the individual classrooms. Weather permitting, students will go outside for physical education. Physical education will occur in the gym when the weather is not cooperative. Activities in the gym that do not encourage close contact will be the norm.

We will encourage our students to walk along the right side of the hallway. Direction arrows have been placed on the floor to serve as visual reminders for everyone. Dots separated by 2 meters have also been placed on the floor in key areas to remind students and adults to physically distance.

To limit the number of contacts each student has, we will have two morning, lunch and afternoon recesses. Half of the students will go out for each. To encourage distancing, classroom teachers will escort students when they go outside and when they re-enter the school.

Another measure we are doing to limit the number of contacts is dismissing our students according to the following time. On Monday thru Thursday town students will be dismissed at 3:13, bus students at 3:16, and parent pick-up and after school program students will be dismissed at 3:20. On Friday town students will be dismissed at 1:03, bus students at 1:06, and parent pick-up and after school program students will be dismissed at 1:10.

All grade one to five classrooms desks are in traditional rows facing the front of the class. The number of students in the class determines the space between each desk. In kindergarten the students are spaced apart at tables.

At this time, **MASKS ARE NOT** required for grade three and younger students. However, parents may request their child wears a mask while at school. The staff will do their best to honour this request.

At this time, **MASKS ARE** required by adults and by grade four and five students in all areas where 2 meter distancing is not possible. In the classroom students are not required to wear masks while seated at desks that are not facing each other. For other activities in the classroom, such as when students are turned and talking with one another, or when they are out of their desks, masks will be required in the classroom. Students who wish to keep their mask on even while seated at their desk may certainly do so. Staff may only take their masks off in the classroom if they are more than two meters from the students. At this time students will not require a mask when the teacher is escorting the children out or in from recess as the students will practice physical distancing on their way out and in from the school.

Providing toys and sports equipment for recess is something we will not initially do. We ask that parents not send these items to school with their students. We want to err on the side of caution and will watch and learn best practices from elsewhere before we decide how or if we will provide these items to our students during recess.

While fountains are not required to be closed, all students will be provided with a water bottle. Morning routines will include a coordinated time for students to fill their water bottles at classroom sinks or the fountains which have a water bottle filling feature. This should limit crowding at the water fountains and consequently, in the hallways.

To reduce the number of people inside W.A. Day School, parents and guardians are not to come into the school. If you want to meet with one of the staff you will have to call in advance and make an appointment. When you arrive for your appointment staff are required to ask you several health related questions. Please be patient with us we go through this mandated process.

All families have been provided a daily checklist. Families must go through the checklist each morning before sending children to school. This checklist does not need to be returned to school. If a child displays any of the symptoms on the checklist they must not come to school. Students who display any of these symptoms while at school will be isolated and parents will be called and expected to pick their children up as soon as possible. Please make sure the school has updated contact information for you and your child's emergency contact.

In the past parents have asked that their child remain indoors during recess if they are not feeling well. Obviously that will not happen this year. Students not feeling well must remain at home.

We still have several items in our lost and found collection from last year. We will put those items outside at the back of the school for the rest of this week. Please take a look at the items and take home anything that belongs to your family. Any items left at the end of the week will be donated.

This return to school in a "near normal" way is new for all of us. It is impossible to implement routines that make everyone happy. It is possible that some of our routines and expectations will change as the year progresses. We'll do our best to keep you up to date if things change. None of us want to wear masks, wash our hands so much they become dry and chapped, or

have to make sure we are physically distanced. However, this is about more than each of us as individuals. This is about all of us caring for ourselves and each other. Working together as a part of the W.A. Day School community with kindness and understanding will help us get through this pandemic in a supportive way. We promise to do our best at the school. Please help us during this difficult time by supporting the decisions we make and encouraging your children to practice safe Covid – 19 healthy habits.

Respectfully,

Dave Fender