

Dear Families,

I hope that you are well, staying safe, and taking time to enjoy the summer. By now you will have received a letter from the Superintendent outlining the options available to you as you make decisions about the upcoming school year. We know that each of you will make the right choice based on your family circumstances and encourage you to visit our dedicated school district [Stage 2 Restart](#) webpage. Just a reminder that if you, or your child, is immunocompromised to the extent that your child will require accommodations due to health related risks, we ask that you contact me by **Monday, August 31 at 4 pm** to discuss your needs. Please note that these requests must be supported by a medical note.

We are looking forward to welcoming students back to Queensborough Middle School on September 10<sup>th</sup>. We have been working hard to ensure that the health and safety of our students and staff remains our first priority. I would like to provide you with further information about what you can expect when your child returns to school.

By now, you will have undoubtedly heard about the organization of students into Learning Groups. This has been recommended by the Provincial Health Officer (PHO) to reduce the number of close, in-person interactions. This will reduce the number of people each student or staff member comes into contact with, thereby reducing the risk of transmission of COVID 19 and ensuring quicker contact tracing by health authorities.

The PHO has established a maximum Learning Group size of 60 for middle schools and we will be complying with this directive. This will mean that two companion classes will form a Learning Group and within these groups, physical contact must be minimized. Aside from Learning Groups, there are a number of additional changes that you will want to discuss with your child. These include:

- Increased hand washing protocols
- Changes in classroom layout to increase spacing between students
- Removal of hard to clean objects
- Reduction of shared materials
- More individual and smaller group activities
- Recess and lunch combined to allow for staggered break times rather than a common recess and lunch
- Staggered building entry times with designated entry and exit doors
- More outdoor time
- Adults outside of a learning cohort will be maintaining physical distance and wearing a mask, or using a Plexiglas barrier (e.g. Learning Resource Teacher, Librarian, Counsellors, Child and Youth Care Worker, Prep Teachers, etc.)
- Please note that masks are not required for middle school students while in their Learning Group; however, wearing a non-medical mask will be a personal choice for students and staff at all times
- Masks are required for staff and students when they are in high traffic areas such as hallways as well as when they are outside of their Learning Group. Each student will be provided with two (2) reusable masks.

There are a number of protocols in place to ensure the health and safety of our staff and students. These include additional cleaning and disinfecting, physical barriers, hand washing stations and sanitizer available throughout the school including in portables, and increased signs and other visual cues. Most importantly, we ask for your utmost cooperation in ensuring that your child remains home if they show any symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID 19 and other infectious respiratory disease before sending them to school. To that end, we ask that you perform a **daily** wellness check with your child using a checklist that will be made available to you. You will be asked to confirm your understanding of this responsibility when you complete the on-line consent forms for this school year.

While our bell schedule has generally remained the same, you will see that we will be staggering school start times as well as lunch to reduce student density in outdoor spaces.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:36	GROUP 1 ENTERS BUILDING USING DESIGNATED ENTRY POINTS				
8:41	GROUP 2 ENTERS BUILDING USING DESIGNATED ENTRY POINTS				
	CHAT (Communication, Homework, Attendance, Touch Base) BEGINS				
8:45 – 9:30	INSTRUCTION				
9:30 - 10:15	INSTRUCTION				
10:15 – 11:00	INSTRUCTION				
11:00 – 11:45	INSTRUCTION				
11:45 – 12:10	GROUP 1 OUTSIDE TIME/GROUP 2 EAT TIME				
12:15 –12:40	GROUP 2 OUTSIDE TIME/GROUP 1 EAT TIME				
12:45 – 1:30	INSTRUCTION				
1:30 - 2:15	INSTRUCTION				
2:15 – 3:00	INSTRUCTION				
3:00	DISMISSAL – DESIGNATED EXITS				

\*Activity and Nutrition Breaks will be taken at teacher discretion

The Ministry has provided time on September 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> for student orientation to adjust to new routines and review health and safety protocols. On September 10<sup>th</sup> students will attend school for one hour at designated times scheduled throughout the day. This will allow them to meet their teacher and classmates, and review school expectations and safety/health protocols. On September 11<sup>th</sup>, students will attend for a common two hour block in the morning. On both orientation days, students will be using their assigned entry and exit points. As well, start and end times will be staggered. More information regarding our orientation days will be provided by September 8<sup>th</sup>.

As we move forward, communication will remain important. To that end, I will be in touch with you by September 8<sup>th</sup> to provide further information about your child’s class placement, protocols for school arrival and more details regarding the first two days of school.

While classrooms may look a little different, I want to assure you that we are working hard to plan for a positive learning experience for your child and look forward to the year ahead. As always, please don’t hesitate to contact me should you wish to connect.

Kind regards,  
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