

September 2, 2020

Dear NNDSB Families,

We would like to acknowledge and thank you for your patience, flexibility and understanding as we have planned for school re-opening in a year like no other. We are confident in the status of our preparations and look forward to school startup and engaging with students and facilitating their learning once again. With this in mind, we would like to highlight a few critical areas for our students and their families.

At Home Learning

- Students currently registered for *At-Home Learning* will begin orientation for learning the week of September 9-11. Students' new teachers will be contacting them to introduce themselves and provide additional information during this week.

The School Day for in School Learners

- School will resume this year with a staggered entry, beginning on Wednesday, September 9th. Please refer to information from your Principal for your child(ren)'s specific return schedule. Note that all JK-12 students not involved in *At-Home Learning* will be in attendance at school in a staggered entry mode by Tuesday, September 15th.
- Elementary and Secondary students in the NNDSB will return to school in a Conventional Model, with enhanced public health protocols.
 - **Elementary students** will attend school five days per week, with 300 minutes of instruction per day, remaining in one cohort (group of students) for the full day, including recess and lunch. Cohorted students will stay together and will be watched over by that same teacher. Timing of recesses, lunches and bathroom breaks will be staggered to support cohorting where applicable. Specialized teachers, like French teachers, will still be able to go into classrooms to provide the full breadth of programming for students. Students will also be able to leave their classrooms to receive additional supports but direct and indirect contacts in schools for students should be limited to 50 students.
 - **Secondary students** will attend school five days per week. All schools will adopt timetabling methods that emphasize cohorting of students as much as possible, to limit the number of direct and indirect student-to-student contacts to 100 students. In the Octomester model students will take one course at a time for the duration of the term (approximately 20 instructional days). A portion of each afternoon may be dedicated to focussed work time where students engage in activities assigned from their teacher and will receive additional support as necessary.

Transportation

- Students should use active transportation to get to school wherever possible. Parents/guardians are requested to drive their child to school, if possible, at their own expense, to limit the number of students on a bus. Students over the age of 5 will be required to wear a mask on the bus. For additional information please see [September 2020 Transportation Plan–Safe Return to Class](#)

Parents and Guardians, the North Bay Parry Sound Health Unit has provided a document to help you understand and prepare your children for what to expect as they return to school. Topics include: physical distancing, visitors to the school, face coverings/masks (and how to prepare students to wear them), hand washing, symptoms and screening, and so much more. Here is the link, [COVID-19 and School Reopening – Public Information for Families](#).

Much of the information contained within this communication can be found in greater detail through resources, like the NNDSB Return to School Guidance Document, linked on the [NNDSB Website](#). Please refer back to

this site on a regular basis as we will update information as it becomes available to us from the Ministry of Education and local and provincial health authorities.

There is a lot of information available to support this transition back to school for everyone in our school communities. If you are unable to find answers to your questions in the coming days as you prepare to return to school, do not hesitate to reach out to your school's administration. They will be able to provide specific information relevant to the unique contexts of each of our schools.

Stay Safe and Well.

The Near North District School Board Educators