



Eardley Elementary School

180 North Street ~ Gatineau, Québec ~ J9H 6Y9

☎(819)684-5955 ~ 📠(819) 684-1636 ~ 📧eardley@wqsb.qc.ca

Dear Parent(s) & Guardian(s),

As you are aware, Elementary Schools across the province of Quebec are re-opening at full capacity as of August 28th, 2020. Eardley will be open as of August 31st, 2020 due to the flood. The return in August will be staggered; however, is mandatory for all students (K4 – Cycle 3). The exception would be if a family chooses to homeschool or receives a medical exemption from a doctor. If a medical exemption is granted, the student is entitled to remote learning throughout the year. Elementary students attending in person will attend five days a week, with enhanced health and safety precautions in place. Students will remain in one classroom with the same group of students all day, including lunch and recess. The exception will be physical education.

There is no question that this school year will be different which understandably creates some uncertainty and anxiety for everyone. There have been numerous questions asked by parents/guardians, staff and even administrators. However, our shared goal is to provide a safe and sustainable learning environment with the capacity to adapt the delivery model if required.

The full details of the plan for the return have not all been presented to schools from the Ministry as of yet, and all questions are not answered as of yet. While I understand that this causes frustration, my top priority is getting up to date information to you as it becomes available.

As a caution, I am reminding everyone that changes to Ministry and Public Health guidelines are frequent as this is an ever evolving situation. This is the most up to date information, as soon as new/adapted information becomes available, I will send to our community:

WELCOME BACK VIDEO

<https://youtu.be/4WIEkiPd4E>

STAGGERED DAILY ARRIVAL

As staggered arrival is encouraged by the Ministry of Education, the following will be put into place:

- Daycare: Parent(s)/Guardian(s) drive into the bus lane and drop-off their child(ren) at the front entrance until 7:40am. If your child(ren) are being dropped off and are in daycare **after** 7:40am we ask that they walk around to the back of the school for our supervised before school recess and enter into their designated recess zone.
- Bussers: students will exit the bus and make their way to the supervised yard (approx. 7:40am). All homeroom teachers will greet their class outside at the bell and escort them inside. Each homeroom will have a designated and clearly marked line, along with a designated entrance.
- Drop-Off – Whether you are walking or being dropped off in a vehicle we are asking for you to arrive at bell time (7:55am) rather than 15 minutes prior to the start of the school day. This is to avoid mass congregation of students.
 - There will be two staff members at two separate entrances (main entrance and the old daycare entrance) greeting our students and escorting them safely into the

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School Secretary: Kimberly Teske





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building. We are asking that all students, parents or guardians to line up in an orderly fashion and wait patiently.

- If you are dropping your child off in a vehicle, we are asking that you park on North street or nearby and walk your child(ren) onto school property. Unfortunately, due to vehicle congestion and bus drop-off this is the new protocol
 - Please be mindful of congestion, please maintain 2m distance and please be patient. We have painted blue lines on the sidewalk that are 2m apart to help guide everyone!

*All students and staff must sanitize their hands upon entry to the school.

STAGGERED DAILY DISMISSAL

As staggered dismissal is encouraged by the Ministry of Education, the following will be put into place:

- Walkers (without a parent/guardian pick-up), along with bussers and daycare will be dismissed promptly at 2:30, respecting Public Health Guidelines. The homeroom will travel together to be dismissed to their respective area.
 - Daycare –
 - JR daycare groups will be created with the classroom configurations in mind (aka the bubbles). JR groups will be assigned a classroom; this classroom will stay the same throughout the year.
 - SR groups will be created with the classroom configurations in mind (aka the bubbles). SR groups will be assigned a classroom; this classroom will stay the same throughout the year.
- Pick-Up
 - Whether you are walking or being picked up in a vehicle there will now be one designated area for pick-up.
 - Pick-up will start at 2:35pm
 - All pick-up students will now line-up outside on the school yard at their clearly marked and designated homeroom line-up.
 - Parent(s)/Guardian(s) are being asked to line up on the sidewalk to the left of the school (where the recycling and garbage bins are located).
 - Lines will be clearly marked and indicated to respect physical distancing.
 - You will be greeted by a staff member who will then walkie-talkie to another staff member for your child to leave their designated line and leave for pick-up.
 - Under no circumstances are parent(s)/guardian(s) allowed to pass the staff member or enter onto the playground to pick-up their child(ren). This is due to strict safety protocol and our staff ensuring we are sending every student into the proper hands. Additionally, it ensures we are following strict Public Health Guidelines.
 - If you are driving a vehicle, we are still asking that you park your car on North street or nearby, exit your vehicle and enter into the line-up. Unfortunately, due to vehicle congestion and bus drop-off this is the new protocol.



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- Please be mindful of congestion, please maintain 2m distance and please be patient. We have painted blue lines on the sidewalk that are 2m apart to help guide everyone!

****If there is severe inclement weather (hard, torrential rain, thunderstorms, wind, blizzard, severe cold etc.) ****

AM DROP OFF –

- Please arrive at 7:55am and **drive through** the bus lane.
- Stop at the front entrance to drop of your child(ren)
- A staff member will greet your child(ren) at the front entrance and escort them inside

PM PICK UP –

- Please arrive for approx. 2:35pm
- Wait until the busses are loaded and have disembarked
- Please do not enter or block the bus lane before the busses have loaded or disembarked
- Once the busses have left, **drive through the bus lane** and stop at the front entrance
- A staff member will greet you at the front entrance and walkie-talkie for your child(ren) to be dismissed. Siblings will be dismissed together

STAGGERED SCHEDULE

JR SCHEDULE (4&5 KINDER – GR 2)	SR SCHEDULE (GR 3 – 6)
7:55-8:00am – ENTRY/HOMEROOM 8:00-9:00am – 1 st PERIOD 9:00-9:30am – 2 nd PERIOD 9:30-9:50am – AM RECESS 9:50 -10:20am – 3 rd PERIOD 10:20-11:20am – 4 th PERIOD 11:20-12:10pm – LUNCH (EAT FIRST, 25MIN; RECESS SECOND, 25MIN) *KINDER – Lunch starts @ 11:00 & ends at 12:10pm 12:10-1:10pm – 5 th PERIOD 1:10-1:30pm – PM RECESS 1:30-2:30pm – 6 th PERIOD 2:30-2:35pm – DISMISSAL PREP 2:35-2:45pm – STAGGERED DISMISSAL	7:55-8:00am – ENTRY/HOMEROOM 8:00-9:00am – 1 st PERIOD 9:00 – 10:00am – 2 nd PERIOD 10:00 – 10:20am – AM RECESS 10:20-11:20am – 3 rd PERIOD 11:20 – 12:10pm – LUNCH (RECESS FIRST, 25 MIN; EAT SECOND, 25 MIN) 12:10 – 1:10pm – 4 th PERIOD 1:10- 2:10pm – 5 th PERIOD 2:10 – 2:30pm – PM RECESS 2:30 – 2:35pm – DISMISSAL PREP 2:35 – 2:45 – STAGGERED DISMISSAL

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PROTOCOLS TO FOLLOW IF COVID-19 IS SUSPECTED OR DETECTED

The health and safety of staff and students takes precedence over all other concerns.

1. How do I recognize COVID-19 symptoms in my child?

Your child **cannot** go to school if he/she has one of the following symptoms:



Fever (38.1°C or higher)



Loss of the sense of taste or smell

Respiratory symptoms :



- Cough (new or worse)
- Shortness of breath, difficulty breathing
- Sore throat
- Runny or stuffy nose

Gastrointestinal symptoms :



- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Stomach aches

General symptoms :



- Major fatigue
- Significant loss of appetite
- General muscle pain

WARNING SIGNS

If your child has:

- a fever and a decline in general health, or flu-like symptoms (fever and cough accompanied by headaches, fatigue, aches and pains or extreme fatigue)
- loss of sense of taste or smell

Keep them home and **immediately call 1-877-644-4545**.

Furthermore, do not have your child attend school or the school daycare if:

- you have received instructions from your public health authorities to self-isolate at home (your child and their contacts)
- there is a chance that your child is infected or you think they have been in contact with someone who has COVID-19
- you are in quarantine following travel outside Canada

Provided they do not have COVID-19, children and adults with flu-like symptoms may resume their activities once each of the following conditions has been met:

- they have gone 48 hours without a fever (without taking medication) **and**
- 24 hours have passed after a significant reduction of their other symptoms

For all other conditions, the usual health criteria apply with regard to attending school and school daycare. Consequently, children who are in good general health (able to carry out their regular activities) can go to school and school daycare.

If a student shows symptoms while in class:

- They are automatically isolated.
- The parent/guardian is called for immediate pick-up (no exceptions)
- If a parent/guardian cannot be reached – the emergency contact will be called.
- A single staff member will care for the student while waiting for the parent/guardian.
- An emergency kit containing the necessary materials (masks, goggles, gloves, medical gowns etc.) is used.

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- The room is ventilated, cleaned and disinfected once the student has left.
- The parent must contact 1-877-644-4545 as soon as possible and follow the public health guidelines that are provided.
- Once the parent/guardian is in contact with Public Health and has received guidelines to follow, parent/guardian is to contact the school
- Public Health will also follow-up with the school
- The student showing symptoms must remain in isolation at home until public health guidelines have been received.
- The Attestation for Return must be given to the school upon the student's return.
- The student is provided with remote pedagogical support

If a student shows symptoms while at home:

- The parent must contact 1-877-644-4545 as soon as possible and follow the public health guidelines that are provided.
- The student showing symptoms must remain in isolation at home until public health guidelines have been received.

If a student tests positive for COVID-19:

- All parents and staff are automatically contacted when a case of COVID-19 is confirmed in a school.
- Anyone considered to be at moderate to high risk is removed from the school and is tested.
- The parent must contact 1-877-644-4545 as soon as possible and follow the public health guidelines that are provided. The student who tested positive must remain in isolation at home until public health guidelines have been received.
- Students are provided with remote pedagogical support.

If there are several cases of COVID-19 in the same class or if the outbreak involves several classes:

- The regional public health authorities provide the school with detailed instructions and the school has the responsibility to contact then parents, legal guardians and staff members who must be notified.
- In collaboration with the school administration, the regional public health authorities make the recommendations as to whether a classroom or school should be closed based on the situation. With help from the administration, teachers, school staff and the student concerned or their parents, the public health authorities determine any close contacts that occurred at the school.
- Anyone considered to be at moderate to high risk is removed from the school and is tested.
- Students are provided with remote pedagogical support.

The school administration has a direct COVID-19 hotline only open for elementary schools that will be called for guidance or to report.

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WILL THERE BE COVID-19 SCREENING TESTS IN SCHOOLS?

No. Just like any citizen with symptoms of COVID-19, students must stay home and seek health advice. A good reference source is the COVID-19 Self-care Guide (<https://publications.msss.gouv.qc.ca/msss/en/document-002492>), which will provide instructions on what to do. Information about the steps to follow, including how to determine if you need to take a test, is also available at Québec.ca (<https://www.quebec.ca/en/health/health-issues/a-z/2019-coronavirus/>).

WHAT TO DO IF MY CHILD IS SICK?

As always, if your child is sick they are to stay at home. It is especially important during this time that if your child is sick (even with a common cold) for him/her/they to stay home. If your child becomes ill at school you will be called for immediate pick up, no exceptions.

RETURNING TO SCHOOL AFTER BEING SICK

A child or adult must be fever free for 48 hours – without the help of medication

They must not exhibit acute symptoms for 24 hours (cough, runny nose, sore throat etc.) – without the help of medication.

BUBBLES

The recommendation of bubbles has been broadened. The bubble now refers to the entire homeroom, meaning the classroom ratio for each grade level. Within the classroom the students do not need to physically distance as the classroom is now the bubble. The staff are still recommended to keep 2m distance from the students and if they cannot PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) is provided; masks, gloves, goggles, visors etc.

The classroom bubbles will stay together for the entirety of the day. Meaning the classrooms will stay together for– class time, lunch, recess and any extra-curricular. All specialists, with the exception of physical education will travel to the homeroom (i.e. Arts, French, Citizenship Education etc.). Each classroom bubble will travel together for physical education and sanitation protocols will be in place between classes (i.e. the sanitation of equipment, washing/sanitization of hands before and after etc.)

CLASSES/CLASSROOMS

All students will be trained on physical distancing and the new guidelines/rules to follow as per Public Health directives. Please note that safety and security is the main priority and therefore, if a student is not adhering to the guidelines/rules and putting another person's safety at risk they may be sent home and asked to remain home. *A follow-up conversation will be had with the school's administration. *

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We need to follow the 2 m physical distancing from the adults, and to keep each homeroom of students separate from the others – as each homeroom will act as the school bubble. If a student wishes to interact with a child outside of their homeroom they must keep 1m distance.

Each homeroom will be in the same classroom all day. Students will be with the same group of students for lunch and recesses. *Exception physical education.

Students are not allowed to use the library, laptops, chromebooks or IPADS, as we need to limit the spread of germs from one location to another. If a student has special conditions as per their Individual Education Plan, the resource team will put a plan into place to ensure they have access to assistive technology. Students will only be able to use their own supplies and no sharing will be allowed. Students will have their own basket of supplies, and items they will be able to use during the day.

If your child is returning to school, please prepare them that there is absolutely no sharing of materials at school (as per Public Health directives). This is especially important for younger students, as they are used to sharing materials.

MASKS

Masks are mandatory for all Cycle 3 students (grades 5 & 6). The masks are mandatory in all common areas (busses, hallways, staircases, bathrooms, the office etc.). The masks are not mandatory within the classroom, unless the student is getting up to move around or leaving the classroom to enter into a common area. If your child wishes to keep their mask on inside the classroom at their desk, this is absolutely allowed. Masks are not mandatory outside. Again, if your child wishes to keep their mask on outside, this is absolutely allowed.

Masks are mandatory for all staff in common areas. It is each staff's personal decision if they will wear a mask within the classroom. The Ministry and Public Health recommend an adult wearing a mask if they are closer than 2m in distance to any person.

HALLWAYS

Our school has narrow hallways; we have designed the physical layout with vinyl tape. Each hallway will be separated down the middle and arrows will be on the floor to indicate direction. The same will be the case for our stairwells.

If your child is returning to school, please prepare them to understand and follow the 1 m distancing from other students not in their classroom and 2 m distancing from adults. The younger the student, the more difficult this will be, so please use this time to prepare your child. Students will not be permitted to have any physical contact with peers outside of their classroom bubble (as per public health directives).



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WASHROOMS

Washrooms will be disinfected completely five times a day, as per Public Health guidelines. The school will have a system in place to communicate to ensure no more than three students are using the washroom at one time.

LOCKERS/CUBBIES

In order to support physical distancing and reduce the amount of touching surfaces, lockers and cubbies will not be used. Students will keep their personal items at their desk – including their coat, outdoor shoes, backpack and lunch bag.

This will be revisited as the weather changes.

WATER FOUNTAINS

As part of our health and safety measures the water fountains will be closed.

Students are asked to bring a pre-filled water bottle from home each and every day. Please remember to label your child's water bottle.

The sharing of water bottles is not permitted.

The students will have water filling stations.

SNACKS

Students coming to school will need to bring their own lunch and snacks, as well as their own water bottle.

The Ministry has approved that we can provide some snack items. We can provide individually wrapped items. Please ensure your child has had something to eat at home before coming to school. We will also be receiving milk through the milk program of the board.

LUNCH

Please pack a "litter-less" lunch. Your children will be bringing home in their lunch kit every item brought from home. The rationale behind this is to limit exposure.

ACCESS TO THE BUILDING

Parents/guardians and visitors are not allowed in the school building at this time.

Eardley will focus on students and staff only in schools. All non-essential visitors will be prohibited at this time. This is to limit the amount of contact and exposure within the school. This will be revisited as needed.

Meetings will continue to be in virtual format unless in person meetings are deemed absolutely necessary.

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Please note that there will be no “in and out” of students during the day. The cut off time to drop of your child is 8:15am. Therefore, if your child is not in school by 8:15am, they will not be granted access to the school. This is due to availability of staff and ensuring all of the safety protocols are being followed. Additionally, if the student has a scheduled appointment later in the day please keep them home for the day. This is to limit any unnecessary risks and exposure. Please plan accordingly.

Parents/guardians will be a key partner to support physical distancing and education of students.

- Parents/guardians are asked not to congregate outside the school – entrances, exits, playgrounds etc. and are asked to maintain physical distancing at all times on school property while picking-up/dropping off their child/ren.

OUTDOOR LEARNING

Eardley Home & School has purchased two 40ft x 20ft canopy tents to facilitate outdoor learning this year. They have also purchased shade sails for our current outdoor classroom. Please ensure your child dresses appropriately for weather (sweater, coat etc.), as these outdoor classrooms will be used well into the Fall. A HUGE thank you to our Home & School Association for purchasing this equipment and helping the school create outdoor learning spaces for the 2020-2021 school year.

Physical Education will also take place outside exclusively in the Fall. Extreme weather will be taken into consideration; however, please ensure your child(ren) are dressed appropriately.

MEET THE STAFF/ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY (AGM)

Please note that our Welcome Back BBQ will have to be cancelled this year to ensure we are following Public Health Guidelines. We sincerely apologize, as this was a raving success last year. We had hoped to make this an annual tradition; however, with COVID-19 and the legal requirements of Public Health, we unfortunately cannot move ahead with such an event.

Eardley will be creating a digital welcome back video. Each homeroom and specialist teacher will be creating a welcome back video introducing themselves, their classroom and what to expect as we start a new school year. You will also get a glimpse inside your child's classroom! These videos will be sent virtually on September 8th, 2020.

Additionally, each teacher will be available, either virtually or by phone on September 9th from 3:30pm – 6:30pm (this was our previously scheduled Welcome Back BBQ) to answer any and all questions you might have. This will be facilitated by your child's homeroom teacher and will be set up by appointment

Furthermore, Eardley will be making a welcome back video to introduce all other staff – administration, office and support staff.

Our AGM will take place on September 9th at 6:45pm outside on the school playground. Please ensure you are respecting physical distancing.

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The AGM is held **to elect the** members of our Governing Board for the 2020-2021 school year. ****The Governing Board is the governing body of the school which is comprised of parent representatives and staff representatives. We discuss items such as: budget, fundraisers, school success plans, community events etc.** For the 2020-2021 school year we have FOUR parent openings available for election. Each elected member serves two years.**

Additionally, we will also elect a Parent Committee representative from the Governing Board members. This representative will sit on a School Board Committee, which meets approximately 5 times a year. Furthermore, information regarding the SEAC (Special Education Advisory Committee) will be shared and the parent representative of a child with special needs (a child with an IEP) will be nominated to sit on the SEAC committee, which meets approximately 5 times a year.

****If you cannot attend the General Assembly and would like to put your name forth for nomination for the Governing Board, Parent Committee or SEAC you MUST contact Samantha Halpin and share your intent to run for election. You will be required to write a letter stating your intention and the reason why you should be nominated. This letter will be read by Samantha Halpin at the General Assembly during the appropriate election****

For more information regarding the Governing Board, please see below –

Operation:

<http://www.education.gouv.qc.ca/en/teachers/administratif/governing-boards/frequently-asked-questions/governing-boards-of-a-school/operation/>

Functions and Powers:

<http://www.education.gouv.qc.ca/en/teachers/administratif/governing-boards/frequently-asked-questions/governing-boards-of-a-school/functions-and-powers/>

DAYCARE

Daycare will be following all of the same protocols as during the school day. The Daycare groupings will be “bubbles” and we will plan our groupings in coordination with the homeroom groupings. Daycare will be open from 7am until 6pm as usual. As always, this could be subject to change based upon staffing and availability.

If you require Daycare, please register with Anne Carbonneau at acarbonneau@wqsb.qc.ca

Please note that if you have not registered your child(ren) for Daycare before September 30th and may possibly require daycare after the 30th of September there is absolutely no guarantee that you will have Daycare services. This is due to budgetary constraints. The Ministry of Education funds our Daycare based upon the amount of registrations by September 30th. Therefore, after the 30th we may not have the staff to accept any further registrations.

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They will continue with their schedule of a mixture of outdoor and indoor time. They will enforce hand washing and cleaning of areas and materials. They will not be using any other spaces unless the numbers increase.

Daycare Drop-Off – Daycare drop-off will be at the main entrance of the school. Please pull-up in the bus lane and a daycare staff member will come out to greet your child and escort them into the building.

Daycare Pick-Up - When picking up your child from daycare, please pull into the bus lane and wait at the main entrance. A staff member will be monitoring the front entrance and escort your child out to your car.

DAYCARE PAYMENTS: please send your cash payment in a sealed envelope or Ziploc bag with your child's name on it in their lunch kit. Alternatively, you can make a scheduled appointment with Anne Carbonneau to make a credit card payment over the phone.

PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) AND TEMPERATURE TESTING

As per Public Health Directives, it is mandatory for Cycle 3 (grade 5 & 6) students to wear masks in common areas. However, if you choose to send your child with a mask in any other grade please make sure you train your child(ren) on the proper use and wearing of masks. A student in any other grade will be allowed to wear a mask if the family prefers and provides it.

Staff will be wearing PPE at school. Staff will be provided with and wearing masks, goggles & gloves at school.

We will not be taking the temperature of staff or students upon entry (as per Public Health). We will be taking temperatures of students or staff who are not feeling well. Staff members will be sent home immediately if they show any symptoms of Covid-19, and will seek medical assistance. Students will be kept in the isolation room until they are picked up to go seek medical assistance.

HAND WASHING AND SANITIZER

Students who are coming to school should wash their hands before they get to school, and immediately when they get home. Every staff and student will be sanitizing their hands upon the entry and exit of the building. We will ask students to wash hands or use hand sanitizer at school often. (Some classes have sinks, others do not).

Presently, hand sanitizer will be at each entrance & exit. Please ensure your child has practiced proper handwashing, that needs to last as long as it takes to sing happy birthday twice. Your support will help to keep staff and students safe.

CLEANING SURFACES

We will be following the Public Health directives. Staff members will immediately wipe down surfaces after any child or adult has touched them (all door handles, including washrooms, all

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other common contact points) lockers will be wiped down daily. Staff will wipe down any surface that they have touched before the next staff member enters the room.

BRINGING ITEMS TO SCHOOL

Students should come to school with limited items (as per Public Health). A knapsack, a lunch bag and labelled water bottle should be the only items (of course with the exception the school supplies that arrive within the first week). All communication will be by email and through our website.

RECESSES

Students will go outside during the day, but limited numbers at a time. There will be a JR and a SR recess/lunch so as to limit a mass congregation of students. They will not be allowed to use the play structures, as we will be focusing on outdoor activities that focus on physical distancing. Each homeroom bubble will have a designated recess basket filled with equipment to use. This equipment is not to be shared amongst other homerooms. The school yard will be designed in zones; each homeroom every recess will be assigned a zone. These zones will rotate to ensure equity.

JR AM RECESS (Kinder – Gr. 2) – 9:30 – 9:50am

SR AM RECESS (Gr. 3 – Gr. 6) – 10:00 – 10:20am

4 & 5 KINDER LUNCH – 11:00 – 12:10pm – Eat/Quiet time from 11:00 – 11:45pm, Outside from 11:45 – 12:10pm

JR LUNCH (Gr. 1 & Gr. 2) – Eat from 11:20 – 11:45pm, Outside from 11:45 – 12:10pm

SR LUNCH (Gr. 3 – Gr. 6) – Outside from 11:20 – 11:45pm, Eat from 11:45 – 12:10pm

JR PM RECESS (Kinder – Gr. 2) – 1:10 – 1:30pm

SR PM RECESS (Gr. 3 – Gr. 6) – 2:10 – 2:30pm

TRANSPORTATION

If you intend to drive and pick-up your child/ren everyday please send an email directly to transport@wqsb.qc.ca

Public Health recommends that parents transport their child to school. School busses can only accommodate 48 students per run and therefore, availability of transportation is not guaranteed.

If your child is returning to school and has requested a bus, it is imperative that they remain in their seat, and remain there until they are called to get off the bus. Students must follow this directive, for the safety of all other students on the bus, and for the bus driver. If your child is unable to follow the rules on the bus, they will not be able to take the bus. You can access your Transportation information by the Mozaik Parent Portal.

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Busses will be disinfected after each run. Bus drivers will also be wearing PPE (masks, goggles and gloves). Students will be expected to sanitize their hands upon the entry and exit of the bus. The first student picked up will board the bus and sit in the seat at the very back, this will be a domino effect; meaning the last student to board the bus will be sitting at the front. All seats that are not used will be taped off with caution tape. All students will have an assigned seat designated; students are not permitted to change seats at any time. It is strongly recommended for Kindergarten to Grade 4 students to wear a mask on the bus. It is mandatory for grade 5 & 6 students to wear a mask on the bus, as this is a common area.

Transportation information is only available on the parent portal as of August 25th, 2020.

VENTILATION

Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) System -

Eardley is fully mechanically ventilated. The mechanical ventilation proceeds to up to 6 complete changes of air by classroom every hour. We will frequently be changing filters. Each classroom will keep their windows open to help facilitate ventilation, please dress accordingly for the weather.

Additionally, Eardley's Home and School Association has purchased two 20' x 40' canopy tents as well as one 20' x 16' sun shade for the existing outdoor classroom. This is to help facilitate outdoor learning through the year.

ASSEMBLIES/SCHOOL GATHERINGS

There will be no in person school assemblies or gatherings.

- Assemblies will be virtual
- Virtual gatherings and Microsoft Team Meetings will be held to engage the school population i.e. Spirit Days, School Council meetings, Governing Board, Staff Meetings, Student Council etc.
- Meet the Family night may remain virtual depending on the recommendations of Public Health

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- The school year will not start with any team sports and intramurals
- We will be starting virtual extra-curricular clubs at lunch time – stay tuned for more information.

FIELD TRIPS

- There will be no field trips to start off the school year as field trips require additional adults present to maintain ratios and adhere to supervision. This will support the goals of:
 - Minimizing the number of adult contacts
 - Minimizing the contact between homeroom bubbles
 - Support contact tracing

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School Secretary: Kimberly Teske





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- Virtual field trips will be encouraged

STUDENTS WITH COMPROMISED IMMUNE SYSTEM, OR LIVING WITH SOMEONE WITH COMPROMISED SYSTEM – MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS

Students who have a compromised system or live with someone with a compromised system are eligible for the medical exemption. Parents/Guardians wishing to request this type of exemption, must complete the request form and return with a medical note/certificate (via scan) to wqstudentexemption@wqsb.qc.ca. Alternatively, it can be printed and mailed to WQSB (attn. Lisa Falasconi, Director of Complementary Services)

Reasons for Request:

There are two reasons (during the COVID-19 pandemic) why a student may be exempt from physical attendance at school.

- Students with a particular medical condition that renders them vulnerable to COVID-19
- Students who live with a family member who is medically vulnerable to COVID-19

Public Health guidelines suggest that children with the following conditions may be at greater risk, however, you need to consult your medical professional for your child's specific medical needs (this is not a specific, nor exhaustive list):

- Severe and uncontrolled respiratory conditions
- Immunosuppressant disorders or immune-compromised conditions
- Cardiac disorders

Medical Consultation and Documentation:

Please consult with your child's medical professional to determine if your child's medical needs support the need for an exemption from compulsory physical attendance at school. A medical certificate must be attached.

In the case of a family member living with the child, please consult and seek a medical note to support this. As also noted by the MEES, in the case of a family member, you are encouraged to consider your children returning to class in person if this is possible, to support their social/emotional wellbeing, as well as their developmental/learning needs.

Please note that a medical note will be required if your child(ren) are returning to school after a medical exemption is granted.

Distance Learning:

For those students who meet one of these two criteria (and who have provided medical documentation to support this request), a distance learning model will be used.

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Students will:

- receive educational services through a virtual medium,
- have some independent academic assignments or activities, and
- have support of Complementary Services, where required.

Teachers will be assigned to provide the academic services, however, the teacher may not be a teacher from your child's school. Students from different WQSB schools will participate in group sessions, depending on the enrollment in distance learning.

If your child has an IEP, their IEP may need to be adjusted to the new learning context.

Parent support will be needed to support this distance learning model.

This request is effective for the duration of the pandemic, unless Public Health directives provide new/changes to the current recommendations. Any changes, may require further consideration of the present model of delivery of educational and Complementary Services.

Timeline:

Please submit your questions and/or request to wqstudentexemption@wqsb.qc.ca.

Requests should be sent as soon as available and by August 28, 2020 to ensure timely review, organization and planning.

LEARNING IN THE CLASSROOM, LEARNING FROM HOME

This is a new school year and school has been mandated by the provincial government. Therefore, we as a staff will be creating detailed plans to ensure that the academic content missed last year in term 3 is covered and consolidated as we embark on this new school year. Once the previous year's material is taught, the school year will operate as any other – we will be teaching new content and assessing new content.

If your child is medically exempt (you will need to provide the school a medical note), you will have access to remote learning. Please see above for the process and further details.

ATTENDANCE

Please note that we will be following our 2020-2021 school calendar.

Regular attendance practices will be in place and if your child is absent for a day, our Office Agent Stephanie Lelievre will call home.

PART- TIME SCHOOLING is not permitted, as per directives from the Ministry. Students must attend for 5 days a week once registered. However, if a student is sick, or absent for a day/two regular attendance protocols will be in place.

As soon as I receive more news, and new plans are made, I will send out the up to date information.

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Please stay safe, stay healthy.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT AND POSITIVITY!

Wishing you all the best,

Samantha Halpin