



KDSS NEWSLETTER

COVID-19 RETURN TO SCHOOL EDITION

Hello and welcome back! We hope that you all have enjoyed a happy and healthy summer. With school starting next Tuesday for all grades, we need to give you and your child the information to ensure that the return to school is both safe and positive.

This newsletter may be a little longer than usual but it contains the up to date protocols from the Bluewater DSB. There will likely be changes as time goes on and some questions will have been missed. Please share this with your child and let us know if you have questions.

****FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL: ALL STUDENTS in GRADES 7-12 START TUESDAY SEPT 7th****

CLASS PLACEMENTS AND SCHEDULE

Student households in **all grades** will be contacted by their Homeroom teachers Sept. 2nd or 3rd. Elementary students will be met on the first day on the KDSS yard and escorted to their rooms at the start of the day.

COVID-19 SCREENING/RESPONSE & ATTENDANCE, LATES AND ABSENCES

All BWDSB students, staff and essential visitors must complete a COVID-19 **screening questionnaire** daily. This is found at <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>

The questionnaire must be done **daily at home and before leaving for school**. The results of the screening questionnaire must be followed.

If you keep your child home as a result of the screening tool, please share that information with the attendance professional when calling in your student sick (519-396-9151, ext. 522 for secondary, ext. 523 for elementary)

Teaching staff will track all absences and record lates. Late students should go directly to their class and not come to the office.

As always, if you are aware in advance of a student absence, please notify the teacher and office of the dates and times.

If a student becomes **ill** during the school day, sick students will be brought to the front lobby for isolation, and parents will be contacted to come and pick up their sick child ASAP. Parents picking up their sick student should pull up as close to the front main entrance door as possible, and call the office to alert staff that they are here. **Students who become ill during the school day are not permitted to ride the bus home.**

Students are required to stay home until symptom free for a minimum of 24 hours or have had a negative Covid-19 test result.

In the event of a positive student test for Covid-19, the Health Unit will work with school and board authorities to take whichever next steps and actions are required, including but not limited to: communicating home, quarantining an individual or class, or closing the school.

It is an expectation that all students who are able will wear a mask as directed when inside the school. A student who chooses not to comply will be sent home until they follow the directive as laid out by Public health.

STUDENT DROP OFF/ARRIVAL

Walkers of all grades are asked to not arrive to school property more than ten minutes before the start of the school day. Elementary students are asked to wait in the yard for the bell.

Bus riders: **Elementary students** are asked to proceed directly to the yard via the crosswalk after they get off of their bus and wait for the bell. **High school students** are encouraged to stay outside for as long as possible before entering the building for class, and only then go directly to their classroom to wait in a socially-distanced fashion until the door is opened.

Parents dropping students off at school: Please drive around to the **north side of the school** and either drop your student off on **South Street**, or by pulling in to either of the school's staff or student parking areas.

- Please do not drop your students off on River Lane (in front of the school) as it is too congested with foot and vehicular traffic.

Student drivers are asked to park in the student parking lot to the North East reaches of school property, and not to arrive at school more than 10 minutes before the bell.

Bike Riders: Elementary bike racks are on the yard, secondary bike racks are in front of the main entrance to the school.

SCHOOL ENTRY, EXIT AND ETIQUETTE

Secondary students will enter and exit the building either through the front lobby doors (main office) or the door at the North East corner of the building (outside Room 27).

Grade 8 students will enter and exit the building either through the doors located in the middle of the elementary hall on the west side of the building. **Grade 7 students** through the doors located in the North West corner of the school (also known as 'the bus loading zone').

Once in the building students are asked to follow the directions for social distancing and traffic flow located throughout the school. Students are asked to follow the "rules of the road" and walk on the right.

MASKS

All Students are required to wear non-medical or cloth masks indoors in schools, including in hallways and during classes. **No gators or buffs will be allowed for use when at school or on the bus.** Outdoor times before or after school, or during recess can be used as opportunities to provide students with breaks from wearing masks.

Exemptions to wearing a mask due to a lack of cognitive ability, or as a result of a documented breathing difficulty/disorder, are to be requested in advance by contacting the school administration team.

The school has received a generous donation of reusable masks; if it is a hardship for your student to have a clean mask every day, or at all, please email the principal, Andrew Riddick, at riddand@bwdsb.on.ca to receive a reusable mask.

All **staff** must wear PPE-grade masks provided by BWDSB while indoors.

KDSS BELL SCHEDULES

ELEMENTARY

Time	
8:45	Entry Bell
8:50 - 11:30	Block 1 (160 mins)
11:30 - 12:30	Lunch
12:30 - 1:50	Block 2 (80 mins)
1:50 - 2:10	Recess
2:10 - 3:10	Block 3 (60 mins)

SECONDARY

Secondary school is run on a modified semester until February 2022. This means all four classes will be running but with two classes in Week 1 and two classes in Week 2.

Time	Day 1 – Week 1	Day 2 – Week 2
9:00 - 11:30 (with an assigned 10 min break)	S1 1(1) (Period A)	S1 1(2) Period C
11:30 - 12:30	Lunch	Lunch
12:30 - 3:00 (with an assigned 10 min break)	S1 2(1) Period B	S1 2(2) Period D

HAND HYGIENE AND ETIQUETTE

Students will be taught by their teachers why, how, and when to clean hands and cover coughs and sneezes, using age-appropriate learning resources and tools.

Staff and students will wash their hands/use sanitizer consistently throughout the day. When a sink is available in class, students are to wash their hands in that classroom. Hand sanitizer will be available in all classes as well.

Signage and reminders about hand-hygiene will be posted around the school and in the washrooms.

STUDENT ACCESS TO WATER FOR DRINKING

Students are to bring a water bottle from home as all water fountains will be cordoned off. Water filling stations will be open so students are encouraged to bring an environmentally friendly reusable water bottle

WASHROOM ACCESS

No more than **three** students can be in a washroom at once. Socially distanced markers will indicate where students can stand outside of the washroom while they wait their turn.

Elementary students will continue to use a hall pass - each student will have their own

Staff will be assigned duty to monitor washrooms at lunch, and the signs posted in and around the washroom will remind all of the expected procedure.

RECESS – ELEMENTARY

The KDSS School yard has a capacity which allows for all elementary students to use it at one time.

Lunch and afternoon breaks will remain as scheduled.

Masks are not required when outdoors but social distancing should be practiced whenever possible. Students must wear masks upon re-entry to the building.

Students will be provided with outdoor play equipment for non-contact play. This equipment will be kept in classroom bins.

There will be no lunch time access to the gym.

LUNCH SCHEDULES AND ROUTINES, AND FOOD IN THE SCHOOL

There will be increased staff supervision to monitor the lunch hour as the library and gym are to be closed until further notice for lunchtime use.

All students will eat in their classroom if they choose to eat at school. Those who are allowed/able, such as walkers or drivers, are encouraged to have lunch at home or off of school property.

Students in Grade 7 and 8 require a note from home to be given the teacher, in advance, providing permission to leave school property at lunch. A standing note for the year is encouraged.

Only secondary students whose classes are in a **science or shop** classroom are to eat in the socially distanced cafeteria.

Chartwells will not be selling food in the cafeteria for the time being, and the concession and milk machines are out of commission.

There will be no eating, drinking or hanging out in the hall allowed.

The Breakfast Program will still be available but will follow all Covid-19 guidelines (i.e., only pre-packaged food, Grab and Go style, etc.). Existing nutritional guidelines will continue to be followed.

SECONDARY GUIDANCE, STUDENT SUCCESS AND COOP APPOINTMENTS

All appointments must to be arranged through the main office or guidance office.

All timetable change requests are to be handled remotely; if you have a timetable-related request, please email a counsellor (kieth_colley@bwdsb.on.ca or carrie_houghton@bwdsb.on.ca). Changing a class is not possible five days after the start of the course.

Students cannot enter the guidance office or guidance office except by invitation, or by pre-arrangement. The guidance office cannot have more than 4 students in it at a time.

LIBRARY

The library will be closed throughout the day unless the computer lab is being used, and supervised by, that class' teacher.

CELEBRATIONS, SPORTS AND EXTRACURRICULARS

Clubs and sports teams are permitted at the discretion of the principal. Covid 19 protocols are being developed and will vary depending on perceived risk. When inside the school, masks and social distancing are required.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

Photovisions is allowed to come into the school this year! The date is September 17th and all ordering will be done online. There is no paper version available.

LOCKERS

Elementary students will be assigned a locker close to their Homeroom class.

Secondary students will not be assigned lockers, and are asked to keep their belongings with them at all times. Bags and other personal belongings are not allowed to be left out in the hall.

CLOSING COMMENTS

The staff at KDSS recognize the frustrations of the past year and a half on everyone in our community. Like last year, this protocol is designed to keep students safe and to allow them to continue to learn. It will change and be revised many times as the conditions around the province also change.

Student safety and student achievement are our top priorities. The KDSS staff is looking forward to reconnecting, re-engaging and forging ahead with your child. It is our most sincere hope that we can use this protocol to have as 'normal' a school year as possible.

Thank you in advance for your understanding, your patience and your cooperation.



Andrew Riddick,
Principal



Erica Devuono,
Vice Principal



Lori Templeton,
Vice Principal



For more information about the board's continued response to Covid-19, please check the Bluewater District School Board website regularly at: <https://www.bwdsb.on.ca/>

