

ROTHERGLEN SCHOOL

Re-Opening Plan: 2021 / 2022



COVID-19: Health, Safety and Operational Information



Engaged minds. Inspired hearts. Purposeful lives.

Updated August 23, 2021

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INTRODUCTION

We are looking forward to welcoming our students back to school for the 2021/2022 school year. This revised version of our Re-opening Plan provides an update to all previous publications.

On August 3, the Ministry of Education published its operational guidelines for schools in Ontario for the upcoming school year. This document constitutes a return to school direction issued by the Ministry of Education, approved by the Chief Medical Officer of Health for the province.

Rotherglen School has developed a Re-opening Plan, which follows the guidelines established by the Ministry of Education and adheres to the following guiding principles:

- providing a safe and healthy school environment for students, teachers and staff;
- providing a consistently high-quality education;
- maintaining close communication with, and adhering to the advice of Ontario's Ministry of Health, local public health unit (PHU) and Ontario's Ministry of Education;
- respecting the opinions of our parent community;
- protecting the uniqueness and strength of our vibrant learning environment, putting our community first.

Our students in Casa to Grade 8 will attend school five days per week. Students will remain in cohorts in order to limit the mixing of students and staff. Students will remain in their classrooms with their cohorts, and specialty teachers will move from class to class, with the exception of Physical Education and Music classes. Students who participate in Learning Success Centre (LSC) sessions will be permitted to leave their classrooms for their sessions, with contact limited to their LSC teacher.

In preparation for the upcoming school year, a great deal of care and attention has been put into assigning students to a single class cohort, including:

- Male/female balance;
- All classes will represent a range of academic abilities;
- Current teacher feedback;
- Student friendships;
- Previous class placements;
- Social dynamics;
- Parent input on friendships/classmates.

Given the logistics of creating cohorts for the upcoming school year, we will be unable to make any changes to our class lists. We thank parents in advance for their understanding in this matter.

We have put a tremendous effort into making the in-person experience for our students and faculty as safe as possible. In July, the school implemented a mandatory COVID-19 vaccination policy for all staff, including teachers, administration, maintenance workers and volunteers. As a school, we also highly recommend our students born in 2009 and earlier be vaccinated.

Our staff has received comprehensive training on health and safety protocols, as well as professional development to support student well-being and mental health. We have additional full-time cleaning staff to enhance the cleaning and sanitization of our school facility throughout the school day, and deep cleaning at the end of each day. An ongoing investment has been made in professional development training for our teachers in Google Suite for Education and SMART Board software, and in technology for the classroom so that we are fully equipped to support student learning. Professional development for teachers to support student and faculty mental health, as well as Diversity, Equity and Inclusion workshops has also been made a priority.

Additional health and safety measures include, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for staff and faculty, plexiglass dividers in our lobby, visual cues and signage to promote physical distancing, hand washing, respiratory etiquette, and caution in high traffic areas have been thoughtfully placed throughout the school to best guide and support our students and faculty. Each classroom has been equipped with individual desks to keep our learners at a distance.

As a condition of enrollment/re-enrollment, parents were required to acknowledge their understanding of our Re-opening Plan and agree to comply with the School's Reopening Plan within the terms of our enrollment/re-enrollment agreement. Over the coming school year, we anticipate that additional guidance from the Ministry will require further revisions to our Re-opening Plan document. It will be important that families carefully review any and all communication from the school, to ensure their understanding and compliance with any new measures and/or direction put in place.

Please take the time to carefully read through this Re-opening Plan. As parents, it is important that you understand our planning. Parents will also play an important role in keeping our community healthy with a strong commitment to daily screening of their children before coming to school.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to connect with a member of our leadership team, listed below.

Sincerely,



Jacinta Snyder
Head of School

Rotherglen School Leadership Team – Meadowvale Elementary Campus

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ACADEMIC OPTIONS

There are two potential options for learning that families may choose for their child(ren), for the 2021/2022 school year.

Option 1: Learning in the Classroom

Students in Casa to Grade 8 will attend school for in-person learning five days a week, with the careful implementation of additional health and safety measures. The decision for a student to return to learning on campus is at the discretion of the parent/guardian of the child.

In the event of a government mandate resulting in school closures, students learning in person will transition to our Learn@Home program.

Option 2: Learning at Home

Parents may opt for their child to learn at home through our Rotherglen Learn@Home programming. In this model, a student will have an opportunity to join their classmates during in-class instruction (synchronous learning). Learning in this model will also consist of video lessons, Google Classroom assignments, and asynchronous learning. Cameras have been installed in all of our classrooms to facilitate learning at home.

Students enrolled in Rotherglen's Learn@Home program will be required to commit to learning from home for a period of one month (e.g., month of September, month of October). Prior to the beginning of each month, parents will be required to submit their notice for their child to learn via the Learn@Home program. Parents who wish to register their children for the Learn@Home program for the month of September may do so at this link: <https://fm.rotherglen.com/fmi/webd/LFH?homeurl=https://rotherglen.com>

Students who are required to be excluded from in-person learning due to a public health directive such as a COVID-19 diagnosis or a need to isolate, will join Rotherglen's Learn@Home program. Details on exclusion periods for vaccinated and non-vaccinated students will be forthcoming from the Ministry before school begins.

On occasion, students will have an appointment/extra curricular activity that takes them away from in-person learning for part of the school day. In these cases, students will not be permitted to access the Learn@Home program when they are away from the school. Our Learn@Home program is not intended to facilitate vacation time, outside of the school's scheduled vacation time.

PROTECTIVE STRATEGIES

Rotherglen School will employ multiple protective strategies and a layering of controls to support healthier and safer environments for students and staff as detailed below. There is not one specific measure that will prevent transmission from occurring in schools. However, there are multiple structural and individual elements that contribute to making schools healthier spaces and reduce the risk of infection to in-person attendees.

COVID-19 Vaccination Policy

Widespread vaccination is critical to stopping the spread of COVID-19, building immunity in Ontario and protecting school communities. Rotherglen School's Mandatory Employee Vaccination Policy requires that all staff, faculty, maintenance staff, and volunteers working in the school provide proof of being fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

The Government of Canada has approved the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for individuals born in 2009 and earlier. We strongly recommend that all Rotherglen School students in this age category be vaccinated.

Vaccination Status of Students

Parents of students who are fully vaccinated are requested to disclose their child's vaccination status to the school office. As health guidelines evolve, mandated periods of exclusion to manage the introduction and spread of COVID-19 differ for unvaccinated and fully vaccinated individuals. Disclosing your child's vaccination status

will ensure the school can properly assess public health mandates applicable to your child. In the absence of documentation, a student will be considered to be unvaccinated.

Self-screening

All staff, students and visitors to the school will be required to perform a daily health screening at home, before attending school. The online self-assessment tool provided by the Government of Ontario can be accessed at this link: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>

Any staff, student or visitor that does not pass the screening should not attend school and must follow the “Next Steps” listed on the Ontario government screening tool. Parents are asked to inform the school if their child(ren) will be absent/arrive late, via Edsby. Alternatively, parents may call the school’s absence/late arrival notification line at: (905-565-8707). If your child will be absent due to illness, please ensure you select this option from the drop-down list in Edsby so that we can effectively monitor trends in the health of our community.

Masks

Students

Students in Casa to Grade 8 will be required to wear a non-medical, cloth or disposable mask in school, including in the hallways and during classes.

Please ensure your child’s mask is:

- sized appropriately to avoid gaps and fits over the nose, mouth and chin;
- fastens securely with ear loops or ties;
- 3-ply construction;
- washed daily if re-usable;
- does not have a velcro "straw" or valve opening
- tasteful and appropriate for a school setting.

The government of Canada has published guidance on appropriate types of masks and usage. This information is posted online at this link:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/prevention-risks/about-non-medical-masks-face-coverings.html>

The government of Ontario has also published guidance on face masks at this link: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/ncov/factsheet/2020/05/factsheet-covid-19-non-medical-masks.pdf?la=en>

Students are encouraged to practice wearing masks to learn which type of mask is most comfortable for them. Students may wear their own non-medical masks, or purchase a non-medical mask from our uniform supplier, DGN Kilters. Reasonable exceptions or accommodations may be made with regards to the requirement to wear a mask.

Mask Exemption

Students may be granted an exemption from wearing a non-medical mask for reasons related to a medical condition, mental health, sensory processing, breathing difficulties, for individuals unable to put on or remove a mask without assistance, or for a person who requires accommodation in accordance with the Ontario Human Rights Code.

Accommodations require consideration of the needs of the person requesting an exemption, balanced with the health and safety needs of our school community. Protecting all students, families and staff is our priority and this will be taken into consideration when assessing the appropriateness and nature of a mask exemption. All reasonable steps and considerations will be taken before a student is not permitted to attend school in person, or an employee is not permitted to attend work in person.

In the case of a mask exemption, appropriate measures such as face-shields, greater physical distancing, clear barriers or study carrels, enhanced cleaning, and other infection prevention and control measures will need to be considered.

Parents are asked to contact the Head of School directly if they wish to request a mask exemption for their child.

Staff Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

All school-based staff will be required to wear medical masks while inside the school building, with reasonable exceptions permitted for medical conditions. School staff will be provided with all appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including medical masks and face shields.

Cohorting

Cohorting refers to minimizing the number of students and teachers any individual comes in contact with, and to maintaining as much consistency as possible in those contacts. The purpose of cohorting is to limit the mixing of students and staff and, in so doing, minimizing the risk of potential exposure to our students and staff. In our Casa to Grade 8 classes, individual desks are provided so that students have their own space in the classroom. Excess furniture, tables and bookshelves have been removed to create additional space in the classrooms. We will also promote learning outside, if weather permits.

Hand Hygiene

Appropriate hand hygiene is one of the most important protective strategies. All staff, faculty and students will be expected to practice regular hand washing throughout the school day. Students will be trained on appropriate hand hygiene, both with soap and water, and with the use of alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR). Age-appropriate posters or signage has been placed throughout the school. Families may wish to refer to Public Health Ontario's How to Wash Your Hands fact sheet, posted online at <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/ncov/factsheet/factsheet-covid-19-hand-hygiene.pdf?la=en>

Throughout the day, regular hand hygiene breaks will be scheduled. This will include but is not limited to:

- upon entering the school building;
- entering/exiting classroom;
- prior to/after eating;
- after washroom breaks; and
- after coughing, sneezing, and blowing one's nose.

Distancing and Congregating

Physical distancing measures will be layered with other public health measures such as screening, hand hygiene, cohorting, enhanced cleaning and masking.

As much distancing as possible will be maintained between students, between students and staff, and between staff members. Periods of student movement will be staggered as much as possible to limit student congregation in hallways. In classrooms, individual student desks have been spaced apart and face forward, rather than configured in groups, to provide students with their own learning area and to support respiratory hygiene.

Congregation of teachers and staff will also be limited to minimize potential for adult-to-adult transmission. Staff will maintain at least 2 metres distance when consuming food/drinks. Plexiglass barriers have been installed in our reception area.

Washroom Facilities

Washroom breaks will be scheduled throughout the school day to stagger usage and enable physical distancing. While regular breaks will be scheduled, individual students will not be prevented from accessing washrooms as needed. Signage will be posted to indicate the maximum number of people permitted to simultaneously use the washroom at any given point and classes/cohorts will be assigned to specific washrooms in the school building.

The school washrooms will be cleaned frequently and custodial staff will ensure that there is an adequate supply of soap at all times. A daily cleaning log will be posted outside of all washrooms.

Travel Guidelines

If you travel, there may be rules you have to follow before you leave, when you get to your destination, and when you return. If you are leaving Ontario, make sure that you learn about the rules at your final destination from local authorities, including local public health measures, before your trip.

Travel within Canada

There are currently no restrictions on travel within Canada.

Travel outside of Canada

The Federal Government has published updated requirements for individuals who return after travel outside of Canada at this link: <https://travel.gc.ca/travel-covid>.

In addition, guidelines that specifically address requirements for children who are under the age of 12 or who are unvaccinated, are available at this link: <https://rotherglen.com/Travel-Guidelines.pdf>.

Please note that while children who are not fully vaccinated are not required to quarantine after international travel, they must not attend school (see Page 2, Section 2) for a period of 14 days after their return to Canada. Children may attend school after this period if they pass the Ontario School Screening.

We ask that families carefully review the information linked above, so that we can ensure your understanding and compliance with these important protective strategies.

Parent Responsibilities

As a condition of enrollment/re-enrollment, parents were required to acknowledge their understanding of our Re-opening Plan and agree to comply with the School's Reopening Plan within the terms of our enrollment/re-enrollment agreement. Over the coming school year, we anticipate that additional guidance from the Ministry will require further revisions to our Re-opening Plan document. It will be important that families carefully review any and all communication from the school to ensure their understanding and compliance with any new measures and/or direction put in place.

The following is a list of required health strategies:

- Health screening checklist will be performed at home each day for their child(ren), prior to leaving for school.
- Child(ren) will stay at home if feeling unwell.
- A plan is in place to pick up child(ren) immediately if they become ill while at school. This includes providing the school with the name and contact information of an alternate person authorized to collect the child(ren), in the case where the school is unable to reach a child's parents.
- Seeking a test for COVID-19 if symptoms present. A child must stay home from school and should seek testing and appropriate medical attention. In the absence of a test, a student must self-isolate for 14 days and be symptom-free for 24 hours before returning to school.
- Complying with orders issued by Peel Public Health.

School Arrival and Dismissal

Student arrival & dismissal times are grouped by grade level to alleviate vehicular congestion in our school driveway, and to facilitate physical distancing amongst students and staff during these busy periods in the school day. A colour-coded dismissal card will be provided to students on the first day of school and we ask that parents display this card on their dashboard to ensure our dismissal process runs smoothly.

During our arrival/dismissal process:

- students will arrive/dismiss, based on their grade level;
- families with more than one child will base their arrival and dismissal times on the grade level of the oldest child;
- we will maximize the use of all possible entrances and exits to support the arrival/dismissal process;
- students will have a designated route to get to and from classrooms;
- visual cues and signage has been placed throughout the school building to guide safe distancing.

It is essential for parents to adhere to our published arrival and dismissal schedule (see below) to support our plan to maximize physical distancing.

Arrival Schedule

8:20 - 8:30 a.m.	8:30 - 8:40 a.m.	8:40 - 8:50 a.m.
Grades 4-8 <i>and siblings in lower grades</i>	Grades 1-3 <i>and siblings in lower grades</i>	Casa
Students must arrive in time to enter the school building with their cohort at 8:30 a.m.	Students must arrive in time to enter the school building with their cohort at 8:40 a.m.	Students must arrive in time to enter the school building with their cohort at 8:50 a.m.

Please note that as students arrive in the roundabout, they will be directed to their dedicated welcoming zones in the playground area, prior to entering the school building.

Dismissal Schedule

3:30 - 3:40 p.m.	3:40 - 3:50 p.m.	3:50 - 4:00 p.m.
Casa classes	Grades 1-3 <i>and siblings in lower grades</i>	Grades 4-8 <i>and siblings in lower grades</i>

Visual Cues/Signage

Visual cues and signage have been placed throughout the campus that promote physical distancing. High traffic spaces in common areas will have greater supervision, hallways have been divided with markings to promote one way traffic, and directional signage has been placed to support the flow of our students in hallways. Posters on walls will remind students of hand and respiratory hygiene and maintaining physical distance in common areas.

Recess Breaks Outdoors

Students will be required to perform hand-hygiene prior to and upon re-entry to the school from recess. During recess breaks, students will not be required to wear face masks once outside the building. Students will stay within their cohort during recess breaks. As much distancing as possible will be encouraged between students.

Shared Equipment at Recess

Although the risk of transmission associated with shared objects is considered to be low, we will begin the year with our outdoor play structures closed. In our measured approach to re-opening, we have opted to assess the viability of reinstating the shared use of our outdoor playground structures, until after our recess routines are firmly established and with a strong focus on hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.

Shared recess equipment (ie. soccer balls, basketballs, chalk, etc.) will be permitted.

Inclement Weather Days

In the event that inclement weather results in unsafe conditions for students and staff to attend school in-person, all students will learn via our Learn@Home program.

Cleaning and Disinfection Standards

The school has reviewed its cleaning protocols to ensure our current protocols meet current Public Health requirements.

Cleaning Program

The school has an enhanced cleaning and disinfecting protocol, including:

- increased frequency of cleaning and disinfection;
- increased custodial staff;
- cleaning/sanitizing logs posted outside all washrooms;

- removal of items that present cleaning challenges, such as porous or soft items.

High Touch Surfaces

Cleaning plus disinfection will take place at an increased frequency in all high touch areas. This includes washrooms (ie. toilet fixtures, faucets), doorknobs, light switches, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, touch screens, push buttons, handrails, computers, photocopiers, etc.

Cleaning Products

Our custodial staff will use only Health Canada approved cleaning and disinfectant products with a Drug Identification Number (DIN), in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

Daily Deep Cleaning

The school will be deep cleaned at the end of each day, in preparation for the next school day. The school has invested in fogging machines to assist in this daily process.

Daily Cleaning where an individual is suspected of having COVID-19 at school

- The school has established a protocol for the identification and communication of suspected/confirmed cases to administration and relevant staff, in order to identify contaminated areas and carry out cleaning and disinfection, including timing, return to use, methods, PPE, and waste disposal.
- The protocol requires that areas that may require cleaning plus disinfection (ie. items used by the individual and all surfaces within 2 metres of the ill person), versus cleaning alone (ie. a hallway or room where the individual has passed through) will be identified to custodial staff.
- In the event that additional cleaning is required due to a student/staff member developing COVID-19 symptoms, or a confirmed case of COVID-19, a classroom will be closed temporarily to allow for a thorough cleaning and disinfecting of touch surfaces.
- The use of disposable cleaning equipment, such as disposable wipes, will be employed when possible.
- Items that cannot be cleaned (paper, books, etc.) will be stored in a sealed container for a minimum of 7 days.

Shared Materials

The use of shared materials within a classroom cohort will be permitted. Examples of shared materials include:

- classroom learning materials (books, manipulatives, and other resources);
- physical education equipment;
- Montessori materials.

Shared Spaces

The use of shared spaces will be permitted. When different cohorts interact in shared indoor spaces, masking and as much distancing as possible will be maintained between cohorts. Examples of shared spaces include:

- Music room;
- Gymnasium.

Student Personal Belongings

The use of student lockers and classroom cubbies will be reinstated for the 2021/2022 school year. Students in Grades 6-8 will be assigned a personal locker. Parents are reminded to purchase a “Dudley” brand lock. No laser or key locks will be permitted.

Water Stations

Our filtered water stations will be available for students to fill water bottles brought from home, when required. The drinking fountains will not be in use this year.

Lunch Protocols

Students will remove their face masks to eat lunch. All students will have lunch in their classroom with their cohort to minimize the risk of transmission. Students will wash their hands before and after eating, in a timeframe that prevents congestion in washrooms or at our hand washing stations.

If weather permits, consideration may be given to having lunch breaks outside.

With respect to eating and drinking at school, it is expected that:

- Staff and students will perform proper hand hygiene before and after eating;
- Students will be required to bring their own lunch and snacks to school, with no common food items;
- Students will not be permitted to share food with their classmates;
- No lunch deliveries will be permitted;
- Students will be required to bring their own drink bottle that is labeled, kept with them during the day and not shared.

Families are reminded to adhere to our Allergy Aware Policy, to safeguard those individuals in our community with life-threatening allergies. To provide a minimized allergen environment, we require the support and cooperation of parents/guardians, caregivers and the school community. For your reference, our Allergy Aware Policy is posted online at:

https://rotherglen.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/21_22_AllergyAwarePolicy_MeadowvaleNEW.pdf

Food Programs

Our Hot Lunch provider, The Lunch Lady, will resume our hot lunch program for the 2021/2022 school year. As well, our Pizza and Sub Day lunch days will be reinstated for the upcoming school year, beginning in October.

Birthday Celebrations

Parents will be permitted to send in a snack if they wish, to share with the class to celebrate their child's birthday. Our priority is the safety of all of our students, so food items must be nut-free. As well, all items must be individually packaged (ie. cupcake, individually wrapped cookie, individual cheese and cracker package, etc.). We remind families and their caregivers to closely review and strictly adhere to our Allergy Aware Policy, when bringing food items to share at school. Kindly review the Allergy Aware Policy, posted online at this link: https://rotherglen.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/21_22_AllergyAwarePolicy_MeadowvaleNEW.pdf

Assemblies

As current capacity restrictions will not allow us to gather together in our gymnasiums, assemblies will move forward in virtual format at this time.

Field trips

Day trips will resume, but will at times be replaced by virtual tours. Day trips will adhere to all relevant provincial requirements under the Re-opening Ontario Act. Booking availability of our regular field trip destinations may prove difficult given demand, however, every effort will be made to provide opportunity for excursions at each grade level. The viability of overnight trips will be reviewed as the year progresses.

Parents/Guardians on Campus

To ensure the overall health and safety of our community, as we begin the school year we will continue to limit parent access to campus to drop off and pick up. Parents will continue to drop off and pick up their child(ren) outdoors with masks on, in designated areas. Meetings between parents and teachers will remain virtual, using Google Meets.

Visitors to the School

We will continue to limit visitors to the school to essential visitors only. Where possible, work required by trades will be done after school hours and/or on weekends. Essential visitors will be required to submit a COVID-19 screening, provide proof of vaccination and wear required PPE while on school premises.

MANAGEMENT OF COVID-19 IN SCHOOL

Any student or staff member who develops COVID-19 symptoms while at school will be immediately separated from others, and brought to our Isolation Area until they are able to go home. Isolated students will be supervised, with physical distancing maintained and PPE provided, consistent with Public Health guidelines.

A poster has been placed in each classroom for students and staff to reference, outlining the steps to take if they become unwell while at school.

Parents will be required to provide the name of an alternate person who will be available to come to the school to collect their child(ren), in the event we are unable to reach either parent. It is essential this alternate person is readily available for student pick up. Close contacts living in the same home as the unwell child (ie. siblings) must also be picked up to be monitored for symptoms at home.

It is our understanding that the Government of Ontario will be providing an updated screening tool for schools, prior to the start of the school year. This new screener will provide guidance on testing and isolation requirements for both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals. The school will share this new guidance with families once it has been released by the Ministry.

The school will ensure records of classes, including seating charts, daily records of any approved visitors to the school, including supply/occasional teachers or custodians, are maintained and readily available to be provided to Public Health for contact tracing purposes.

As required under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*, the school will immediately report any suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the school to the local Public Health unit, and provide any materials (e.g., daily attendance) to Public Health officials to support case management and contact tracing and other activities, in accordance with all applicable privacy legislation. Public Health officials will determine any additional steps required. We will also report on a daily basis, any suspected or confirmed cases to the Ministry.

All school staff members will have received training on outbreak management procedures, prior to the beginning of the school year.

School Isolation Area

Should a student or staff member become ill while at school, the individual will wait in our dedicated Isolation Area. Support staff will monitor the individual and PPE will be available.

The Isolation Area will be cleaned and sanitized after each use.

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

Students may travel by bus for field trips and sports tournaments.

Capacity

School vehicles will operate at reduced capacity where possible and students will be seated in a manner that maximizes physical distancing.

Masks and Hand Hygiene

The use of masks will be required for all students and staff while inside the bus. Hand hygiene will be performed prior to boarding and when leaving the bus.

Assigned Seats

Students will be assigned seats and a record of the seating plan will be kept to assist with contact tracing. Students who live in the same household or who are in the same classroom cohort will be seated together where possible.

VENTILATION

Our filters have been updated for our HVAC system to MERV 13 filters. Filters will be cleaned and changed every 30 days, throughout the building. This maintenance schedule exceeds the recommended filter replacement frequency of 60-90 days.

Throughout the building, we have ensured that window screens have been repaired/replaced in each of our classrooms, to safely support the opening of windows for increased ventilation in the classrooms.

MENTAL HEALTH AND STUDENT SUPPORTS

Student Mental Health

As we enter the upcoming school year, a strong focus on the mental health and well-being of our students and staff will continue to be a priority. As research has demonstrated, good mental health is fundamental to a student's ability to learn. This will remain at the forefront of our programming and classroom practices.

Through ongoing professional development, workshops and open dialogue, our staff will continue to enhance their own knowledge and understanding of mental health and well-being, in order to be positive role models for their students, and to support their students with their own understanding. Through the daily integration of Social Emotional Learning skills, students will continue to explore:

- Ways to build positive relationships and how to communicate effectively;
- How to identify difficult feelings and emotions and ways to manage them;
- Learn to recognize the signs of stress and strategies to cope with challenges;
- Develop an understanding of stigma and how to manage it;
- Ways to develop and maintain a positive mindset and motivation;
- Develop self-awareness and a sense of identity;
- Foster a sense of inclusiveness and belonging.

Students will learn about their own well-being through age appropriate presentations lead by professionals in the field that focus on:

- Feeling settled in an unsettled world;
- Dealing with difficult emotions or feelings and self-regulation strategies;
- Building self-confidence and self-worth;
- What to do and where to go when you are struggling or dealing with difficult situations.

Teachers are uniquely positioned to notice when a student is not doing well or things are not going quite right for them. Through open dialogue, students build a sense of trust with their teachers and are able to learn about the aspects of their own well-being and gain the necessary support that is needed. Returning to school in September is an exciting time for students, but following a year of online learning, some may have hesitations, or lack a degree of confidence. Teachers will be sensitive to these emotions as they start the year and build community within the class. If and when academic gaps are observed, this information will be shared in a timely manner with parents and a plan will be put in place.

SPECIFIC ACADEMIC PROGRAMS & REQUIREMENTS

Students will remain in their cohort and Specialty Teachers move from class to class, with the exception of Physical Education and Music classes.

Music Program

Singing will resume as part of our music programming, at each grade level. Careful attention has been given to ensure air quality/ventilation is optimized in rooms where singing will take place. As we start the school year, students will be required to wear masks when singing indoors. As much distance as possible will be maintained within a cohort.

When possible, music classes may take place outdoors. When students are singing outdoors within their cohort, masks will not be required. As much distancing as possible within a cohort will be maintained.

Music programming is subject to change depending on Provincial and/or regional updates to health and safety measures as the year progresses.

Physical Education Program

It is our intention to reinstate a number of activities in our Physical Education program, with health and safety measures in place. As we start the school year, Physical Education classes will be held outside when possible. The use of our gymnasium is permitted. When outside, students will not be required to wear masks. During physical education classes, as much distance as possible will be maintained within a cohort.

Students will be required to practice proper hand hygiene prior to and upon leaving Physical Education classes. Students will also be reminded of appropriate respiratory etiquette.

All students will wear their gym uniform for the full day on their Physical Education days.

Planning for Physical Education classes is subject to change, depending on Provincial and/or regional updates to health and safety measures.

Inter-School Sport Activities

It is our hope to reinstate interschool sporting activities at some point in the school year, provided through the Private School Athletic Association (PSAA), for our students in Grades 5 to 8. We have yet to receive information from the PSAA regarding health and safety guidelines. This information will be important to understand before committing to our school's participation.

Learning Success Centre

Our Learning Success Centre (LSC) will provide one to one support for our students enrolled in this programming. The meeting rooms will be used for sessions to allow for a greater amount of space. These rooms will be disinfected after each session. LSC sessions will be offered in "virtual" format for those students learning from home.

Outdoor Learning

While the weather remains favourable, teachers will be encouraged to take their students outside for learning. The age of students and course of study will influence the number of times a teacher may choose to take his/her class outside for learning.

CAT4 Testing

CAT4 testing will be administered this year to students in Grades 1-6, provided students remain learning in-person.

Tutorials

Tutorials will resume for students in Grades 4-8, and will be held by the homeroom class. Tutorials in Grades 7 & 8 will take place by subject and will be held by grade level. Appropriate distance between students will be maintained during all tutorials.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

It is our intention to reinstate extra-curricular activities for our students at all grade levels for the 2021/2022 school year. We are still in the process of determining guidelines, which will follow cohorting and public health directives.

BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL EXTENDED CARE PROGRAMS

Enrollment in both the before and/or after school program requires confirmed attendance for the year. Due to cohorting and managing the number of students assigned to a before/after school care teacher, we are unable to allow for drop-in usage of these programs. While inside the school, students in our before and after school programs will be masked and physical distancing will be encouraged. While outside, students will not be required to wear a mask and physical distancing will be encouraged.

PROTOCOLS FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND FIRE SAFETY

Medical Conditions

Students with prevalent medical conditions (Anaphylaxis, Asthma, Diabetes, etc.) are required to submit their treatment plans for 2021/2022 to the office, prior to the start of the school year. Some students may need to visit their health care provider to ascertain if any changes are required to the treatment plan and to discuss whether the student may be facing additional risks, given the current COVID-19 conditions.

Emergency Procedures

Regularly scheduled Fire Drills and Lockdown/Hold & Secure drills will be reinstated for the 2021/2022 school year, with health and safety guidelines in place.

STUDENT SUPPLIES

Bring Your Own Device Program

It is recommended that all students in Grades 1-8 be equipped with a personal device (laptop/Chromebook) to support their learning. The reality of technology being a requirement for learning, at each grade level, will continue to be a factor in each of the academic options in September and we want our students to be well prepared.

We will continue to use Google Suite for education to support the delivery of our academic programming. Given that we use a web-based platform for learning, and our communication hub, Edsby, is available via the internet, the specifications for a device are minimal. However, to ensure student personal devices are compatible with the various tools needed throughout the school year, including Google Classroom, Google Meet, Google Drive, Google Docs, etc., as well as various Android apps, our IT Department has put together the device recommendations for your reference, at this link: https://rotherglen.com/InformationKit_21-22/BYOD-Recommendations.pdf

This information is meant to serve as a guide for parents as you determine whether your child has access to an existing device.

School Uniform Policy

The full Rotherglen School uniform will be reinstated for the 2021/2022 school year. Students will be required to wear their school uniform while learning on campus. Our Uniform Policy and Guidelines are posted online at this link: https://rotherglen.com/InformationKit_21-22/Uniform-Policy_21-22.pdf

A full listing of our Casa to Grade 8 Uniform Requirements is posted online at this link: https://rotherglen.com/InformationKit_21-22/Uniform-Requirements_21-22.pdf

All uniform items are available exclusively through our uniform provider, DGN Kilters. To learn more and to book an appointment, please visit: <https://dgn-kilters.com/>