

Virtual Ward Forum – Return to School Thursday, September 10, 2020

Meeting Notes

- We are committed to working together through this phase of reopening and will make any necessary adjustments along the way.
- There were 29,558 non-respondents. Schools have been following up with parents/guardians and adult learners who did not respond to the online/phone registration methods.
- Virtual School will begin for all elementary students on Thursday, September 17. In cases where unique circumstances require a school to adjust its opening schedule, the school will contact families directly to provide more information.

Survey Results:

- Results from the student survey were used to adjust the projected enrolment for each school in the system. Results were applied on a school-by-school basis as opposed to using system averages being applied to each school. Projected enrolments became the basis for adjusting staff allocations.

Staffing/Class Sizes:

- We have also heard from a number of parents and staff with questions about elementary class sizes and we want you to know that we remain committed to achieving class sizes that do not significantly exceed our targeted caps.
- How class sizes are determined: In the elementary panel, the class size guidelines for Toronto Public Health priority schools, all other schools and virtual school were used to generate staff allocations for regular classroom allocations in each school by division (i.e. JK/SK, Grades 1-3 and Grades 4-8). In the secondary panel, class size caps under the Collective Agreement were used to generate regular classroom allocations in each school. The same approach is used to calculate staff allocations in Virtual School.
- Priority given to teachers requesting and requiring accommodations where assignment to the Virtual School addresses their needs.
- All teachers were surveyed regarding their interest in teaching in the Virtual School and their preferences for teaching assignments are being considered .
- In-school staffing committees are finalizing new staffing models and identifying staff who may still not have an assignment at the school due to allocation changes and vacancies resulting from increases in staff allocation to the school.
- Central staffing processes will enable teachers without an assignment to be placed and vacancies to be filled. There will not be any teachers without an assignment at the end of this process.

- Where a vacancy is not filled after central staffing processes are completed, a Long Term Occasional Teacher will be hired to fill such vacancies as per direction from the Ministry of Education.
- Due to the large number of families who have selected Virtual School (more than 66,000 students), we require additional time to staff and timetable to ensure a more consistent opening for all staff and students. As a result, all students, including those in Special Education classes, attending Virtual School (elementary and secondary) will begin on **Thursday, September 17**.

**LASTEST UPDATE ON VIRTUAL SCHOOL, AS OF SEPTEMBER 14TH:
ALL VIRTUAL SCHOOL START DATE HAS BEEN POSTPONED TO TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22ND DUE TO LARGE NUMER OF STUDENTS SWITCHING TO ONLINE LEARNING.**

Virtual Learning:

- Prior to the first day of school, parents/guardians will hear directly from the teacher with details about the class and other important information.
- Please click here for more information regarding virtual schooling: [Elementary Virtual School](#) and [Secondary Virtual School](#).
- All curriculum – in both Virtual School and In-Person school – is based on the Ontario Curriculum. The delivery of the curriculum will be through the Digital Learning Platform Brightspace. Accommodations will be provided to students with an Individual Education Plan (IEP). English Language Learners will be supported based on the English Language Acquisition Continuum (STEP Continuum). Students will remain members of their home school community and while the day to day classroom experience is handled by the Virtual School, there are still connections to their home school that will provide some consistency.
- All elementary students attending Intensive Support Programs (ISP) will start school on September 15.
- Given the complexities of the secondary staffing and timetable process, the start dates for most secondary schools have been adjusted — both in-person and virtual — as follows:

Tuesday, September 15: Students attending Special Education Congregated Sites (York Humber HS, Central Etobicoke HS, Frank Oke SS, Maplewood HS, Drewry SS and Sir William Olser HS) and students attending Developmental Disability (DD) Intensive Support Programs in secondary schools. These students will follow a semester schedule.

Thursday, September 17: All remaining secondary schools, including students attending Intensive Support Programs (Autism, PD, MID, LD, and Gifted). Students will follow a quadmester schedule.

- While most secondary schools will open on one of these two days, any schools with unique circumstances that require additional time will contact families and staff directly. Please note that quadmester start and end dates will be slightly adjusted due to the delayed school start date.

Masks/Safety Protocols:

- All staff and visitors must wear Level 1 or 2 medical masks, which will be supplied by the TDSB, at all times when indoors, while all students are required to wear non-medical masks/face coverings indoors on school property, on school buses and in administrative buildings (with exemptions and accommodations, as required).
- As we have advised parents/students, staff should bring a breathable bag (paper or cloth) to store masks during outdoor breaks and/or when soiled.
- Staff and students are encouraged to use the self-screening app prior to arriving at school daily.
- Learn more about the self-assessment and verification process at www.tdsb.on.ca/healthscreening.
- ServiceNow Health Screening App: To expedite entry into the school, students and staff can provide verification of their self-assessment using the TDSB Health Screening App and obtaining a QR code. The verification is live for 24 hours but families can screen for each day starting at any point after midnight for the next school day. Any student with a mobile device can show the corresponding QR code, which confirms that they have completed the self-assessment, allowing them to immediately enter the school. Information from those who used the TDSB Health Screening App to conduct the self-assessment will be available to school staff on a database, prior to students entering the building. Each school will use an iPad or SmartPhone (for each entry door) to access the NOW MOBILE App to the Screening Station Option which automatically links to the school's student and staff data.
- Staff and students will enter through the designated doors with a screening station to verify their self-assessment. At administration sites, staff are to use the designated doors and are encouraged to use the app to confirm their self-assessment.
- There will be a staggered start for elementary students over September 15, 16 and 17. Start dates are based on grade configuration in each school for each grade level and can be found here: <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Return-to-School>
- The Toronto District School Board follows direction from the Government of Ontario, who has provided a recommended process for school boards to follow in the event of a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 in a school. The TDSB also works together with Toronto Public Health who is responsible for determining if an outbreak exists, declaring an outbreak, and providing direction on outbreak control measures to be implemented as well as supporting contact tracing efforts.

- **Operational guidance: COVID-19 management in schools:**
<https://www.ontario.ca/page/operational-guidance-covid-19-management-schools>

Extended Day Programs:

- TDSB's directly operated Extended Day Programs offer before- and after-school programming for students in JK to Grade 6 in 18 elementary schools. Staff are currently in the process of confirming enrolments for each site and communicating updated policies to families, as required by Toronto Public Health and the Ministry of Education. TDSB has a cost recovery mandate for EDP however recognizes how important these programs are for families. At this time, it is difficult to predict if all 18 sites will receive a sufficient number of registrations to be considered viable.

Additional Spacing:

- Using the Registration Results and the Teaching Staff Allocation, Planning staff have worked with Superintendents and Principals to develop space plans for those elementary schools anticipated to be full. As a result of the number of students choosing to attend the Virtual School, there are no elementary schools that require satellite sites for the start of the school year.
- Schools will be fully utilizing all space in their buildings for classes such as:
 - i. Gyms
 - ii. Libraries
 - iii. Lunchrooms
 - iv. Cafeterias
 - v. Specialty rooms (e.g. music room)
 - vi. Classroom-sized staffrooms (staffroom moved to another space in the building)
 - vii. Classroom-sized Home School Program rooms (HSP moved to another space in the building)

Other concerns and specific questions:

- All schools are equipped with more than enough shipments of PPE and cleaning supplies to ensure students and staff are provided with adequate protection.
- Vaccinations for Students Vaccinations for Hepatitis B, HPV and Menactra in Grade 7/8 schools are suspended for the fall of 2020. Students will be able to get vaccinated at Toronto Public Health community clinics later in the fall.
- School boards are exploring with the City and Ministry on different options for faster COVID testing.
- At the moment, there are not enough nurses to be stationed in every school.
- School council meetings will resume but will not be conducted within the school.
- The TDSB aims to create a continued relationship between parents of the same home school whether their children attend in-person or online learning. School council protocols are being developed.

- Volunteer hours for high school students:
Contact local social service agencies for opportunities:
<https://www.slyenetwork.com/youth>
<https://www.agincourtcommunityservices.com/community-engagement>
<https://www.cicscanada.com/en/content/27/community-and-volunteer-engagement>
<https://youthlink.ca/>
https://www.volunteertoronto.ca/networking/opening_search.asp
- Elementary math curriculum by grade:
<https://www.dcp.edu.gov.on.ca/en/curriculum/elementary-mathematics>
- Junior Kindergarten virtual school
Curriculum:
<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/elementary/kindergarten.html>
Expectation:

| Synchronous Learning | Kindergarten |
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| Whole Group Instruction | 5-6 sessions per day for short periods of time |
| Guided Instruction and Independent Work (Teacher oversees work and is available for questions) | 2 sessions per day |
| Synchronous (live virtual) Check & Connect | 2 sessions per day |
| Time in Minutes | 180 |

For updates and meeting notes of other meetings, please access www.tdsb.on.ca/wong