

# Trustee Update



Stephanie Donaldson

Ward 9: Davenport & Spadina - Fort York

Toronto District School Board

416-395-8787 • [Stephanie.Donaldson@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:Stephanie.Donaldson@tdsb.on.ca)



Teachers and Staff at Oakwood C.I. Wear Black Lives Matter t-shirts to welcome students back.

<https://www.blogto.com/city/2020/09/toronto-high-school-black-lives-matter-shirts/>

## Download COVID Alert Today

As you know, a new Bluetooth-based COVID-19 contact tracing app developed in Canada was rolled out for testing in Ontario on July 31. Although the app is strictly voluntary, I urge everyone to download it. Privacy is respected.



For more information, please click <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19/covid-alert.html>.

## COVID-19: Reduce Virus Spread

The best way to keep our kids in school right now is to ensure everyone is following public health guidelines to prevent community spread. This is the most critical thing we can do. Let's all do what we can. **Watch your distance. Wear your mask. Wash your hands.**



### From the Chair of the Board of Health - Joe Cressy, September 25, 2020

"Today's announcements are not a silver bullet. We still need to boost our testing capacity across the province, so that people aren't waiting in line for hours to get a COVID-19 test. We need the Ontario Government and the Federal Government to work together to roll out rapid at-home surveillance testing options, which can be implemented in high-risk schools and work places. We need improvements to the lab reporting system, so that public health units can access real-time results. We need improvements to data sharing, so that we can effectively enforce the mandatory isolation requirements under the federal *Quarantine Act*.

We need stronger protections and supports for people in areas that have been hit the hardest by this virus – whether they are employees at a workplace, clients of a shelter or long-term care home, or residents in high-transmission groups and neighbourhoods...

We have a window of opportunity to turn this trend around. If we act quickly to keep people safe, and stay committed to each doing our part, I believe that we can still prevent a staggering second wave in our city."



## Mask and Face Covering Requirements - Updated

In response to rising confirmed cases of COVID

-19 in Toronto, the GTA and elsewhere in Ontario, health agencies, and provincial and municipal governments are reviewing and updating health and safety measures in an attempt to reduce the spread of the virus. The TDSB is also reviewing its health and safety measures and making changes where needed. The TDSB's Mask Guidelines have been updated in light of increases in confirmed COVID-19 cases, as well as confirmed cases among school staff and students. The guidelines have also been updated to provide additional direction regarding mask exemption requests. Important changes are highlighted in yellow throughout the updated Mask Guidelines.

**These Mask Guidelines have been developed to address our collective responsibility to follow public health and Ministry of Education requirements known to be effective in combatting the transmission of COVID-19.**

Unless an exemption applies that would allow a student, staff or visitor to attend in person without a mask, the wearing of appropriate masks is mandatory at TDSB schools or buildings. This document provides guidance to superintendents, principals, managers, staff, visitors, parents and students on the TDSB's and the Ministry of Education's mask requirements, as well as including information about exemptions.

**Read the TDSB's updated Mask**

**Guidelines** <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/0/docs/TDSBMaskGuidelinesUpdatedSeptember24.pdf>

---

## COVID-19 Guidance

**The TDSB takes its health direction from Toronto Public Health.** Each day, before coming to school or work, students and staff should conduct a self-assessment of how they are feeling. Once you've done that, some parents have been asking for a flow chart to make it easier to understand what to do if their child has symptoms of COVID-19. Please follow the steps in the decision guide from Toronto Public Health (see flowchart below).

The webpage also contains links to assessment centres, online test results, information on what to do if a child tests positive, and what happens if a child does not get tested. For more information, please click <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Return-to-School/Health-and-Safety/COVID-19-Guidance>.

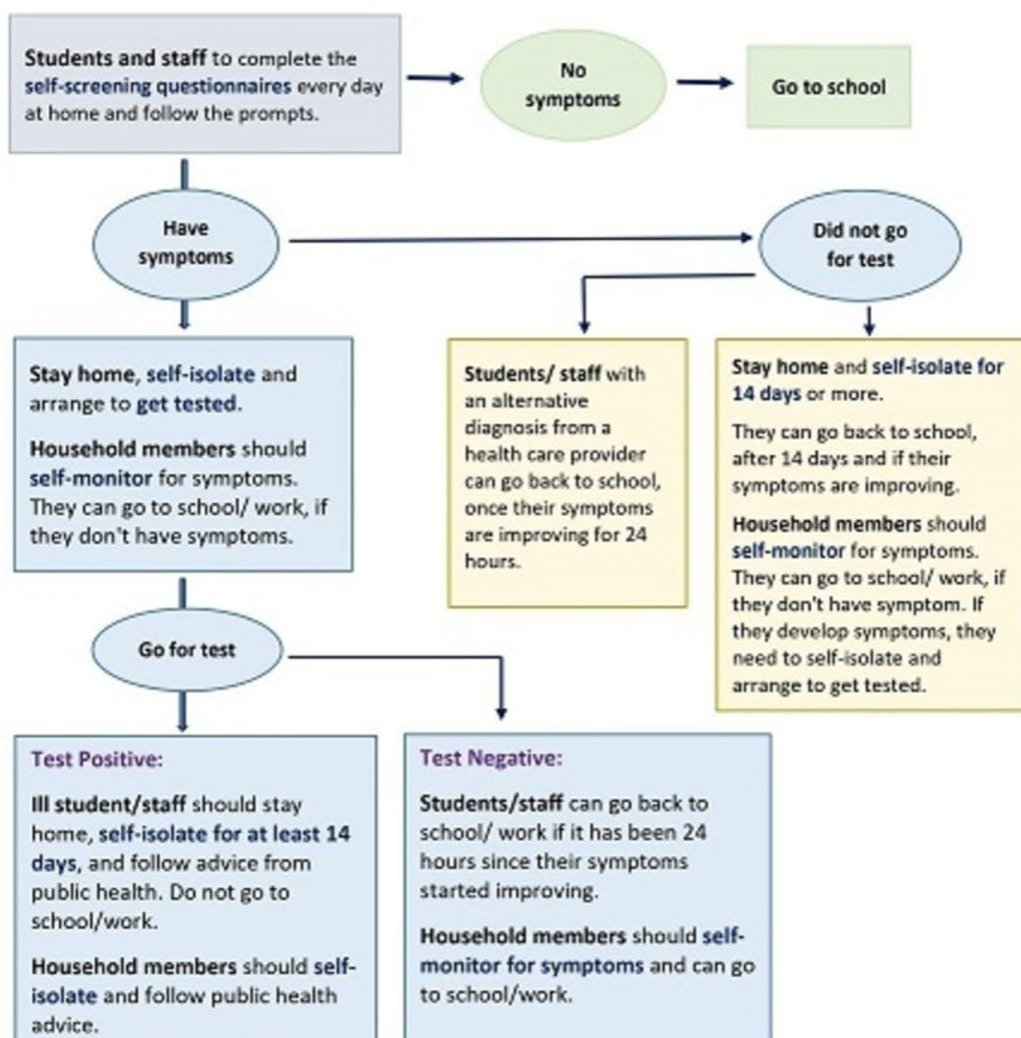
**COVID-19 Advisories** - We are continuing to work closely with Toronto Public Health (TPH) on all cases, including any necessary communications to families and school communities. This webpage - <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Return-to-School/covid-19-advisories> - provides a list of the active confirmed cases of COVID-19 among students and/or staff in TDSB schools. Please note that all schools where there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 who was contagious while at school will receive a letter from TPH to inform them about the possible exposure. For more information on the TDSB Response Plan with regard to COVID-19 case management for schools and administrative sites, click [here](#).

# COVID-19 School Decision Guide

Updated September 24, 2020

For all situations listed in the flow chart below:

- If the student or staff has symptoms and has been in close contact with a person who has COVID-19, the ill student/staff will need to self-isolate for 14 days. Their household members will need to stay home and self-isolate until COVID-19 is ruled out.
- Anyone who has travelled outside of Canada is required to self-isolate for 14 days. Their household members do not need to self-isolate if they have not travelled, if they don't have symptoms and they are not a close contact of a positive case.



416.338.7600 [toronto.ca/health](https://toronto.ca/health) | TORONTO Public Health

## Returning to School

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Return-to-School>

For more details, please click on the links below that will bring you right to

# SAFE RETURN To School Detailed Plan

## the information

- [In-Person Elementary](#)
- [Elementary Virtual School](#)
- [In-Person Secondary](#)
- [Secondary Virtual School](#)
- [Exemptions - Request to be Exempt from the Minimum Requirements of Synchronous Learning](#)
- [Switching Between In-Person Learning and the Virtual School](#)
- [Daily Health Screening](#)
- [Mask/Face Coverings Required](#)
- [Daily Checklist - Elementary](#)
- [Daily Checklist - Secondary](#)
- [Resources for Preparing for Back to School](#)
- [Mental Health and Well-Being Resources](#)
- [Questions and Answers](#)
- [Safe Return to School - Detailed Plan](#)
- [Response Plans for Covid-19 Cases](#)
- [TDSB Return to School Video](#)
- [Learning and Instruction](#)
- [Health and Safety](#)
- [Operations - Transportation and Before and After School Programs](#)



## Elementary Virtual School Updates

This is an update to parents/guardians and families in the TDSB Elementary Virtual School to provide information for families/students who are already assigned a teacher and connected to a Brightspace

classroom, and also for families/students not yet connected.

### **Parents/Students Currently Without a Teacher Assignment**

Work continued through the weekend to hire teachers — an issue being faced by a number of school boards in the area — and have classrooms up and running by mid-to-late next week. Currently, we are looking to

hire approximately 150 teachers between English and French Immersion/Extended French programs. We are making progress and anticipate that all positions will be filled over the next few days. All teachers are provided with two days of Brightspace training and will have their virtual classrooms up and running mid-to-late next week.

Please continue to access the [independent learning resources webpage](#) where more resources, activities and live teacher-led videos have been added for the second week.

### **IT Support**

As a reminder, if you are experiencing account and/or password issues, please access support by [completing this form](#). Once the information has been verified, login and password information for your child will be emailed to you. Additionally, you can [access Brightspace support 24 hours a day](#).

### **Principal Contact Information**

We understand that you may have questions or concerns and would like to speak directly with someone at your child's Virtual Elementary School. Please find Principal contact information by grade below.

Learning Centre 4

Grades K to 3: Susan Yun - [susan.yun@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:susan.yun@tdsb.on.ca)

Grades 4 to 8: Mary Salvarinas - [Mary.Salvarinas@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:Mary.Salvarinas@tdsb.on.ca)

### **Virtual School Teacher Absences**

Please be aware that, at this time, it may not be possible to provide a replacement teacher to cover classes when the classroom teacher is absent. Students are encouraged to complete work that has been assigned by the classroom teacher or are encouraged to access the available resources and videos on the [Asynchronous Learning Activities webpage](#).

#### **Deadline to Switch Between Elementary Virtual School and In-Person Learning**

**As a reminder, 4 p.m. on September 30 is the deadline for elementary students to request a switch between the Virtual School and in-person (in-school) learning.** Families who would like to request a switch from the Virtual School to in-person learning must complete the [Virtual School Opt-Out online form](#) before the deadline. [Learn more about switching between the Virtual School and in-person learning](#), including upcoming key dates. ***Please note: For families who do not yet have a teacher assigned or have not yet connected with a teacher in Virtual School, please be assured that the TDSB will proceed with assigning your child a teacher and class as soon as possible, as noted above.***

---

## Brightspace Support

Brightspace's (D2L) suite of online learning tools is provided to all Ontario

school districts by the Ministry of Education and is fully supported for use in TDSB by staff and students. The Brightspace online learning platform is used across TDSB by teachers K - 12 for



blended learning, documenting student learning and fully online e-Learning courses. Please visit the "Brightspace Tools" page for more information and resources on the tools available in the Brightspace online learning platform. For Brightspace support - <https://sites.google.com/tdsb.on.ca/tdsbvle/home>.

### Brightspace links:

- [Introduction to Brightspace Tools & Functions](#)
- [An Introduction to Navigating Brightspace For Families](#)
- [Youtube Playlist for Students on How to Use Brightspace](#)
- [Contact Brightspace for Support 24/7](#)

### More technology links:

[Google Classroom Student Login Instructions for Parents/Guardians](#)

[Brightspace Student Login Instructions for Parents/Guardians](#)

[Student Virtual Learning IT Support](#) (including live webchat Mon-Fri 8am-5pm)

---

**your tdsb virtual library** available for you online anytime, anywhere

**TDSB Virtual Library**

Did you know that your child can get help from their school library even when they're not at school?

Please click here for more information <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/library/>

Please click here for a video tutorial to help you access the TDSB Virtual Library from home.

3 ways to find the Virtual Library | 1 tdsb.on.ca & search "Find Your School" | 2 log on to av.tdsb.on.ca & click "My Home" tab | 3 search online for "school name" TDSB-virtual library

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/12WHqW3q113sIDdTqC8MsdlUKrD5Q8zal/view>

---

## Board Meeting This Week

The Toronto District School Board is committed to developing opportunities for our wider school community to connect and engage in conversations about education issues. Meetings will be broadcasted live to the public. Click here at the start time to view - <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Leadership/Boardroom/Live-Webcast-of-Meetings>.

**Governance and Policy Committee - Wednesday, September 30, 2020 4:30 p.m.**

### Electronic Meeting

- 4. [Information Flow Protocol: New Governance Procedure](#)
- 5. [P047, Naming of Schools and Special Purpose Areas Review, Phase 2: Status Update](#)
- 6. [PR697, Promoting a Positive School Climate: Revised](#)

7. Notices of Motion for Consideration
- 7.1 [Membership on the Director's Performance Appraisal Committee](#) (Trustees Pilkey and Doyle)
  - 7.2 [Board Bylaws Amendments](#) (Trustee Li, on behalf of Trustee Story and Trustee Doyle)

**Committee of the Whole (Special Meeting) - Thursday, October 1, 2020 4:30 p.m.**  
**Electronic Meeting**

The purpose of the meeting is to hear delegations regarding the Director of Education Search Criteria.

3. Delegations

---

## Information from PIAC

Please note the message below from Ward 9's PIAC Representatives. For more information, visit the [TDSB school council webpage](#).



Dear Ward 9 School Council Chairs/Co-Chairs:

We hope this email finds you well. As leaders in your parent communities, we thank you for all the support you have provided to your school communities during the pandemic. We know that much of this work has been done without any firm guidance to School Councils as to how they should operate going forward.

We're pleased to report there are now operational guidelines for School Councils at the TDSB. The below communication from Interim Associate Director Karen Falconer was informed by PIAC, which includes parent representatives from all wards in the TDSB. We hope this helps guide your School Council operations this year, with specific reference to communications, meetings, elections and fundraising.

An important point many of you have wondered about is whether School Councils can include parents with children in virtual learning at the TDSB. After conversations with the Ministry, it has been confirmed that they can participate in their school council. In fact, having a strong contingent of virtual and in-school parents on School Council will be important to help create a strong sense of school community during this period.

We will continue to work with our Trustee for Ward 9, Stephanie Donaldson, to communicate important information as it becomes available. As your PIAC representatives, we are always interested in learning how we can best advocate for School Councils in Ward 9. Please feel free to reach out to us directly at [PIAC.Ward09@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:PIAC.Ward09@tdsb.on.ca), or to our personal emails - [andrew.waters.piac@gmail.com](mailto:andrew.waters.piac@gmail.com) or [orcecile.farnum@gmail.com](mailto:orcecile.farnum@gmail.com)



## **“School Council Operations - COVID-19 Reopening**

Parent/Caregiver engagement and partnership remains a high priority for TDSB schools.

As the TDSB implements the return to school plan, staff is focusing collective efforts on the continuation of learning and the well-being of students and staff while doing our best to stay connected to family/caregivers and School Councils.

We recognize that it is not business as usual for anyone and that some families may face barriers to their participation in School Council meetings and other activities. We must try to balance these different realities in our approach as School Councils engage in activities this school year.

TDSB staff and the Parent and Community Engagement Office (PCEO) acknowledge the work of the Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC) in supporting School Councils and schools in developing a common understanding and direction of School Council continuation and operations.

With these important considerations in mind, the following protocols are effective immediately for School Councils:

### Communication

SC Messenger and ZOOM will be provided by TDSB during the month of September for School Councils to enable School Council Chairs/Co-Chairs/Vice Chairs an opportunity to become oriented with the tools;

§ Principals are asked to activate the TDSB’s School Council Chair/Co-Chair/Vice Chair email account to ensure their access to the Council’s Zoom license and Messenger. Instructions to do so can be found at: [http://tdsbweb.tdsb.on.ca/principals\\_site/Parent-and-Community-Engagement/School-Councils](http://tdsbweb.tdsb.on.ca/principals_site/Parent-and-Community-Engagement/School-Councils);

§ Protocols for School Messenger usage by School Councils will be posted on the Principal’s page under Parent and Community Engagement;

§ Principals will continue to facilitate School Council meetings using Google or Zoom. Councils will use the School Council Zoom account to facilitate executive, working group meetings as well as for community networking.

### Meetings

School Council executive and working group meetings may be held;

School Council meetings may be held or postponed until October, 2020;

The existing School Council membership remains in office until the date of the first meeting of the School Council after the elections (under Education Act, O. Reg. 612/00: School Councils and Parent Involvement Committees);

School Council meetings should be held virtually given the new protocols on numbers allowed to meet in

person. Further guidelines will follow.

### Elections

With 14 days' notice, elections of parent members of School Council will be held within 30 days after school re-opening, which will be by the week of October 19, 2020 where feasible;

- § Virtual school parents/caregivers are eligible to be members of their home School Council. They are eligible to hold executive positions (e.g. voting membership, chair, etc.);
- § All other election/appointment of School Council non-parent/caregiver members may be held in the same timeline;
- § Notifications for Council elections and nominations process may now begin;
- § Schools are required to ensure that all families are informed of the School Council elections. Notice may be provided via School Messenger (phone/e-mail, virtual school newsletters, posting on website, flyers posted on school door or fence etc.). All efforts possible to notify parent/caregivers must be made although the challenges of the current Covid context may preclude paper distributions to students;
- § Election notification must include a nomination form (Virtual School) or email/call-in nomination process with set date/time for the opening and the closing of nominations, date/time of the elections and the process for casting ballots.

### Fundraising

All School Council fundraising except for the School Cash Online and online donation module and in-kind donations in compliance with TDSB fundraising policies and procedures, will be postponed until November 1, 2020. Information on cash online donation can be found

at: <https://tdsb.schoolcashionline.com/Fee/Details/457/153/false/true;>

For safety reasons, TDSB cannot allow fundraising for HEPA air filters; HVAC related items. The rentals and or purchase of tents is also not permissible at this time;

It is important to note that the TDSB has been working over the summer to review building ventilation and filtration systems and is implementing a number of strategies to improve ventilation in our schools and to increase the volume of fresh air to the maximum extent possible;

We continue to follow our practice which prohibits fundraising for anything the government would typically cover. In the coming weeks, we will be providing additional guidelines to help support schools and School Councils with regards to fundraising.

During these unprecedented times, we are called upon to act and to pivot where necessary to respond to our changing environment.

School Councils are an excellent way for you to get involved in your child's education. Every TDSB school has an elected School Council. Your School Council is an important forum for involving parents/family and community in matters that impact the education of students."



# Director of Education Search - Consultation

Please note an additional opportunity to hear from you regarding the Director's Search Criteria has been added -

## Key Dates

- Stakeholder Consultations Continue on [Search Criteria](#) - Public Delegations, Oct. 1, 2020 - [Click here for Delegation Process](#)
- Final Approval of Director Search Criteria - Committee of the Whole, followed by a Special Board Meeting, Oct. 6, 2020
- Candidate Recruitment - Job Posting: Oct 7, 2020; Job Closing: Oct 28, 2020
- November - Candidate Interviews and Assessment; Candidate Selection

For more information please click [here](#).

---

# orange SHIRT DAY

Wednesday, September 30, 2020

Orange Shirt Day is an annual event that started in 2013 to recognize the legacy of the Residential School System for First Nations, Métis and Inuit families and communities. It is a show of support and understanding of the history of the school system that impacts many Indigenous families today.

Please join us from 12:00 - 12:30 PM for a Virtual Circle to commemorate Orange Shirt Day by joining our Google Meet

[meet.google.com/jbq-frnr-bvw](https://meet.google.com/jbq-frnr-bvw)

**How do you  
support  
Indigenous  
Education  
every day?**



Check out "What is Orange Shirt Day"

[\*\*CLICK HERE\*\*](#)

## Orange Shirt Day

Established in 2013, Orange Shirt Day recognizes the legacy of the Residential Schools System for First Nations, Métis and Inuit families and communities. By wearing orange, we acknowledge the history of Residential Schools in Canada and we honour Survivors.

On Wednesday, September 30, 2020 wear orange to participate in Orange Shirt Day.

Follow [@UIEC\\_tdsb](#) and [@tdsb](#) on Twitter to see how students and staff from across the Toronto

District School Board recognize Orange Shirt Day. For more information, visit the [Urban Indigenous Education Centre website](#).

---

## Indigenous Trustee Panel

The Canadian School Boards' Association (CSBA) is proud to host a Virtual Indigenous Trustee Panel on Thursday October 8 at 1:00 Eastern.



- Topic: We're ready now, let's talk.
- Time: Oct 8, 2020 1:00 PM Eastern Time (Canada)

A panel of experienced Indigenous leaders will explore questions related to their role as trustees. Moderated by Renee St. Germain – Assembly of First Nations Director of Education and member of the CSBA Board of Directors, panelists will share their invaluable expertise and experience. Topics include: How to move away from tokenism towards actual diversity; Why school boards should reflect those they serve; Anti-racist professional development for trustees; Next steps in moving beyond TRC recommendations to meaningful change; and, The importance of accountability. For more information click <http://www.cdnsba.org/all/announcements/indigenous-trustee-panel>.

---

## Policy Consultations

We would like to know your thoughts about our policy decisions by inviting you to our policy consultations. Please click on the policy of your interest to see the current draft. You are welcome to provide your comments, including suggestions on the wording and provisions of the draft policies, questions or recommendations using the contact information below.

**Records and Information Management Policy - [Draft New Policy](#)** Email: [rim@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:rim@tdsb.on.ca)

- **Objective:** The Records and Information Management Policy supports the Toronto District School Board's commitment to the effective, efficient and secure management of recorded information, regardless of format or media. The Policy is consistent with subsection 171. (1), par. 38 of the *Education Act* which states the Board may institute a program of records and information management.

**Specialized Schools and Programs Policy - [Draft New Policy](#)** Video: <https://youtu.be/r2mTJHUTIoA> Survey: <https://bit.ly/3cvDsBS>

- **Objective:** To affirm the Board's commitment to providing focused specialized programming in both local schools and in district-wide specialized schools or programs, and to improving access for all students to these programs. Learn more: <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/High-School/Secondary-Program-Review> Email: [secondaryreview@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:secondaryreview@tdsb.on.ca)

**Parent and Community Involvement Policy**

- **Objective:** To establish a framework for building and supporting parent and community

involvement in the Toronto District School Board. We are currently reviewing [P023 – Parent and Community Involvement Policy](#) and are inviting feedback from our community as we develop the first draft of the policy. Learn more, and share your voice, at [www.tdsbengage.ca](http://www.tdsbengage.ca)

#### Advertising and Distribution of Materials Policy - [Draft Revised Policy](#)

Email: [businessdevelopment@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:businessdevelopment@tdsb.on.ca)

**Objective:** The Advertising and Distribution of Materials Policy supports the implementation of the legislative requirement under Ontario Regulation 298, section 24 of the *Education Act* which governs advertisements and announcements in a school, on school property, or to pupils of these schools. The Policy's objective is to establish parameters related to advertising on Board property, including distribution of advertising materials to students, parents/guardians and staff.

## SECONDARY PROGRAM REVIEW

### Secondary Program Review

*Our vision is for all students to have equitable access to stronger programs and richer opportunities – as close to home as possible. This is the driving force of the Secondary Program Review, which, for the first time ever,*

*is reviewing all TDSB secondary schools at once to develop a plan to address the inequities and imbalances throughout our current system.*

The [Secondary Program Review Interim Report](#) highlights the issues, gaps, and needs facing our system that are impacting our ability to support this vision. **There is still time to share your feedback** - Students, parents, staff and community members can continue to provide feedback and further insight through delegations and their local Trustee, by email to [secondaryreview@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:secondaryreview@tdsb.on.ca). **The Secondary Program Review Final Report will be presented to the Board in October 2020.**

## School Year Calendar 2020-2021

The official school year calendar for the Toronto District School Board runs from September 1 to June 30, inclusive and has now been approved by the Ministry.

- First day of classes for students - **In-Class Elementary entry staggered September 15-17. In-Class Secondary, either Thursday September 17 or Friday September 18 based on the cohort assignment. We are no longer staggering entry to the Virtual School. Both Elementary and Secondary Virtual Schools will open on September 22.**
- The last day of class for elementary students is June 29
- **Updated Secondary Quadmester Calendar**
- **Quad 1: Sept. 17 - Nov 17 + exams Nov 18 & 19**  
**Quad 2: Nov. 23 - Feb 2 + exams Feb 3 & 4**  
**Quad 3: Feb 8 - April 20 + exams April 21 & 22**  
**Quad 4: April 23 - June 23 + exams June 24, 25 & 28**

# PA Days & Holidays Remaining

**Thanksgiving** October 12, 2020

Board-wide PA Day November 20, 2020

**Winter Break** Dec 21, 2020 - January 1, 2021

Elementary PA Day January 15, 2021

Secondary PA Day (Semestered Schools Only) February 5, 2021

Board-wide PA Day February 12, 2021

**Family Day** February 15, 2021

**March Break** March 15 – 19, 2021

**Good Friday** April 2, 2021

**Easter Monday** April 5, 2021

**Victoria Day** May 24, 2021

Elementary School PA Day June 4, 2021

Secondary School PA Day June 29, 2021



[Manage](#) your preferences | [Opt out](#) using [TrueRemove](#)®

Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.

View this email [online](#).

5050 Yonge St.  
Toronto, Ontario | M2N 5N8 CA

This email was sent to .  
*To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.*