



Dear Central Families,

Happy New Year to you all. I hope you had an opportunity to enjoy the holiday season. I do realize this is not the way we wanted to begin the school year in January; therefore, I am writing to share what to expect, as students return to full in-person instruction next week on Monday January 10.

Functional Closures

As you may have heard in the news this week, the Provincial Health Officer has warned businesses to expect as much as a third of their staff to be off sick with COVID-19 at any given time. Schools reflect what is happening in the community and – as Superintendent Gina Niccoli-Moen shared in her [message to families last week](#) – there is a possibility that, at some point, schools may not have enough staff to provide the required level of teaching, supervision, and/or custodial support to ensure the health and safety of students. If that happens, after consultation with the District, we may have what's called a functional closure.

We will do everything we can to keep our school open. If we do have to call a functional closure, I will be reaching out to let you know. Please ensure you are checking your email messages from the school, as depending on when we learn of staff booking off sick, it is possible you will receive a message in the morning impacting that same school day.

If there is a functional closure, we will endeavor to move to remote learning as quickly as we can, however depending on available staff, that may not happen the next day.

I recognize that the pandemic has once again thrust a period of uncertainty on us all. Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation. You can learn more about functional closures on the front page of the district website [here](#).

Health and Safety

Please read and review (with our students) the following health and safety measures that all students and families are expected to follow.

All students will watch a **new Health & Safety Power Point presentation** in class during period 1 on Monday morning. We will have this presentation on our website as well. The Central Health and Safety Team has added new health and safety protocols which will come into effect on Monday, January 10th. Please see below:

Preventing Crowding

Students will see **directional signage**, in the form of red arrows, along hallway floors, stairwells and walls. This will promote a steady flow in two directions throughout the hallways.

New lunchtime Protocol will include all classrooms open for students to have lunch in the classroom they will eventually move into right after their lunch break. On Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday that is their Period 3 classroom. On Thursday that is their Period 4 classroom. We will be encouraging students to eat when they are seated and not wandering around the school eating through hallways without masks on. Our cafeteria tables will not be in operation to avoid crowding. Our cafeteria will be closed until Semester 2 and will then be running a grab and go food options for students. If a student is having a problem finding a place to eat, please let the Admin know asap and we will help them out.

Students are being asked to **Enter and Exit the building** in a different manner starting January 10th. We ask all Grade 8 and Grade 9 students to enter through the main/front entrance each day. We ask all Grade 10 to Grade 12 students to enter through our three parking lot entrances. There are two parking lot entrances on the side of the school by Deer Lake parkway and the third on our lower level by the back parking. We ask all students to leave the school each day based on **their nearest EXIT**; in other words, we want students to be prepared to exit quickly. Custodians will commence cleaning protocol right after school ends for the day.

We have created a schedule for **new Controlled/Staggered classroom breaks** during the day. Teachers have been informed and will share this information with their students on day 1.

We will have **no spectators** at our **athletic events** until further notice. We will conduct our **assemblies virtually**.

Visitors in Schools

We are limiting access to the building to students, school staff, and essential adults who are directly supporting activities benefitting student learning and wellbeing. Please contact the school office should you wish to arrange a virtual appointment.

Masks, Maximizing Physical Distance, Hand Hygiene and Cleaning

The following remains important:

- **Masks.** A reminder that students in all grades and all staff are required to wear a mask indoors at school.
- **Physical Distancing.** We will continue our practice of maximizing physical distance where possible. At this stage in the pandemic many are understandably experiencing fatigue, and we thank you in advance for continuing to model physical distancing with other families while on school grounds.
- **Hand Hygiene.** We will continue to encourage students to wash and/or sanitize their hands frequently.
- **Cleaning.** Surfaces are cleaned and/or disinfected at least once a day.

Daily Health Check

It remains critical that people continue to do the daily health check (found [here](#)) each morning to determine if they should come into the building that day. Please do not come to school ill. If a student becomes sick while at school, as previously, the office will contact you for immediate pick up of your child.

School Notification Process and Rapid Tests

As you may have heard in the announcement from the Provincial Government today, public health is no longer providing individual COVID-19 exposure notifications regarding schools. They shared that public health has transitioned to individual self-management (that is, individuals caring for themselves and engaging with health care providers when needed). We are awaiting information about the role schools may play in public health's rapid antigen testing strategy

In closing, we do look forward to working with everyone again and we welcome our students back to enjoy a safe and healthy year with us.

Sincerely,



Dianne Carr
Principal