

Dear Greyhound family:

We would like to start by saying that we hope that you have had a safe and healthy summer that included lots of quality time with those you love most. We want to thank you for your patience and cooperation in helping us to prepare to welcome students back to Garrison Road for the first time in more than 6 months.

The purpose of this communication is to provide you with information about your child's class placement and to outline some important guidelines for the first weeks of school.

Please note that, as always, class placements are tentative. Though we have worked to accurately predict enrollment and we create classes based on these predictions, organizations can change. In addition to providing the name of your child's teacher, we have included the start date.

Your Grade __ child will begin this year in _____ class and the first day of school will be on Wednesday, September 9.

In terms of school supplies, please feel free to shop but it is not, in any way, mandatory. We will provide supplies for students who don't have them. For Grade 2, we recommend pencils, crayons and coloured pencils, a glue stick, a metric ruler, and headphones. We also recommend that you send a labelled reusable water bottle. Although less important now that the weather is nice, we ask that students have a pair of indoor shoes as well. All of our students will be spending a significant amount of time outside so we ask that they dress for the weather each day (keeping in mind that the weather can change drastically from the start of the school day to the end)!

Our students in Grades 4 through 8 will be expected to wear masks and students in Grade 3 and younger are encouraged to wear masks. We will have masks in reserve for those who don't have them!

When our students arrive each morning, they will proceed directly to a designated spot on the playground. That spot is where their class community will mingle at a safe distance under supervision of school staff. On the first week, each teacher will be outside to meet the students and we will have school staff helping to direct the flow and encourage distancing. Students arriving by bus will exit the bus and follow the flow to their designated spots. If you are driving your child to school, we recommend that you enter the driveway and pull right up to the front sidewalk nearest the office. We will have staff directing children to their class communities from that location. If you are able to park, we ask that you walk to the kinder gates and leave your child with our staff member at that point. One of our goals is to reduce congestion in terms of parents so we ask that you be mindful, as always, of distancing. We will also ask that parents and guardians do not enter our playground areas or school (without an appointment).

Because our parking lot is so congested even under “normal” circumstances, we are inviting parents to consider parking nearby and walking their children to school. We have crossing guards every morning and after school. We think this a way to get a little physical activity in and research shows that promotes learning too!

Our dismissal procedures will be similar. Students will go to their designated spots on the playground and wait to be called either to their bus or to an awaiting parent. If you drive or walk up, tell the staff member for whom you are waiting and we will bring the children out.

Please be assured that we will endeavor to keep everyone safe and healthy and we will also do our best to communicate changes to protocols as they occur. If you know someone who is not receiving emails from us, please ask them to call our office or email grd@dsbn.org to have their email address put on file.

Please note that I have attached the *Parent Return to School Guide* and *Preparing for a Mentally Healthy Return to School* documents which are on the DSBN web site and were shared in August.

We are so excited to be welcoming students back to school and we wish you a lovely and safe Labour Day weekend!

Kindest regards,

Katie Racey, Principal, Garrison Road