

GORSEBROOK JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
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Gorsebrook News
August 28th, 2020

Dear Parents & Guardians,

We recognize the return to school in these uncertain times is anxiety provoking for all involved. Today's newsletter will include some basic information around the logistics of students returning to school.

All students are returning to school as outlined in Nova Scotia's *Back to School Plan*. To learn more about the plan, visit www.novascotia.ca/backtoschool.

We realize there is a lot of information here to digest, which is why we are sending it out in stages.

Additional information will follow next week on Wednesday, September 2nd and again on Friday September 4th. We will include information on the first day of school (arrival times), HRCE provided masks, entry doors, homeroom information, etc...).

Kind Regards,
Mark MacPhee
Principal

Daily COVID Checklist

Students and staff will need to be screened for COVID each morning before leaving for school. Attached to this e-mail is the COVID19 checklist. Please screen your child each morning, and if they are displaying any signs of illness do not send them to school and contact 811 or public health.

Masks

All students are asked to wear a mask when social distancing is not possible. If your child has a medical reason that prevents them from being able to wear a mask, please contact school administration to make them aware.

Hand Washing Stations

Each classroom will be equipped with hand sanitizer which students will need to use when both entering and exiting the classrooms.

Social Distancing

Students and staff are asked to social distance wherever and whenever possible. We are in the process of removing any unnecessary furniture in classrooms to maximize our space.

School Day

Our school start time remains 8:55am. Teachers will be on duty each morning in their classrooms starting at 8:35. Students, when they arrive between 8:35-8:55, should proceed to their designated door, enter and go directly to their classroom where their teacher will supervise them until classes

begin. Students should not arrive onto school property prior to 8:35am as there will be no supervision and congregating outside their homeroom cohort on the school grounds is not allowed under current public health orders.

We will have a staggered dismissal at lunchtime and at the end of the day to avoid having crowding in our hallways.

Lunch Breaks

Grade 9: 12:00-1:05

Grade 8: 12:05- 1:10

Grade 7: 12:10- 1:15

End of Day

Grade9: 3:05

Grade 8: 3:10

Grade 7: 3:15

Lockers

Students are not permitted under current health guidelines to use lockers. They should bring their belongings to school in their backpack each day and take them home each evening so their classrooms can be cleaned.

Cohorting

Students will be with their homeroom cohort all day, each day. They will remain in their homeroom classroom and their subject area teachers will travel to them. They will be permitted to travel to a specialized elective space if required (Phys. Ed, Tech Ed, Art etc...). We will also be taking classes outside when possible. Our teachers will be working together to organize and schedule movement breaks for students. Please be patient as we figure out the most efficient way to do this.

Lunch Supervision

All students are eligible to stay at school for lunch. We will send home a lunch registration form on the first day and ask parents to fill it out and return it to us. Students will eat lunch in their classrooms and then, (weather permitting) go outside. Students will not have access to microwaves or toasters in classrooms during the lunch hour. Under current health guidelines, students are not allowed to socialize with other students outside their cohort even during unstructured time such as lunchtime. We would encourage students who can walk home to do so for the additional movement break.

Gorsebrook is currently hiring a lunch monitor; please contact the school if you or anyone you know is interested in this position.