



2020  
2021

PARENT RETURN  
TO SCHOOL GUIDE:  
**IN-CLASS ELEMENTARY**



## 2020-2021 PARENT RETURN TO SCHOOL GUIDE: IN-CLASS ELEMENTARY




# Hello DSBN Families!

## WHAT TO EXPECT FOR THE 2020/2021 SCHOOL YEAR START UP

We are so excited to be welcoming you back to school!

Although things will look different, we know with everyone's positive support, we will create an amazing, healthy and safe learning environment for our students.

## STAGGERED START

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
	September 7	September 8	September 9	September 10	September 11
When does my child attend school?	Labour Day - No School	Kindergarten Grade 1	Kindergarten Grade 1 Grade 2 Grade 3	Kindergarten Grade 1 Grade 2 Grade 3 Grade 4 Grade 5 Grade 6	Kindergarten Grade 1 Grade 2 Grade 3 Grade 4 Grade 5 Grade 6 Grade 7 Grade 8
			Low Enrollment Classes	Low Enrollment Classes	Low Enrollment Classes

To help ease your child's return to the 2020/2021 school year, the DSBN will be implementing a staggered entry return to school for elementary students. We apologize for the inconvenience that this staggered return may cause for your family, however we feel it will have benefits for your child:

Benefits of a staggered entry:

- Provide a calm environment to introduce our organized entry and dismissal procedures
- Allow students a gradual and thorough introduction to the enhanced health and safety guidelines within the school, and helping them learn new routines
- Allow staff to adapt their practices to meet the new safety standards with students

We encourage all students to begin on their scheduled staggered entry day to ensure they are part of the introduction to the health and safety routines.

Students will not be marked absent.

All schools will start the staggered entry on Tuesday, September 8 with their youngest students in the primary grades. The final group in the staggered entry process will be the oldest students, our intermediate grades. By Friday, September 11, all elementary students will have started school.

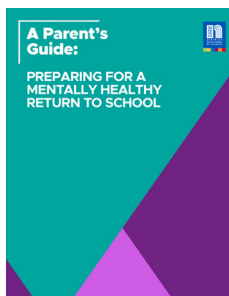
Most of our schools will follow a plan as outlined above. **A few of our smaller schools might not use the full week and they will let you know more information during the week of August 31st.**



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### THE WEEK LEADING UP TO SCHOOL - HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD PREPARE

When talking about school plans with your child, you can help determine your child's mindset. Consider not discussing your frustrations or worries with your children. Set them up for success by teaching them to make the best of it; assure them that every effort is being made to keep them safe.



*CLICK HERE  
for the DSBN  
Parent Guide:  
Preparing for  
a Mentally  
Healthy Return  
to School*



*DSBN Back To School Video*

### WEEK OF AUGUST 31

You will receive from your home school:

- Homeroom class placements and name of teacher
- Approximate location for your child's outside designated classroom zone

- Entry and dismissal protocol
- Any other school specific information

#### RETURN OF BORROWED DSBN TECHNOLOGY

For all other returns, you will receive more information to return technology the first week of school.

### THE FIRST DAYS OF SCHOOL

#### PARENT ROLE IN KEEPING OUR CHILDREN AND SCHOOL COMMUNITY SAFE

The DSBN Parental Agreement will be sent home on the first day of school or will be available on School Cash Online.

As acknowledged in the DSBN Parental Agreement, it is the responsibility of parents and caregivers to assess their children on a daily basis before sending them to school.

Please be sure to sign and return to your child's school.

#### TRANSPORTATION

Transportation will begin on your child's staggered start date.

If your child qualifies for busing, go to [www.nsts.ca](http://www.nsts.ca) for procedures and health and safety guidelines. Niagara Student Transportation Services is following Ministry of Education protocols for transportation.

The Ministry of Education will allow exemptions for students who have conditions that preclude them from wearing a mask. To request an exemption for your child, please contact your school principal regarding the process and documentation required.

#### DRIVING YOUR CHILD

Parents are also welcome to drive their child to school.

- Please follow the drop off procedure and traffic flow at your school.
- Please be patient, as we are expecting a busy parking lot!

#### GRADES 1-8 WHAT TO BRING

- **MASKS** (labelled with your child's name)...
- The DSBN will be following all mask guidelines as provided by the Ministry of Education and Niagara Region Public Health.
- Grade 1-8 students will require a non-medical mask each day.
- Please send a back up mask or two in a labelled ziploc bag or container, to keep in their backpack.
- Kindergarten students may choose to and will be encouraged to wear a mask.



*Click here to view*

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- The use of non-medical masks for students in Grades 1 to 12 are required on school vehicles. Students in Kindergarten are recommended to wear masks on the bus.

### • LABELLED OUTDOOR CLOTHING

In addition to fitness breaks, a portion of your child's day will include outdoor learning and breaks for mask relief. Please send your child to school dressed for the weather.



- LABELLED PAIR OF INDOOR SHOES
- LABELLED WATER BOTTLE
- LUNCH
- LABELLED BACKPACK
- LABELLED HAT AND SUNSCREEN

### • SCHOOL SUPPLIES

- We understand that many families like to purchase school supplies. As always, you are welcome to do this.
- However, the school will provide all necessary learning materials. As part of our Enhanced Health and Safety program, students will not be permitted to share school supplies.

*If you need these items, many of our community partners will be providing schools with supplies. Please let your school know.*

*Personal non-instructional items in their backpacks will be taken home each day.*

### CROSSING GUARDS

Crossing guard assignments and locations are currently expected to be the same as last year.

Due to staggered lunches, we can not guarantee that crossing guards will be available during lunch hours so please keep this in mind if you are planning to have your child go home for a lunch break.

### BREAKFAST & NUTRITION PROGRAMS

The full nutrition programs offered by schools will not be operating immediately.

Schools will still have “grab and go” snacks available starting soon.

### DO NOT ARRIVE TO SCHOOL TOO EARLY!

We will need time to set up zones and markings to be ready to greet your children. Due to the need to prevent crowding, and taking up space in the yard, parents will not be permitted on the school yard. There will be designated drop off areas.

Our top priority is the health and safety of our students, staff and school community. It is essential we plan for spacing and minimize direct and indirect contacts with staff and other students.

Thank you for doing your part to model physical distancing and your help to keep our school community safe.



### 15 MINUTES BEFORE SCHOOL START TIME

- Supervision staff on duty
- Students begin to arrive
  - Bus students greeted by staff and taken to class waiting zone
  - Parents will say goodbye at the school designated drop off area and staff will direct students to class waiting zones.
  - Please note that parents will only be allowed in designated areas on the school grounds.

### 10 MINUTES BEFORE START OF THE FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL

All staff will be outside and will greet and direct students in class waiting zones.

### MORNING BELL AND FIRST 20 MINUTES

- At the bell, homeroom teachers will take attendance.
- Daily outdoor instruction will begin, including:
  - Expectations, education and reminders about:
    - ★ Mask protocol
    - ★ Handwashing

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- ★ Physical distancing
- ★ Hallway flow and directional arrows
- ★ Washroom use
- ★ Cough and sneeze protocol and reporting illness
- ★ Other school specific expectations

At times, teachers may choose to extend the outdoor learning time.

### ATTENDANCE

Please note that due to starting our days outside, attendance calls will start a bit later.

### ENTRY

- Enhanced health and safety protocols will be in place.
- From the class waiting zones, there will be a staggered entry.
- Students will be reminded to physically distance and put on masks.
- Students will go directly to the homeroom classroom where they will wash their hands and/or use hand sanitizer provided.
- Lockers and hooks will be unavailable to start the year to minimize touch surfaces and reduce need for cleaning. Students will hang backpacks with lunches, indoor shoes and personal items on their seat at their desk.

### TIMETABLES

Each homeroom teacher will provide a 10-day timetable for every student. Please note, our lunches will be staggered this year.

### CLASSROOM SETUP

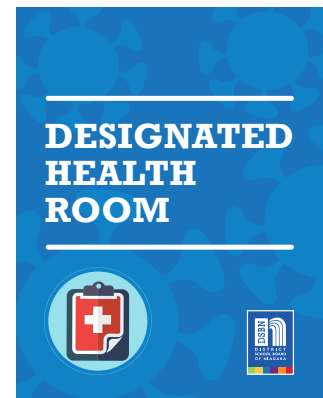
Classroom sizes vary across the DSBN, but schools have already removed unnecessary furniture and will be setting up desks with as much distancing as possible, and to allow teachers as much instruction space as possible. Desks will be faced forward rather than in circles or groupings and staggered.

### CURRICULUM

As always, teachers will be focused on delivering the Ontario Curriculum.

- The school day will be divided into seven 40 minute periods with all subjects being taught.
- The majority of your child's subjects will be taught by their homeroom teacher.

### SAMPLE SIGNS & GRAPHIC REMINDERS



### SAMPLE CLASSROOM SET UP



*Class with desks in staggered rows*



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- We will also be including expanded outdoor learning opportunities this year.

### SPECIAL EDUCATION

Our staff, including Learning Resources Teachers and Educational Assistants will be supporting your child during the 2020/2021 school year. This includes meeting their needs as outlined in the accommodations and modifications in their Individual Educational Plan (IEP).

### MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

An important part of transitioning back to school is to focus on students' social-emotional learning skills so they can build resilience, manage their stress, and build positive relationships. Our mental health and well-being staff have provided classroom based activities to help school staff support students for a smooth transition.

### WASHROOM BREAKS

Students will have access to washrooms as needed and during nutrition and fitness breaks.

- All washrooms have age specific signage to coach students on handwashing expectations.
- Each school will develop guidelines to monitor capacity.
- The DSBN is committed to ensuring a clean and healthy washroom environment with enhanced cleaning.

### NUTRITION AND FITNESS BREAKS

Students will:

- Have two 40-minute breaks each day supervised by staff.
- You will receive a class specific schedule for each child from the homeroom teacher.
- Engage in 20 minutes of mask free outdoor time, in their designated classroom community zone. For health reasons, students will not be permitted to bring personal sports equipment to use during fitness breaks.
- Not be allowed to share food.

- You may decide to have your child go home for lunch. Each school will send home information regarding this process. Due to staggered lunches, we can not guarantee that crossing guards will be available during lunch hours so please keep this in mind if you are planning to have your child go home for a lunch break.
- To start, we will not be having any hot lunch or special lunch days. Please do not send treats in for classmates.

### PLAYGROUND

Playground structures will remain closed for the beginning of this school year so that we may focus on establishing re-opening routines and procedures inside the school.

### DISMISSAL

In a staggered manner, all students will be escorted by their teacher to their classroom zone for dismissal to parents and caregivers.

You will receive more specific school based details shortly.

*If you have any questions about this guide, please contact your school principal.*



