

August 31, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students of Clarke High School

We are looking forward to welcoming back our students for the 2020/2021 school year.

The health and safety of our students and staff must always remain our top priority. The new structure to the secondary school day will greatly reduce the number of contacts students and staff have each day. Students will remain in a defined classroom for the entire week without travelling to another classroom and limits the number of contacts and touch points for student and staff throughout the day.

As you are now aware, the updated structure of a school day will have students taking their period 1 class every day for Week 1 and then taking their period 2 class every day the following week. This will continue alternating for the first quadmester. Final assessments (i.e. exams) will occur at the end of each course in mid-November and then at the end of the second quadmester in mid-January. We realize this is an extended amount of time for students on each subject on any given day, but it is a model that is used successfully for students during summer school.

The return to school for students is staggered by grades beginning on September 14:

Grades 9 and Grade 10:

Monday, September 14 all day, period 1 (this will include some time for orientation)

Wednesday, September 16 all day, period 1

Friday, September 18 all day, period 1

Grades 11 and Grade 12:

Tuesday, September 15 all day, period 1

Thursday, September 17 all day, period 1

Friday, September 18 all day, period 1

To maintain the health and safety of all our students and staff, it is very important that all students follow the COVID-19 self-assessment prior to attending school each day.

Students **should not** come to school if:

- You or someone you are in close contact with have travelled outside of Canada in the past 14 days
- You have been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19

- You have any of the following symptoms:
 - Fever
 - New or worsening cough
 - Shortness of breath
 - Difficulty breathing
 - Sore throat
 - Headaches
 - Diarrhea
 - Unexplained fatigue/malaise/muscle aches
 - Chills
 - Runny nose/nasal congestion without known cause
 - Nausea/vomiting
 - Pink eye (conjunctivitis)
 - Difficulty walking
 - Abdominal pain
 - Decrease or loss of sense of smell or taste

Key Points:

- Students must sign out from the school at the attendance office as soon as possible if they become ill while at school.
- Students will **NOT** have access to lockers and are asked not to bring personal items back and forth from home to school. Students may bring a backpack to carry books and lunch/snack items only.
- As the lunch period will be shortened, we ask that students bring their own lunch/snacks to school and avoid going out to lunch at local fast food restaurants to avoid being late for class after the lunch break. In addition, students are to bring their own refillable water bottles to school each day to fill at the water filling stations located on each floor. Cafeteria services will remain closed at this time.
- Visitors, including parents, will be asked to phone ahead of time if you would like to set a meeting with an administrator or staff member. All permitted visitors must sign-in and out at the main office. Aside from scheduled appointments, parents/guardians will only be able to enter the school building in case of emergency.
- All students and visitors, including parents/guardians, **MUST** wear a non-medical or cloth mask in the school building and use hand sanitizer upon entering the school. Students, parents, and guardians must always maintain physical social distancing as you enter, move through, and exit the school building.

Administration and teaching staff will share further safety protocols with students upon their return to school.

We appreciate your continued patience as we work through these uncommon times in preparation for the new school year. We have been doing our best to plan for a safe return to school, given the fluid nature of this situation, and evolving guidelines from the Ministry of Education and Public Health.

Despite the challenges we have faced related to the current situation, we are looking forward to seeing our new and returning Clarke students. Together, we will continue to learn and work to keep everyone safe and well.

My warmest wishes,

Silvia Grdovic

Principal