



"See, I am making all things new" (Revelation 21:5)

RETURN TO SCHOOL FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Updated October 16, 2020

Following is a series of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) regarding the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board's (DPCDSB) *School Reopening Plans*. This document will be updated on a regular basis as new information comes forward.

LEARNING OPTIONS

Q: What will the school day look like for my child(ren)?

A: Elementary

The Ministry of Education has directed that all elementary schools in the DPCDSB begin the school year in *Conventional Mode*. This means all elementary students will attend school all day, every day, with no change to class sizes. However, it is possible that at some point during the school year, the DPCDSB may be directed by the Ministry of Education or local Public Health Officials to move to either an *Adapted Delivery Mode* (students attending on alternate days) or *Online Delivery Mode* (all students receiving education through distance, on-line learning).

Students will have two 15-minute recesses and a lunch period. Recess and lunch breaks will be staggered throughout the day to limit interaction between classes of students within the school building and the outdoor space. As no food delivery will be permitted, students are expected to bring their own snacks and lunch. Enhanced health and safety protocols will be implemented to proactively support student and staff safety.

For more information about the Elementary Learning Models, refer to pages 17-18 in the [DPCDSB Return to School Guide for Parents](#).

Secondary

The DPCDSB has been identified by the Ministry of Education as a *Designated Board*. This means all secondary schools in the DPCDSB will begin school in September in an *Adapted Delivery Mode* (in-person attendance in the mornings, followed by online participation from home in the afternoons). However, it is possible that at some point during the school year, the DPCDSB may be directed by the Ministry of Education or local Public Health Officials to move to either a *Conventional Delivery Mode* (all students attending school every day) or an *Online Delivery Mode* (all students receiving education through distance online learning).

Students in self-contained Special Education classes at the secondary school level with enrolment less than 15 students will attend school all day every day.

Students will be separated into two groups, referred to as either Cohort A or Cohort B, to achieve smaller class sizes. Cohort A students will attend school in the mornings on Monday/Tuesday and alternate Wednesday. Cohort B students will attend school in the mornings on Thursday/Friday and alternate Wednesday. Students will be dismissed after the morning in-class session and will participate in online learning every afternoon, five days a week. A student’s schedule therefore will be comprised of attending school face-to-face in person for three days one week, two days the following week and online five days a week. Students will take two courses for approximately nine weeks delivered in-person in the mornings and online in the afternoons. These courses will be delivered in an alternate day format, with 150 minutes face-to-face instruction and 150 minutes online per day. Students will have a 10-minute nutritional break. Students are expected to bring their own food for nutritional breaks. There will be no exams, but there will be a Culminating Performance Task (CPT) at the end of each course for each student. See sample weekly timetable below:

Sample Daily Timetable One - Quadmester

Sample Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:30 – 11:00	Cohort A Period 1 In school Cohort B Period 1 At Home with Academic Support	Cohort A Period 2 In school Cohort B Period 2 At Home Academic Support	Cohort A/B Period 1 / 2 In school Alternating Alternate Cohort at Home with Academic Support	Cohort B Period 1 In school Cohort A Period 1 At Home with Academic Support	Cohort B Period 2 In school Cohort A Period 2 At Home with Academic Support
11:00 – 12:00	Student Dismissal and Return to Home				
12:00 – 1:15	Cohorts A & B Period 2 Academic Support	Cohorts A & B Period 1 Academic Support	Alternating by week	Cohorts A & B Period 2 Academic Support	Cohorts A & B Period 1 Academic Support
1:15 – 2:30	Cohorts A & B Period 2 Synchronous Learning	Cohorts A & B Period 1 Synchronous Learning	Alternating by week	Cohorts A & B Period 2 Synchronous Learning	Cohorts A & B Period 1 Synchronous Learning

EFFECTIVE QUADMESTER TWO (NOVEMBER 13, 2020):

Quadmester 2 will be modified to include students who have chosen remote learning exclusively in the timetable at their regular school. Students who have chosen to attend school face-to-face will now be learning with their classmates and their course teacher on days when they are not at school. Some key highlights of the new model are as follows:

- All students who have chosen remote learning will be included in the physical school timetable which will allow for a greater choice in course offerings;
- Teachers will teach the cohort who is at school that day face-to-face while simultaneously teaching the other cohorts online at home. This will allow for more comprehensive course content delivery for all students as teachers will not be repeating lessons throughout the week;
- Students who have chosen remote learning will continue to be part of their own school community taking classes with teachers and students from their own school.

A sample weekly timetable for students in Grades 9 to 12 and older is provided below:

Sample Time	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY (ALTERNATING)	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8:30 – 11:00	Cohort A Course 1 In school, face-to-face Cohort B and C Remote (at home) Course 1 Course Content Delivery	Cohort A Course 2 In school, face-to-face Cohort B and C Remote (at home) Course 2 Course Content Delivery	Cohort A Course 1 In school, face-to-face Cohort B and C Remote (at home) Course 1 Course Content Delivery	Cohort B Course 1 In school, face-to-face Cohort A and C Remote (at home) Course 1 Course Content Delivery	Cohort B Course 2 In school, face-to-face Cohort A and C Remote (at home) Course 2 Course Content Delivery
11:00 – 12:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
12:00 – 1:15	Cohorts A, B, C Course 2 Remote Academic Support/Study Hall	Cohorts A, B, C Course 1 Remote Academic Support/Study Hall	Cohorts A, B, C Course 2 Remote Academic Support/Study Hall	Cohorts A, B, C Course 2 Remote Academic Support/Study Hall	Cohorts A, B, C Course 1 Remote Academic Support/Study Hall
1:15 – 2:30	Cohorts A, B, C Course 2 Remote Synchronous Learning Course Content Delivery	Cohorts A, B, C Course 1 Remote Synchronous Learning Course Content Delivery	Cohorts A, B, C Course 2 Remote Synchronous Learning Course Content Delivery	Cohorts A, B, C Course 2 Remote Synchronous Learning Course Content Delivery	Cohorts A, B, C Course 1 Remote Synchronous Learning Course Content Delivery

- Students attending in-person (Cohorts A and B) will attend two days one week and three days another.
- Students who are not at school on a given day, including students who have chosen exclusively remote learning (Cohort C), will learn with their classmates and course teacher from home remotely.
- In the morning, small cohorts of students will attend for face-to-face learning while the rest of the class is at home tuning into the lesson remotely.
- **In the afternoon, all students will be learning remotely from home and taught synchronously by their course teacher.**

Q: What if I do not want to send my child back to in-class learning? What are my options?

A: All students, elementary and secondary, will have the option to choose remote/online learning.

For more information about the Elementary and Secondary Learning Models, refer to pages 17-25 in the [DPCDSB Return to School Guide for Parents](#).

Q: The Community Information Bulletin emailed to parents/guardians on August 7 indicated that *“should there be a significant number of parents opt for online learning only, the DPCDSB will establish a virtual school and assign students to virtual, grade appropriate (elementary) or subject specific (secondary) classrooms. A principal will be assigned to the virtual school, performing the same duties and responsibilities as would be required in a conventional school. Teachers will be assigned to teach in the online learning environment.”*

Q: What is a significant number? And if there is not a significant number of parents who opt for online learning, what does that mean?

A: If there are enough parents opting for online learning for their child(ren) to create multiply classes of the same grades, then a virtual school will be created. Regardless of the number of parents who opt for online learning for their child(ren), online learning will still be an option.

ONLINE LEARNING

Q: Who will be teaching online learning?

A: We will centrally assign teaching staff to support students for whom parents have opted for the online learning mode. Please be advised that it may not be a teacher from your child(ren)'s school.

Q: What will be the format for online learning?

A: Unlike the experience during the school closure period, the online learning mode will mirror the conventional day for students. That is to say, students will be supported for five hours each day, taking the full required curriculum. This includes the Core French curriculum for students in Grades 4-8. Teachers will teach live and be available to support student learning throughout the day. All students, elementary and secondary, will receive 225 minutes of instruction a day with a total of 300 minutes of teaching and learning opportunities per day.

Q: Will students be in the same classes with other students from their homeschools who opt for online learning?

A: Where it is possible to group students opting for online learning with students from the same school, staff will endeavour to do so.

Q: Will my child be able to interact with other students?

A: Yes, your child will be able to interact with other students in the online environment through the use of the platform the teacher uses (Zoom, Teams or Google Classroom). Please note, students in the online classroom may not necessarily be from your child(ren)'s home school.

Q. How many students will be enrolled in each online class?

A. Online classes will be staffed similar to conventional classrooms according to the average pupil teacher ratio.

Q. I understand that online classes will not be taught by the homeschool teachers, but will students enrolled in online learning still be affiliated with their home schools?

A. Students for whom parents have opted for online learning will still remain affiliated with their home school in the event parents decide to transition their child(ren) to the conventional (in-class) mode. However, while in the online mode, students may be taught by a teacher who is not from their home school and supported by a principal who is not the principal of their home school.

Q. Can students enrolled in online learning also participate in online extra-curricular activities offered through their homeschool?

A. Where it is possible to keep a connection to the home school, staff will endeavour to support. Parents are encouraged to connect with the home school principal to discuss how this request could be achieved.

Q. For Grade 8 students there are generally preparations for secondary school, including secondary school visits and potential graduation trips. Will these still be available to online students through their home schools?

A. All education excursions are cancelled until further notice. However, any programs intended to transition grade eight students to secondary school will continue. Please be advised that these programs may have to be delivered in a virtual environment depending on the health situation at the time of delivery. These programs will also be available to students learning online through their home school.

Q. Will Grade 8 and 12 students participating in online learning attend convocation/graduation ceremonies with their home school?

A. Students for whom parents opted for online learning will attend convocation/graduation ceremonies with their home school.

Q. How will you ensure that students working online still feel part of the school community?

A. As we prepare our staff to welcome our students and families back, we will ensure that, where possible, keeping a connection to the home school community, including faith experiences, is emphasized.

Q. Will students have access to technology for online learning?

A. Yes, students who request technology for online learning and who do not have a device at home will be provided with a device to access online learning to the best of our ability given our current inventory of devices.

Q. Will students' learning online be assessed the same as those learning in-class?

A. As will be the case in the in-class environment, assessment and evaluation for students in the online learning environment will follow the Ministry of Education's policy on assessment and evaluation as found in *Growing Success*.

Q. **Do secondary students learning online need to purchase a school uniform this fall?**

A. Yes. All secondary students need to purchase a uniform.

Q. **Will French Immersion, Extended French and other Regional Programs be taught online?**

A. To the extent possible, regional programs of choice may continue to be taught in the online environment given teacher availability and qualifications. All students, however, will have the opportunity to engage in grade level, regular track learning.

Q. **Will students enrolled in courses like Drama, Media Arts, Auto Tech, etc. be able to access these courses if they choose online learning?**

A. We will endeavor to match the student's in-class timetable as close as possible to their online timetable. There may be instances where courses which students have selected to be delivered in the online environment will not be available due to teacher availability and qualifications.

Q. **Will students in IB programs be able to continue with the program if they choose online learning?**

A. To the extent possible, regional programs of choice may continue to be taught in the online environment given teacher availability and qualifications. All students, however, will have the opportunity to engage in grade level, regular track learning. Staffing for IB in-class will be dependent upon actual student enrollment on the count dates of September 1 and the end of October.

Q. **How will gym be instructed or provided in the online option?**

A. This is still being worked out at the Ministry level and at the Board level.

Q. **Will students receive invites for access to their class Zoom session in advance and will it be the same one for that entire course?**

A. Students will be invited into their Google class or Zoom session in advance, and all will be invited at the same time.

Q. **If I chose in-class instruction for my child and they get sick, can they access on-line learning?**

A. If a student is not at school for a prolonged period due to illness, parents should contact the principal for arrangements to keep up with their studies. Students would not be placed in and out of the virtual learning platform because of illness.

Q. **Will my child have textbooks if they do online learning?**

A. All students will be provided with access to the texts they need regardless of whether they are completing online or in class learning.

Q. **Will there be science labs as part of instruction?**

A. Teachers will follow all recommended safety precautions in providing experiences for students. Students may participate in labs that are virtual, or observe demonstrations. Actual labs will be determined by the classroom teacher in compliance with public health expectations.

IN-CLASS LEARNING

Q. **Presumably classes will be smaller, since some parents will not be sending their children to school. Why, then, is there a wait list for online learners to return to in-class once the school year begins?**

A. We apologize for the confusion the initial information about the wait list may have caused. The wait list is in reference to secondary students wanting to transition to an in-class adapted mode. As secondary schools are opening in an adapted mode with cohorts of approximately 15 students, we need to ensure we are abiding by the cohort requirements. However, students who are waitlisted will be supported online until they can be transitioned to adapted or conventional mode. Class sizes in the in-class model will remain consistent with Ministry of Education pupil-teacher ratio funding models.

Q. **Are you planning to limit the class sizes once the school year begins and prevent students from returning to in-class learning?**

A. We will continue to abide by the overall class averages set by the Ministry of Education. Children will be able to transition from online mode to conventional mode and vice versa. This does mean that there is potential for reorganization depending on whether or not numbers in classrooms are too high. In a conventional school, while, for example, average class size board wide for Grades 4-8 is 24.5:1, we do know that some classes can have more than 30 students. This will continue to be the case if schools are directed to operate in conventional mode. In the adapted mode, cohorts are to be limited to approximately 15 students, so the overall class size for a secondary course cannot exceed 30, unless we can put a class over 30 in a larger room to ensure recommended physical distancing.

Q. **How will students have a chance to connect and engage with their peers?**

A. To the best of our ability, school staff will endeavour to support activities that will promote socio-emotional well-being and connections with peers, even in the online environment.

Q. **Will you be setting up any outdoor classes? If so, what would these look like?**

A. Currently, there are no plans to construct new outdoor learning spaces. However, we will encourage teachers to take students outdoors as much as possible within scheduling limits and physical distancing requirements, to promote physical activity throughout the day.

Q. **Will students have gym class?**

A. Physical activity will still be provided albeit limited to sports that don't compromise physical distancing requirements.

Q. **Will you be running any extra-curricular activities?**

A. To the extent possible, some extra-curricular activities may still be offered, but likely limited to online. Extra-curricular activities depend on staff volunteers. Large group gatherings will not be permitted.

Q. **For Grade 8 students, will you still be running the secondary school visits and graduation trips?**

A. All education excursions have been suspended at this time. Any activities associated with preparing Grade 8 students for secondary schools will continue but may take on a different mode of delivery.

Q. **Will students in the same grade/subject be taught the same curriculum at the same pace, to ensure a smooth transition from online to in-class or vice versa?**

A. Staff will endeavour to support continuity of learning and curriculum delivery to support students who may be transitioning from on-line to conventional mode and vice versa.

Q. **When and how can secondary students access their timetables and request course changes?**

A. Because of the reorganization that needs to take place in schools as a result of a significant amount of students choosing the online learning option, secondary students will not be receiving their timetable until the end of the week before school starts.

Q. **When will elementary students be provided with their classroom and teacher assignment?**

A. Elementary students will be provided with their room and teacher via School Messenger the week before school starts and parent/guardians will receive detailed information regarding the first day of school from their school Principal.

Q. **Will secondary schools be running the Get Ready! Program for Grade 9 students?**

A. We intend to run this program for students and are currently investigating models to provide support for our grade 9 students as they transition to secondary school.

Q. **What if secondary student has a travel delay when getting home for their 12 pm start time for the online portion of their classes? Will teachers be lenient on start times/check-ins?**

- A.** Student attendance in the period after lunch will allow for flexibility. Students will be required to confirm their attendance prior to the end of the period. The time is meant to provide academic support from a teacher if required.
- Q.** **Can I send my child to Kindergarten for half-days only?**
- A.** You will need to choose to either have your children come full-day at school or full-day online. We do not have a program that can support them for half-a-day in each modality.
- Q.** **Will all children have their own desk and be sitting alone as opposed to groups?**
- A.** Children will exercise physical distancing either at desks or at long tables that have 6 feet spaces between each of the students.
- Q.** **What if schools need to shut down. Will in-class students immediately transition to the same mode of learning as students originally enrolled in online?**
- A.** Yes, there will be immediate pivoting of instruction from conventional in school to online.
- Q.** **Will there be science labs as part of instruction?**
- A.** Teachers will follow all recommended safety precautions in providing experiences for students. Students may participate in labs that are virtual, or observe demonstrations. Actual labs will be determined by the classroom teacher in compliance with public health expectations.
- Q.** **Will teachers be livestreaming while students are in the classroom?**
- A.** No. Teachers will only be livestreaming the lessons they are teaching directly to students. Live classroom lessons will not be recorded and played when students are in their physical classroom.

SPECIAL EDUCATION & SUPPORT SERVICES

Q. My child has medical issues that may make wearing a mask all day difficult. What should I do?

A. If your child has a medical condition and you are unsure about wearing a mask or participating in various activities, please connect with your school so staff can develop an appropriate plan based on your child's individual health needs.

Q. Will IPRCs and psycho-educational assessments continue?

A. Yes, as was the case during the spring closure period, IPRCs and psycho-educational assessments will continue in a virtual environment.

Q. How will students with IEPs be accommodated through online learning or in-class learning?

A. Your child's IEP will be updated as per the IEP cycle (accommodations and modifications will be revised as appropriate), and the student will continue to work towards the achievement of the goals outlined in the IEP, supported by special education staff.

Q. I have a child with special needs. Will they receive bussing?

A. If the child qualifies for bussing, she will continue to receive it. Busing protocols will be based on the Ministry of Education requirements/ guidelines.

Q. My child needs to use a FM system, will they be provided with this equipment.

A. FM systems will continue to be in use to support student needs

Q. I have a lot of medical items and information regarding my child, when should I meet with the school?

A. You should contact your school in the last week of August if you have any questions. School offices reopen on August 31.

Q. Will the Planning for Independence (PIP) program run as usual?

A. Students in the PIP classroom will attend each day to provide the students in these programs consistency and the level of instructional support needed. Students with special education needs will attend classes all day during the regular hours outlined for their secondary school.

Q. How will students with health, medical or special education needs be supported through online learning?

A. Students with significant health, medical or special education needs who choose to continue online learning from home will be supported by a teacher and/or Special Education Resource teacher who may not be their regular teacher from their home school. Learning will be provided through an online platform such as Google

Classroom with synchronous and asynchronous learning and check-ins from a teacher/ or Special Education Resource teacher/support staff (e.g., ERW). Support Services staff (Child and Youth Worker, Social Worker, Psychologist or Speech and Language) will engage when required.

Q. Will students still have access to ErinoakKids for physio, OT and speech therapy?

A. Yes, we are working with ErinoakKids in the organization of services.

Q. Will students with a SEA Chromebook have access to them if they opt for online learning?

A. Yes, SEA students will have access to devices for online learning.

STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH

Q. What plans are in place to support the mental health of all students as they return to school?

A. Board staff are committed to student well-being and to a compassionate learning environment in our Catholic schools, where students can thrive. In response to COVID-19 and the added impact of anti-Black and anti-Asian racism, we have prepared teacher resources for in-class and online learners, with five well-being themes to promote a mentally healthy return to school – connecting, kindness, self-care, help-seeking, and gratitude. The learning environment will be rooted in faith. It will be calm, safe, inclusive, just and respectful of the dignity of all. Students will be made to feel welcome, included, and understood. Learning about emotions, mental health and self-care will be embedded into the curriculum to promote better mental health.

Q. How will school staff support children who have anxiety about returning to school?

A. Educators will support students as they work through feelings of worry or anxiety about COVID-19, the return to school, the new school environment or the added impact of racism in society. They may use a variety of strategies to accommodate students, such as prayer, Christian meditation, stress management strategies, opportunities for self-care and other coping strategies. Staff will listen, watch closely and monitor students who may require additional supports. They will maintain close connections with parents/guardians. All schools have access to a team of Support Services Personnel. Staff will help students who are struggling access Board mental health services or appropriate community resources. See the [Board website](#) for mental health and well-being supports in Peel Region and Dufferin County,

Q. How can I support a mentally healthy transition back to school for my child?

A. Parents can prepare children in the following ways for a mentally healthy transition to school during COVID-19:

- Remain calm and reassuring. Make yourself available to them to talk about their concerns. Be honest and accurate. Provide age-appropriate information.
- Monitor television viewing and social media.
- Maintain a normal routine. Promote healthy sleeping, eating and physical activity.
- Review hygiene and safety practices including washing hands, wearing masks, and social distancing.
- Discuss new rules or practices at school.
- Know the symptoms of COVID-19 and use the Ministry of Health Self-Assessment tool daily.
- Communicate with your school.

Learn more about how you can keep your child or teen mentally well during the COVID-19 pandemic from School Mental Health Ontario: <https://smho-smso.ca/covid-19/parents-and-families/> and <https://jack.org/Resources/COVID-19-Youth-Mental-Health-Resource-Hub?lang=en-ca>.

Q. What can I do to help my child who is struggling to wear a mask?

A. Try the following strategies:

- Be a good role model. Wear your mask and praise others who are wearing their masks.
- Be consistent. Remind kids to wear masks.

- Explain why we wear them; to keep ourselves and others safe.
- For younger children, use masks in play. Decorate or personalize them.
- Use positive reinforcement, praise or offer a preferred activity.
- For children who have sensory difficulties, practice wearing the mask for short periods of time. Take breaks. Gradually increase the amount of time the mask is worn.
- Practice wearing the mask at home and on short outings before the transition to school.
- Provide children with a choice of masks to wear until a comfortable one is found.

TECHNOLOGY

Q: Will students learning online have access to technology (i.e. laptops) from the school board?

A: We are current reviewing our inventory to see how many we have available and working on a protocol for the distribution of all technology to all students who are in need. There will be further information coming forward in the next few weeks, which will indicate how we will be providing technology and how many devices we will have available to deploy. Students in need of a loaner device should contact their school principal and arrangements will be made to support the student request based on availability.

DAILY SCHOOL OPERATIONS AND MANAGEMENT

Q: What will the first day of school look like for my child?

A: DPCDSB will initiate a staggered start to the school year in both elementary and secondary schools. Please refer to our [Community Information Bulletin](#) regarding Staggered Entry schedules. Your school principal will be communicating processes and procedures for the first day of school the week before school starts. Elementary students will be advised of their teacher and room number, and all secondary students will be given their timetables the week before school.

Q: How will the start and end of the day be staggered to prevent crowding?

A: We are working on a protocol to ensure proper social distancing to prevent crowding at the start, during and end of the school day. This may look a little different at each school depending on classroom locations and access points.

Q: Will there be visitors to the school?

A: Access to schools will be limited to essential staff or emergency visitors. Parents/guardians can access the school only if required to pick up their child because of illness. As per public health guidelines, anyone entering a school will be required to undertake COVID-19 self-assessment and sign in and out for the purposes of contact tracing.

Q: Can I bring my child their lunch?

A: Your child will need to bring a full lunch, personal water bottle and snacks every day as parents will have limited access to the schools. There will be no cafeteria services for secondary students nor lunch (i.e., Pizza Days) or milk programs for elementary students. Food delivery services such as *Uber Eats and Skip the Dishes* will not be permitted. Students will not be permitted to use the water fountains other than to fill their water bottles. If your child forgets his/her lunch, school staff will contact you to provide information regarding next steps.

Q. Can elementary students leave the school and go home for lunch?

A. Yes. In order to adhere to the cohorting model, students should go directly to their homes for lunch.

Q: What if my child needs to use the washroom while at school?

A: Washrooms will be marked off to ensure physical distancing of two-metres when multiple students are in the washroom at the same time. Signage will be placed inside the washrooms, reminding students of both physical distancing and proper hygiene. Washrooms will be cleaned throughout the school day and again each evening. Principals will implement a shared tracking system for staff to record the time and location of student access to washrooms. This process will assist with contact tracing if needed. Signage will be placed outside the washrooms identifying the maximum number of occupants permitted at any given time.

Q: Will after school sports and activities continue?

A: Sports where physical distancing cannot be maintained (i.e., football, rugby, soccer, basketball, etc.) will not take place as we start the school year. Sports and activities/clubs where physical distancing can be maintained will continue. In some cases, these experiences will take place virtually.

Q: Will my child have access to a locker?

A: To ensure that there is limited traffic in hallways, students will not have access to a locker. They will be required to bring everything they need with them during the day in a bag/backpack which will be with them as they learn in the classroom.

Q: What school supplies will be provided for my child?

A: To the greatest extent possible, school supplies, required for learning will not be shared between students in the classroom. Parents are encouraged to provide school supplies for their child to bring with them to school and return to home, however, supplies for students will be provided. A teacher will send home a list at the beginning of the year identifying suggested supplies.

Q: Will my child still go outside for recess?

A: Students will have two indoor nutritional breaks during the traditional recess times. Students will, however, be going outside with their own classroom teacher as the supervisor to experience at least two fifteen-minute periods of outdoor play and learning. Teachers will be encouraged to be outside with their students multiple times during the day for teaching/learning activities.

Q: Are flex boundaries being cancelled?

A: No, flex boundary rules remain unchanged.

Q: Will you be running any extra-curricular activities and what do you imagine they will be?

A: To the extent possible, some extra-curricular activities may still be offered, but likely limited to online. Extracurricular activities depend on staff volunteers. Large group gatherings will not be permitted.

Q: We are new to DPCDSB and submitted our registration application online over the summer. Are our children considered to be registered as DPCDSB students?

A: Yes. While you still have to provide the school with the requested documentation, your children are considered to be DPCDSB students. Someone from your child(ren)'s new school will contact you regarding class placement during the last week of August.

Q: My children were registered in a DPCDSB school last year and over the summer we moved. We submitted the transfer form to the new school. Are my children considered to be registered in the new school now? When will I start receiving information from their school and the Board?

A: Yes, you are considered to be registered. Someone from your child's new school will contact you during the last week of August regarding their class placement and you should start receiving information from that time on. In the meantime, please check the Return to School webpage for Community Information Bulletins and other information.

Q: When will school offices reopen? Who do I contact with questions?

A: School offices reopen on August 31. You can call or email the school at that time.

Q: I am not receiving any email communications from DPCDSB or my school, how can I be added to the distribution list?

A: If you have previously provided your school with your email address, it may be that your filter has diverted DPCDSB emails to your Junk folder. If that is not the case, contact your school when it reopens on August 31.

Q. Will students be able to do their First Communion this year?

A. You will need to contact your parish to determine when the church plans to do sacraments this year.

Q. How do students safely eat lunch given the potentially large volume (24+ students) in a class, when masks need to be removed?

A. Each student will bring their own lunch and will eat at their desk with proper social distancing.

Q. Is it true that school boards are providing teachers and DECEs to provide instruction for homeschool pods?

A. No, DPCDSB is not assigning teachers and DECEs to provide homeschooling.

Q. If my child wants to change a course at their high school, will they be able to?

A. Students who require adjustments should contact their guidance counsellor for course availability.

Q. Will my child have the same choices for online courses?

A. Courses offered depend on the number of students who have selected them. Guidance will work very hard to match timetables to the best of their ability with on line course selection and where a match is not possible, will work with students to substitute an alternative choice. This is the same process used in day school course selection.

Q. Will students have tests and exams?

A. Students will have assessments, whether they study virtually or in person. All students in high school will complete a final assessment worth 30% of their final mark.

Q. Will co-operative (co-op) education still run?

A. Yes. Placements will depend on the direction from the regional health unit and availability.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Q: How will you keep my child safe?

A: Student and staff safety is our number one priority. We have taken direction from the Ministry of Education and from local Public Health Authorities with regard to enhanced health and safety protocols. Physical distancing signage, hand sanitization stations, disinfectant wipes, review and reminders of hand washing and cough etiquette, and touchpoint cleaning of common surfaces are all part of these protocols. Individual classes of students will be kept apart to the extent that this is practicable. Staggered entry, dismissal and recess/outdoor/lunch times will ensure students are not congregating or mixing with students from different classes or cohorts.

Q: Will my child be required to wear a mask? Do I have to provide one?

A: We will be following our public health authorities' recent recommendation that all students in Grades 1 to 12 be **required to wear a mask or face covering** while indoors at school. Public health has further indicated that the wearing of masks or face coverings is strongly recommended in Kindergarten. *Please refer to our [Community Information Bulletin](#) regarding updated mask guidelines.* Students will be provided with one (1) cloth mask at the beginning of the year and will be required to wear the face covering every day inside the school. Time spent outdoors provides an opportunity for students to take a break from wearing the mask. Parents/guardians can provide their child with their own mask. Additional masks will be available at the school in the event that a student forgets to bring their mask that day. Accommodations and exemptions will apply. Please note face shields are intended to protect the eyes only.

Q: What if someone in my child's class becomes sick? What if there is an outbreak?

A: A new school health monitoring system will be established through a partnership between the Ministries of Health and Education and school boards. Local public health authorities will monitor and respond to symptoms of COVID-19.

Students and staff who exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 will be immediately separated from their classmates in a health room. The student or staff member's temperature will be checked, and the parent/guardian will be required to come to the school to pick up the child. Information regarding how parents can access COVID-19 testing conducted by Public Health will be communicated as appropriate.

Persons who have been confirmed to have tested positive through the public health process will be prohibited from attending school until they are cleared by Public Health. Persons who test negative will be able to return to school once they are symptom free for 24 hours.

With respect to processes and procedures regarding a potential outbreak, local Public Health will direct school boards relative to class or school closures, and the requirement for students/staff to isolate.

Q: Will there be screening at the school before teachers and students enter the building?

A: All parents/guardians are required to ensure that students are screened **before leaving their home** for the bus or school. Staff will undergo the same screening process. A screening checklist will be provided to guide parents/guardians to support this process.

Q. If the parent of a child tests positive, will the school board be notified? And will the child/children of that parent be required to stay home even though the child does not show symptoms?

A. We will take our direction from Public Health who will communicate directly with individuals who require to self-monitor or self-isolate, and may inform the school of such measures for larger groups (i.e., classes, etc.).

Q. Will my child be able to bring and use his own hand sanitizer?

A. Students are encouraged to use hand sanitizer and are welcome to bring their own.

Q: What is the Board doing to ensure proper ventilation in the classrooms?

A: The ventilation systems in all our schools have been serviced and tested to ensure that they are in proper working order for the upcoming school year. The ventilation units are scheduled to start early every day to ensure sufficient air changes are made prior to the school being occupied by staff and students. The percentage of fresh outside air is adjustable through the Building Automation Systems to ensure the air quality is maintained during occupancy of the building. Additional optional solutions to enhance where possible will be explored.

Q. What is the cleaning and sanitization process for schools?

A. Cleaning will be done by the custodial staff using disinfectants and procedures approved by our Health Authorities. Washrooms will be cleaned and disinfected throughout the day and cleaning of hard touch surfaces will be done multiple times daily.

Q. Will DPCDSB be hiring additional custodial staff?

A. Custodial staff will be hired as per the funding allocated by the Ministry of Education for our Board.

Q. Will schools be placing physical distancing stickers on the floor?

A. Yes, physical distancing stickers will be posted along with other COVID-19 related signage.

Q. For those classrooms with no sink, will hand sanitizing stations be installed?

A. Yes, classrooms without sinks, including classrooms in portables, will have hand sanitizer dispensers installed.

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

Q. When will I receive information about my child(ren)'s transportation?

A. The Student Transportation of Peel Region parent portal opens on August 31. For more information, visit: <https://businfo.stopr.ca>

The Wellington-Dufferin Student Transportation Services parent portal opens on August 31. To subscribe for access and email updates, visit <https://www.stwdsts.ca/>

Q: How will safety be maintained on the school bus?

A: The school bus driver will wear a face mask at all times and a shield when loading and unloading the bus at the school and at each stop. Students will be required to wear face masks and will be assigned a seat. Your child will be required to sit in the assigned seat every day. STOPR has developed a communication document for parents outlining the safety protocols for the school bus. Link: <https://www.stopr.ca/covid/updates/Pages/default.aspx>

Q. How will buses be cleaned?

A. In consultation with Peel Public Health, a “deep clean” of all vehicles will be performed on each vehicle twice a day—once after the morning route and again after the afternoon route. In addition, all high-touch areas of school vehicles will be cleaned by the driver after each run where possible.

Q. What if an individual is identified as potentially having COVID19 comes into contact with students on a particular bus?

A. In the event there is an individual, whether Travel Assistant, Bus Monitor, Driver or Student, identified as potentially having COVID-19, and who may have come in contact with students on a particular bus, the school will contact the Public Health unit. Public Health will conduct contact tracing based on predetermined criteria and advise the school and affected individuals regarding next steps to take. This may or may not include self-isolation, or other measures.

Q. If my child is eligible for transportation, can my child take the bus a couple of days a month?

A. If students do not ride the bus regularly, STOPR will unassign the student from the bus.

Q. Will courtesy transportation be available?

A. STOPR has temporarily suspended “courtesy seating” on our regular bus network due to the uncertainty of COVID-19 restrictions. This may be reassessed at some point during the school year.

Q. Where can we find more information on the school busing?

A. STOPR has developed a communication document for parents outlining the safety protocols for the school bus. Link: <https://www.stopr.ca/covid/updates/Pages/default.aspx>

Q. If our child starts online, how do we register for the bus if we decide to attend in-class?

A. If you haven't already, please complete the Opt-Out Form if your child is eligible and will not require transportation. Our Opt-Out Form is available by visiting www.stopr.ca or www.stwdsts.ca. Please note that you can opt back in at any time for transportation by completing the form and selecting opt-in.

Q. Will secondary students receive transportation for September 2020?

A. If your child is eligible for transportation, and you have not opted out for the bus, your child will receive transportation.

Q. There are no bus stops close to my address. What can I do to request a closer stop?

A. You can contact the STOPR office at 905-890-6000 or 1-800-668-1140 and the STWDSTS office at 519-824-4119 or 1-888-292-2224.

Q. Will the buses continue to pick up multiple schools?

A. Yes, multiple runs will be completed by the same bus in the morning and afternoon.

Q. Will students/parents receive their assigned seating before the first day of school?

A. Assigned seating will be confirmed when back to school plans and reorganization is finalized, likely the third week of school. We appreciate your understanding in that we will need to confirm student attendance face to face for which parents/guardians have the option of changing, at the elementary level, until the first day of school.

Q. Are masks mandatory on the school bus?

A. Students in Grades 1 to 12 must wear a face mask while waiting at the bus stop and while riding the bus unless they are unable to do so due to medical reasons or special needs. Students in Kindergarten are not required to wear a face mask. However, it is strongly recommended that they do wear a face mask while waiting at the bus stop and while riding on the school bus, unless they are unable due to medical reasons or special needs.

Q. What PPE will school bus drivers have available?

A. For more information on PPE for school bus drivers, please visit: <https://www.stopr.ca/covid/updates/Pages/default.aspx>

Q. How do I find out if my child is eligible for the bus?

A. Please visit: <https://stopr.ca/student-transportation/eligibility/Pages/default.aspx>

Q. Will more buses be added to accommodate eligible students if it is one student per seat?

A. We are currently planning the routes and have not completed this process to determine the number of buses required. All school buses, including special needs vans and wheelchair accessible vehicles, will be loaded closer to capacity with students from the same household and/or class cohort seated together.

Q. My child has special needs. Will their bus be available for September 2020?

A. Yes, transportation will be available for students identified by the Board with Special Needs.

Q. Will our bus stop be the same as last year?

A. Bus stops may change from year to year. Our parent portal will be open on Monday, August 31, 2020 for parents/students/guardians to obtain your child(ren)'s transportation information. Please visit <https://businfo.stopr.ca>. For more information on school bus routing and capacity, please visit: <https://stopr.ca/student-transportation/eligibility/Pages/default.aspx>

Q. If my school bus route is usually 60 minutes long, how will my secondary school child get home in time for online learning?

A. The period of learning after lunch has been intentionally designed as a period where students can access academic support as required. Although your child may not be physically present at the home to receive support right away; this opportunity will be provided to him/her for the entire 74 minute block.

Q. I have a number of questions about September busing. Is there someone I can contact?

A. You can contact the STOPR office at 905-890-6000 or 1-800-668-1140 and the STWDSTS office at 519-824-4119 or 1-888-292-2224.