

Welcome to the 2022–2023 School Year

Dear Families,

Preparations for the start of school are well underway. I am sharing some general information of what families can expect leading up to the first day of school on Wednesday, September 7, 2022. Yes, the first day of school is on Wednesday, the traditional first day of school, Tuesday, is a PA Day for staff only, no students.

As we enter a new school year there is plenty of excitement, lots of questions and of course some grumbling about having to wake up in the morning. Below, you will find some information to prepare you for Back to School on Wednesday, September 7th with more to come to next week.

We have experienced a large increase in enrollment so the office staff is busy placing students and building classes. As you will read below, class and teacher information will be shared by the homeroom teacher on Tuesday, September 6th.

If you have questions you can contact the school. It is always busy at the start of a school year so please be patient as it may take time for us to respond.

Sincerely,

Sudeep Sanyal

Principal

First Day of School

The first day of school for students is Wednesday, September 7th. The school bell rings at 8:45 AM for Grade 1–8 classes and 8:50 AM for Kindergarten classes. We ask that students meet in their designated meeting space. A map showing all meeting areas will be shared with families and communicated by the teacher on Tuesday. The school day ends at 3:15 PM for Kindergarten to Grade 6 classes and 3:00 PM for Grade 7 & 8 classes.

Communication from Homeroom Teacher

Families will receive communication from their homeroom teacher on Tuesday, September 6th, introducing the teacher and welcoming them to their class. Careful consideration has been made in the creation of class lists and we

unfortunately cannot accommodate changes and/or requests of placement. All class placements are tentative and can change up to and including the end of September based on class size requirements from the Ministry of Education.

Lunch Procedures

All students should bring a packed lunch for the first day of school, unless they are being picked up by an adult to go home. Students in older grades will receive a lunch letter and permission form that needs to be completed by a parent/guardian before a student may leave property to go home for lunch.

Visitors within the School

For the safety of students we do control and limit entry to the school. If you are coming into the school please ring the doorbell at the front entrance on Gladstone and someone will connect with you via the school intercom. If meeting with a staff member please arrange a meeting with them ahead of time. The office can be very busy, especially at the beginning and end of school day, your patience is appreciated.

School Cash Online

AMG is cashless, the TDSB has an online system, School Cash Online, which allows for families to pay for school fees. If you haven't already signed up for School Cash Online, please use this link <https://tdsb.schoolcashonline.com/> All families new to Alexander Muir/Gladstone will need to sign up.

Health and Safety

All of the latest information can be found on the TDSB Website at <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/School-Year-2022-2023/Health-and-Safety>

In August, the Ministry of Education released its guidance for the new school year. We continue to take our health and safety direction from the Ministry and Toronto Public Health and it is important to note that this is the current information and can change based on a change of guidance.

Screening – Students and staff should continue to do a daily self-assessment before entering school and stay home if they are sick. We are awaiting an updated screening tool from the Ministry and will share as soon as it is available.

Masks – AMG continues to be a mask-friendly environment inclusive of all staff and students. While the Ministry of Education and public health officials are not mandating the use of masks, Toronto Public Health strongly recommends wearing a well-fitting, high quality mask, especially in indoor public settings. The TDSB will continue to provide medical masks to staff and students who request them.

Testing – Rapid Antigen Test kits will continue to be available to both staff and students and are to be provided to staff/students upon their request.

Ventilation – HEPA filters are in each of our classrooms. Staff and Caretakers will continue to increase ventilation in schools and classrooms with mechanical systems by adjusting the air exchanges and running them before and after class as well as increase natural ventilation by opening windows for short periods of time.

Cleaning – Caretaking staff will continue to perform routine cleaning of general facilities throughout the day and enhanced cleaning of high touch surfaces such as light switches, handrails, door handles, etc.

AMG Information Links:

School Website <https://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/alexandermuirgladstone>

School

Announcements <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1jIMYrYaFZZ4Fg6N-E4x9xWWFY0r9TF0ZDql37mRYd-A/edit#gid=0>

School

Calendar <https://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/alexandermuirgladstone/School-Calendar>