

Newsletter #6 - Friday, September 17, 2020

It was great seeing students back at DMCI over the past few days. A heartfelt thanks to the DMCI team that made our opening possible including office, caretaking, support staff, teachers, students and families. We also sincerely thank everyone for their patience as we opened both in person at school and remotely at home.

Please see updated information below. The TDSB also provides regular updates on its [Return to School Webpage](#).

Reading A Timetable Here is a visual of a [Secondary 4 Day Timetable](#) to help families understand how the classes in cohorts and a quadmester works.

TDSB Updated School Year Calendar Secondary quadmester dates have been adjusted because of the delayed start. Below are the new quadmester dates. More information will be posted to the [School Year Calendar](#) and the [Return to School](#) sections of the TDSB website.

Quad 1: September 17 - November 17 + Exams November 18 & 19 = 43 days + 2 exam days

Quad 2: November 23 - February 2 + Exams February 3 & 4 = 42 days + 2 exam days

Quad 3: February 8 - April 20 + Exams April 21 & 22 = 42 days + 2 exam days

Quad 4: April 23 - June 23 + Exams June 24, 25, 28 = 43 days + 3 exam days

Toronto Public Health Letter Please read the following [Letter from Toronto Public Health](#) regarding Upcoming Religious and Thanksgiving Holidays

Traffic & The Driveway Do not stop on the Donway when dropping students off for school. Again, the DMCI driveway is one way. Please enter the driveway from the southend only. Please do not park in assigned parking spots. Please do not idle in front of the school or on the Donway. There is a parking lot in the back of the school and because it is quite small you may need to arrange pick up on neighbourhood streets where parking and or stopping is allowed. Please do not park in the parking lots of buildings in the neighbourhood. They are private property. Alternatively, we are close to bike trails and public transit.

Daily Self-Assessment All students must self-assess before coming to school by downloading the [TDSB Health Screening App](#) (web-based or phone app). We strongly recommend using the web-based-app version. Alternatively, students can print and use the [TDSB Student Health Pass \(paper\)](#). Details on this process can be found here: www.tdsb.on.ca/healthscreening

Student Timetable Changes 2020-2021 timetable changes will take place remotely using a Google form. The deadline to complete a timetable change request is **Monday September 21, by 8:45am**. This is a firm deadline and the course change form will be closed promptly at the deadline. Please review your student timetable very carefully. If you are interested in a timetable change and you meet the criteria set for timetable changes below, use the correct grade link to submit a timetable change.

Only students who meet the criteria below will be eligible for timetable changes.

- Students with incomplete timetables
- Grade 12 students who need a prerequisite course for university qualifications.
- Grade 9, 10, 11 or 12 students who completed OR did not complete a summer school or private school credit.
- Students who have an urgent timetable issue

Grade 9 timetable changes, please use this link: <https://forms.gle/>

Grade 10 timetable changes, please use this link: <https://forms.gle/>

Grade 11 timetable changes, please use this link: <https://forms.gle/>

Grade 12 timetable changes, please use this link: <https://forms.gle/>

***Due to course cancellations and the reduced number of sections offered as a result of students moving to the TDSB Virtual School, VERY LIMITED timetable changes will be possible. We appreciate everyone's cooperation and patience as we process everyone's request.**

Switching from In-Person to Virtual Learning or from Virtual Learning to In-Person The deadline to switch from in-person to virtual learning or from virtual learning to in-person has passed for Quad 1. Families who are still requesting a switch will need to wait for the next opt in/out date and follow the procedures outlined. Information will likely be available near October 1st on the TDSB website.

Technological Devices Update - Do You Need a Device?

Every student in the Virtual School as well as those participating in synchronous learning will be required to have the necessary technology. If you require a technological device please contact Jason Smit at jason.smit@tdsb.on.ca to ensure a device is ordered.

Technological Devices - Are You Returning a Device?

TDSB students who were issued a loaner device to support remote learning who are not returning to the TDSB in September are to return that device to the Main Office of DMCI ASAP.

Re-Setting Passwords If you are having difficulty resetting your password, please contact TDSB IT [Support Services for Password Device Help](#).

Issues Logging into Chromebooks? Please see the [TDSB Student Device FAQ's](#)

Dual Credits: Any senior students interested in taking a college course through the Dual Credit program are asked to contact Ms. Veneziale at natalie.veneziale@tdsb.on.ca as soon as possible to ensure they meet entry criteria and have completed all necessary paperwork. Courses are on offer from George Brown, Seneca, Humber and Centennial Colleges. All courses are free, online, and are scheduled to start at the end of September/early October. Please use this link (<https://sites.google.com/>)

Daily [Checklist](#) for your School Day: Every day please be mindful of the following: Have multiple snug and comfortable masks so you can wash them daily and have back-ups ready. Pack a few masks each day and a bag for soiled masks to go in during the school day. All students will also be

supplied with two cloth masks during the first month of school. Practice proper hand washing, especially before and after eating, sneezing, coughing, and adjusting a mask or cloth face covering. Pack a full water bottle and snacks daily. The cafeteria will not be open. Follow DMCI protocols, including using the designated entry doors, following the flow of traffic, maintaining physical distancing and capacity limits in washrooms and elevators. Be patient and flexible as we adjust to these new measures to help keep everyone safe.

Dropping Off Items: There will be a cart outside the front entrance daily from 9am-3pm where you can return outstanding textbooks or library books.

Device and Tech Support for Parents/Guardians and Students

The TDSB is committed to supporting synchronous and virtual learning from home for both parents and students. The [Parent and Student Device/Tech Support webpage](#) has the following information: Accessing Google Classroom Guide for Parents, Google Digital Citizenship Guide, Google Guardian Guide, Accessing Brightspace, and Student Password and Device help.

Water Fountains: The policy on water fountains has been updated. Toronto Public Health recommends that water fountains are not to be used to drink water but might be used to fill water bottles. Students are encouraged to carry individual refillable water bottles that come filled from home.

Becoming Ill while at School

Please see Toronto Public Health's webpage on [what to do if you have COVID-19 symptoms or were exposed to someone who does](#). Students/staff that become ill will be isolated in a designated, supervised "wellness room" until they are picked up. The parent/guardian or emergency contacts are notified to pick up the ill student as soon as possible. If it's an emergency 911 will be called. Public Health does not recommend that students take the TTC or school bus home and transportation arrangements be made that minimize contacts. It is strongly recommended that school staff and students with symptoms of COVID-19 go to an [assessment centre](#) for testing as soon as possible, and to [self-isolate](#) at home until their result is available. As per Toronto Public Health guidelines, there are no tests for staff or students to do to be cleared to return to work or school. In general, staff and students can return to work and school 14 days after their symptoms began if they had COVID-19. For other illnesses, or if someone tested negative for COVID-19, they should not return to work or school until they are symptom free for at least 24 hours.

External Visitors - Parents/Guardians: To maintain a safe environment, visitors are strictly limited. Parents and guardians are encouraged to email, call or set up virtual appointments.