



Gledhill Public School

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Cathy McAleese, Principal Janet Bambrick, Vice-Principal

September 2, 2021

Dear Families,

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year! We are eager to meet our families who are just beginning their time at Gledhill and we welcome our families who are returning. Staff are looking forward to connecting with families and students. Teachers will be contacting families prior to September 9th (the first day of school) at which time you will find out which class your child is in.

While we are looking forward to a more normal school year, we know you have many questions. For students who will be attending school in person, Health and Safety is a priority. As well, the focus for this new school year, whether it is in person or virtually, will be connecting with our students and creating familiar routines that can provide structure and comfort to students and their families. Below we have provided information about routines that will be in place for the school which we hope will answer some of the questions you may have.

School Day, Drop off and Pick-up routines

- The school day is 8:40 am to 3:20 pm with staff members on duty in the back of the school at 8:30 am. Morning recess is 9:55 am to 10:10 am, Lunch is 11:30 am to 12:35 pm and afternoon recess is 1:55 pm to 2:10 pm. **Note this schedule will also be followed by students who are placed in the Gledhill PS Virtual School class.**
- Students should be screened for COVID symptoms prior to arriving at school. Go to: <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/School-Year-2021-22/Daily-Health-Screening> to find the latest Health Screening tool.
- Students from each class will line-up in a designated spot and will have a second screening and use hand sanitizer prior to entering the school. ‘
- **All caregivers, family members, students and staff must be masked on school property (this includes being masked outside when dropping off and picking up your child/ren). Please pack an extra mask for your child.**
- Please do not use the playground areas (e.g., adventure playground) before school begins or after school as these spaces are reserved for the Gledhill Daycare.
- Please drop-off quickly and do not congregate on school property.

- **Entry to the school building** will be limited to staff, students, and essential workers/delivery personnel.
- If you are **late bringing your child to school**, please wait outside the front door until we can screen your child. **Students will be entering the building alone.** Kindergarten students will be brought to their classrooms by a staff member.
- Students are dismissed at 3:20 pm to families and caregivers and it is important to pick-up promptly for safety. Students who are not picked up will be brought to the main office.

Class Routines

- Classes will have desks facing forward and be strategically positioned apart. There will be assigned seating. The hallways will have signs to outline the traffic flow to support social distancing.
- Rotary classes (Music, French, Media and Health and Phys. Ed.) will have teachers moving to the students' classes to minimize movement in the hallways. Teachers will also take advantage of using the outdoors for learning, weather permitting. **Virtual School:** students will be receiving instruction online from some rotary teachers as part of the school day.
- Children will be provided with individual materials to use for learning. Shared materials (e.g., a xylophone in music class) will be sanitized between use. Students are welcome to bring their own pencil cases etc. for learning. Please do not have your child bringing toys and/or "stuffies" to school.
- All our water fountains have been "bagged" and are out of bounds. Gledhill Parent Council has provided classes with Filtered Water Containers for water- bottle refills. We encourage students to bring a **filled water bottle(s) from home.**
- Students will eat their lunch in their classrooms. We ask families to send their child to school with a **litterless bagged lunch** at the start of the day.

Air Circulation

- Each class has an industrial HEPA filter unit for air filtration. The school's mechanical air exchange unit is run at full capacity beginning 2 hours before the school day begins and continuing for 2 hours at the end of the school day. All classroom windows in our school open to allow for fresh air to circulate.

Recesses and Lunch

- Grade 1-5 classes will be cohorted at recesses and lunch time in different areas of the school yard, with a rotation to a new area each week. Morning recess is 9:55-10:10am, lunch is

11:30 am-12:35 pm and afternoon recess is 1:55-2:10 pm. **Virtual school will be following the same recess and lunch schedule.**

- At recess and lunch, students will have mask breaks and will be encouraged to socially distance when playing.

Wellness Room

- Students who arrive at school with symptoms of COVID-19 will be escorted by staff to the Wellness room, and parents will be notified to pick up their child. Your help with screening at home and keeping your child home if they are sick will go a long way towards keeping our school open and safe.
- Families will be provided with an at-home COVID-19 test kit with instructions for use if family members develop COVID like symptoms or a child is sent home from school with symptoms.

Lost and Found

- Please label your child's belongings. Items found outside, will be hung on the kindergarten triangle. There will be no "Lost & Found" box in the school. Contact your child's teacher if your child is missing something at school.

The information around screening, and COVID-19, are continually updated. We encourage you to visit the TDSB website: <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/School-Year-2021-22> on a regular basis. Please reach out to us in the office if you have any questions. We look forward to working with you in partnership for the new school year ahead!

Cathy McAleese
Principal

Janet Bambrick
Vice-Principal