

Hello Harbord parents/guardians and students:

Hope you had an enjoyable Labour Day weekend. To all of our families celebrating Rosh Hashanah, I hope you enjoyed the time celebrating New Year with family and friends. We wish everyone a happy and healthy year.

At Harbord, we are all incredibly excited to be welcoming back our students on the first day of school Thursday, September 9, 2021. Here is some additional information for the start of the school year:

First Day Schedule

Remember, because we have many new excited Harbord Tigers in grades 9 and 10 who have never been in the building, we will be having a staggered start to help our new family members enter the building, get comfortable, and find their first period classrooms. We will be following this schedule on September 9:

Grade	Entry time
Grade 9 students	9:00am (arrive 8:40 am)
Grade 10 students	9:30am (arrive 9:10 am)
Grades 11 and 12 students	10am (arrive 9:40 am)

The afternoon is a regular schedule day with lunch at 11:30am - 12:15pm. The afternoon class starts and ends as per usual times (start 12:15pm and finishes at 2:45pm).

Entering School:

We highly recommend that on a regular day, students arrive at 8:40am to start the screening verification. On a regular day, classes start at 9:00am for all students. As we have approximately 1000 students to screen and safely enter the building, we remind students to use the [NOW Mobile App](#) to do their health self-assessment. This is the most efficient way to show us your completed health assessment. Students need to show staff screeners their 'completed check' on their mobile devices as they enter the building. If students arrive early before staff are at the door, please wait for staff to verify your health assessment. Please be patient as there will be line-ups however, we will do our best to process the lines as soon as possible. Please remember to always practice physical distancing at all times. Like last year, we will be using four entrances/stairwells. Students will enter based on their first period class location:

- Northeast (Tennis court - Euclid Ave.) and Southwest entrance (corner of Harbord St. and Manning Ave.) – classes on the 3rd floor (rooms 300-399)
- Northwest entrance (Manning Ave. back of school/backfield) – classes on the 2nd floor (rooms 200-299)
- Southeast entrance (corner of Harbord St. and Euclid Ave.)– classes in the basement or on the 1st floor (rooms 026, 033, Gym, or between 100-199)

For all students arriving late in the morning (after 9:15am), you are asked to enter through the Southwest entrance (Harbord St. and Manning Ave) where you will be screened by staff.

After the lunch period, students are asked to re-enter the building via the entrance/stairwell that corresponds to their afternoon room location. Refer to instructions above. There will not be a need for staff to 'screen' students again in the afternoon. The health assessment completed in the morning is sufficient for the full day.

Timetables:

After solving the TDSB-wide technical error, timetables can now be accessed through your TDSB Connects App. If you are still not able to access your timetable, delete the app and re-download it (this seems to fix the error). Students will be able to view their timetables for the week. Students will see their 2 classes this week and will be able to access their next week classes by changing the calendar date to next week. Most students should have 4 courses this semester.

In addition to accessing timetables through the TDSB Connects App, timetables were also sent today via emails. Please check your emails and follow the instructions.

Virtual Learners:

Some of our Harbord students will be learning virtually this semester. These students will be engaging in the learning from home via Zoom or Google Meet video conferencing. Their teachers will be Harbord teachers and they will continue to be part of our school family as they will be learning simultaneously with in-person peers. Our teachers are amazing people and will continue to do their best to provide the best learning experience they can for all their students. Virtual learners will be invited to join the classroom learning through Zoom links or Google Meet passcodes. All students will have access to each course's online learning platform BrightSpace. Teachers may also be using Google Classroom but students will access that through BrightSpace. Harbord Virtual Students: be on the lookout for your video conferencing invites from your teachers and let's make sure we are fully engaged in the live virtual instruction! We want you to have the greatest success you can this year.

Lunch:

To ensure the safety of everyone, students will be asked to eat their lunches outside of the building. We encourage students to practice physical distancing while eating outside on our back field or in our front area on Harbord St. Students are permitted to leave school property and buy their lunches at local establishments but again, please remember to follow all health and safety protocols. During inclement weather, students will be allowed to eat in the building but must follow all health and safety protocols. Masks will need to be worn indoors at lunch except while the student is eating. Once a student is finished actively eating, masks must be worn immediately afterwards. Of course, students are permitted to leave school property to buy or eat lunch even during bad weather. For students who wish to remain in the building, they will be permitted to eat in the halls but must be seated (no wandering through the school or hallways).

- Gr 9 students will be permitted to eat in the basement hallways and in the cafeteria (there will be capacity limits in the cafeteria - maximum of 4 students at a table).
- Grade 10 students will be permitted to eat on the 1st floor.
- Grade 11 students have the 2nd floor to quickly eat.
- Grade 12 students will have access to the 3rd floor hallways to eat.

We will need everyone's help to ensure that safety protocols and procedures are followed. Students: I thank you ahead of time for your cooperation.

Welcome to our new 'Harbord staff family members':

We are all so happy to be welcoming our new VP from Runnymede CI, Leigh Thornton. Leigh and I have worked together as admin colleagues before at Oakwood CI and I know that our Harbord family will love working with her --- she is truly FUNomenal! This year, even more than previous years, we have a long list of new teachers at our school and we are so grateful to have each and every one of them. I know they will be wonderful additions to our school as they are all caring educators and even better people. Please join me in welcoming:

- Art – Susie Morgado
- French Bus/Geo and Spec Ed – Malisa Mashud
- English – Zoe Edwards
- Math – Michelle Defilippis
- Physics – Sabika Raza
- Science – Jason Thai
- Business – Genevieve Mummery
- Guidance/Student Success – Christopher Thomas
- Visual Arts – Paul Tiberio
- Communications Technology – (Adam) Shalaby
- Computer Science – Chris Cardoso
- ACL of Science and the Environment – Jennifer Rowland
- ACL Innovative Teaching and Learning (interim) – Whitney Baker

And lastly, join me in welcoming back our Harbord teachers who were teaching at Virtual School last year --- everyone is ready to have a fantastic year!

How to find out what's happening?

Please follow the school's Twitter account at [@harbordci](https://twitter.com/harbordci) to get up-to-date information, celebrate good news items, and share in the overall FUNomenal learning that happens at Harbord!

As always, please continue to practice the health and safety protocols and follow the most up-to-date Toronto Public Health directives. Looking forward to tomorrow and a great year.

“Harbord, we CARE for each other. TOGETHER. We are ONE!”

Steve