

















Hello parents/guardians and students:

As many of you are aware, it was announced on August 26, 2020 that I, Steve Yee would be transferred as Principal from Oakwood CI to Harbord CI effective September 1, 2020. I am extremely honoured to be serving the Harbord CI school community and am excited to be working with the wonderful students, parents, and staff that I've heard so much about. This past week has been my first days at Harbord CI and I've had the fortunate opportunity to meet and get to know the staff during our PD sessions on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday --- they are an amazing group of educators who truly CARE about your children and their learning.

With the start of the school year around the corner (beginning on September 15), I know that there are a lot of questions regarding this year's 'start-up and reopening'. As you may have heard, there have been many changes from the Ministry of Education over the summer that impacted our preparations that were started at the end of last year (in June). Namely, the decision to go 'Quadmestered' (2 subjects/classes per quadmester) and having 4 quadmesters for the school year. This model allows for approximately 15 students to be cohorted together per subject (class) therefore minimizing student contacts (some classes however may be 15-17 students - not a 'hard cap of 15 students). For this model, students would have in-person learning every second day for half the day (morning) and online learning every day for the afternoon. See structure here:

|  <b>Four Day Timetable</b><br><i>*Schedule Repeats itself on the fifth day</i> |   |   |  |   |   |  |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|---|---|--|---|--|
| Time   | Cohort A  |   |  |   | Cohort B  |  |   |  |
|  | Day 1   | Day 2   | Day 3  | Day 4   | Day 1   | Day 2  | Day 3   | Day 4  |
| 8:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.   | <b>Course 1</b><br>In Person @ School<br>  | <b>Course 1</b><br>Independent Learning @ Home<br> | <b>Course 2</b><br>In Person @ School<br>     | <b>Course 2</b><br>Independent Learning @ Home<br> | <b>Course 1</b><br>Independent Learning @ Home<br>   | <b>Course 1</b><br>In Person @ School<br> | <b>Course 2</b><br>Independent Learning @ Home<br> | <b>Course 2</b><br>In Person @ School<br> |
| 12:30 p.m. – 1:10 p.m.   | Student Dismissal (return home/lunch)   |   |  |   |   |  |   |  |
| 1:10 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.<br>APA/PMA   | Professionally Managed Activities<br>Alternative Professional Assignments<br>Work with other school personnel to provide consistent support for students<br>Provide extra help to students<br>Contact Parents |   |  |   |   |  |   |  |
| 2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.  | <b>Course 2</b><br>Live Virtual Learning<br>   | <b>Course 1</b><br>Live Virtual Learning<br>       | <b>Course 2</b><br>Live Virtual Learning<br> | <b>Course 1</b><br>Live Virtual Learning<br>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full-class synchronous learning</li> <li>• Student success initiatives</li> <li>• Support students with IEPs</li> <li>• Credit rescue</li> <li>• Working one on one with students to close gaps</li> <li>• Small group activities</li> <li>• Opportunities for teachers to meet with students</li> </ul> |  |   |  |
|  |  Live Virtual Learning   |   |  Independent Learning                         |   |  In Person Learning  |  |   |  |

The Ministry of Education also permitted families to choose fully REMOTE LEARNING if so desired. Our school administration reconvened in late August to re-create a new timetable that met the needs of the Quadmestered structure (our previous timetable created for this year was our usual full year structure/model). This '2.0 timetable' was finished by last week and students were scheduled into the classes however, with the new information of over 13, 000 Secondary students across the TDSB (60, 000 students in both Elementary and Secondary combined) choosing fully REMOTE LEARNING and no additional funding to hire teachers for the 'Virtual School' from the Ministry of Education, each local school at the TDSB was reduced in staff and a system redeployment of teaching staff to the Virtual School is required for this week. Because of this, each school in the TDSB (including Harbord) will have

to create another timetable ('timetable 3.0') to meet the needs of the 'in-person' learners. We are awaiting our new staffing information (determination of which teachers will be in the building) and will then need to create the classes and sections ('timetable 3.0') that best meet the needs of our student choices. As you can appreciate, this is a daunting task and one that needs to be completed in a short period of time. We ask for your understanding and patience as we are unable at this time to inform parents/students of their courses and teachers in any of the Quadmesters (including the first Quadmester). Please know that we, administration and staff, have been working tirelessly to prepare for the reopening of school. Our goal is to have the timetable information (classes) for students and staff as soon as possible.

To help bring clarity to 'what school will look like' this year and answer some of your health and safety questions, please click on the links provided to access the information:

[TDSB Returning to School Video](#)

[TDSB Return To School webpage and information](#)

[Returning to School - Safely Reopening the TDSB](#)

[Return-to-School/Learning-and-Instruction/Secondary](#)

I have also received inquiries around the teaching platform that will be used for the digital component of the courses --- for all courses this year, teachers will use a Brightspace or Google Classroom learning platform. Students attending in-person should bring a backpack with essential learning materials and a water bottle. There will not be locker assignments this year.

A message that I will reinforce and reiterate as much as possible with our school community throughout the school year is: "for us to all stay safe and continue to build the important student-teacher relationships that are integral to learning and success, please":

1. Stay home if you are ill or not feeling well
2. Wear a mask while indoors at Harbord
3. Physical distancing – stay 2 metres apart from others and do not gather in groups
4. Clean your hands. Wash hands frequently with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer

Of particular note for this year, we all want to be able to "learn together" and be in the presence of each other as this is what makes school special. In order to do so, we all have to adhere to the 'core 4' expectations and we ask that you stand with us and help your children fully understand these "must-do's". Please know that if your child is ill and has an evaluation on that day, he or she will not be penalized in any way and their teacher will work with your child to make an accommodation. We all are in this together and we will work together!

I hope this email provides some clarity to the start of the school year. This school year will certainly be unique and one that will require communication, flexibility, and most importantly CARE. At Harbord, we CARE for each other. Together. We are one!

I am so looking forward to working with all of you --- parents. We will get through this together --- and it may be even better than before!!!

Steve