

Hello Harbord parents/guardians and students:

I hope everyone had a wonderful first full week and are continuing to enjoy the beautiful summer-like weather. Being outside enjoying the sunshine, getting fresh air, and scheduling some physical activity are all so important to our health and wellbeing. In speaking with my wonderful Vice-Principals and teaching staff, we all agree that it has been amazing to see the smiles on our students' faces. We are all so happy to see and connect with each other! As we look to begin our second full week of school together next week, I want to provide you with some important information:

COVID-19 Decision Guide

The TDSB, along with Toronto Public Health have revised the [Decision Guide](#) to determine what steps to take following the health self-assessment. **Please review this information as the chart is very helpful and clear.** As always, please continue to inform the school if your child is absent.

COVID-19 Take-home Testing Kits

In partnership with Women's College Hospital (WCH) Pandemic Programs, Harbord is working together with the Ministry and Toronto Public Health to keep schools safe and operational. This year, we've just received on-site testing saliva kits for our students and staff who develop symptoms while at school. A saliva testing kit will be given to students/staff who show symptoms to complete at school or to take home and return to school. We will send the sample to WCH and test results will be sent quickly and confidentially.

"How-to" instructions are found inside the take home kit. WCH asks student/parents to fill out the registration forms properly. It is important to fill out all the information on the registration form including the name of the school, student/staff information and consent/ no consent to notify the principal.

Virtual Learning

For our virtual learners and their families, I have attached our 2021-2022 Harbord Virtual Learning Guidelines and Expectations for you to review. Harbord Virtual Learners have been given a digital copy by their teachers and are expected to type in their name acknowledging that they have reviewed the guidelines/expectations along with the TDSB Online Code of Conduct, and then are required to share that copy with their teacher. It is so important for our virtual students to be fully engaged in their learning and actively participating in the class --- Students: let's make sure we follow the expectations and be as successful as possible!

As the deadline for Semester 1 Virtual Learning has passed, parents and students are reminded that the next time to switch to Virtual Learning is for Semester 2. Information and deadline dates for switching to Virtual Learning will be provided by the TDSB towards the end of Semester 1.

Our virtual learning mode of delivery this year is via simultaneous learning. Only students who have been formally enrolled in the virtual learning option and students who must isolate for COVID-related reasons are permitted to be on the Zoom or Google Meet video call. Once families provide

information to the administration confirming COVID positivity or quarantining requirements (ie. close contact to sibling with COVID concerns at another school), students will then be notified of the temporary virtual learning video call links or codes.

Upcoming School Council

Our first School Council meeting this year will be on October 4, 2021. At the moment, school council meetings will continue to be virtual meetings. Our meetings are open to all parents and caregivers with children attending Harbord. Please see the attached invitation letter from our past school council chair, James Murphy. He has also included information about our elections for this school year. The meeting is from 5:30pm – 7pm so come out and join us remotely from the comforts of your home. The School Council Zoom meeting link is: <https://tdsb-ca.zoom.us/j/99123313428>

Upcoming Late Starts on Wednesdays

The TDSB has created a common schedule for all secondary schools including late start PLC (Professional Learning Committee) meetings and staff meetings. These late start days will be on the third and fourth Wednesday of each month starting this coming Wednesday, September 22nd (PLC meeting) and the following Wednesday, September 29th (staff meeting). The schedule for late start days is:

Period 1 (10am - 12:00pm)
Lunch (12:00pm - 12:45pm)
Period 2 (12:45pm - 2:45pm)

Staff will begin health screening at our entrance doors at 9:45am on PLC late start days.

Reminders:

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. 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. 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 continued help to ensure that safety protocols and procedures are followed.

1:1 Student Device Chromebooks Program for grade 9 students:

We are currently distributing the TDSB assigned Chromebooks to our grade 9 students through the Insignia Library System. An email was sent to all grade 9 families requiring a form to be completed before distribution. Parents: please make sure that you have completed the form. Here's the link [Go To Form](#)

If parents have opted out and wish to change their selection, they cannot edit the form. They can print their response form and manually change it and sign it. Students with corrections can then show it to our teaching staff in the library and then receive the Chromebook.

Follow our Twitter account!

Please follow the school's Twitter account at [@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