



Dear Knob Hill families,

As we begin this school year we would like to welcome students and their families whether it is in-class or virtual learning. There are some things that will be the same like the excitement of seeing your classmates and there will be quite a few things that will be different. We look forward to working together with you to help our children transition safely and smoothly. Information is changing constantly and we will send out information as we organize things for Knob Hill. However, please continue to check the TDSB website for up to date information as well as emails sent out by the board.

I would like to welcome Mr. Kurt McIntosh as our new Superintendent for our school. Mr. McIntosh has served the Toronto District School Board in several different capacities over the years. Most recently he has served as a Centrally Assigned Principal for Equity, Well-Being, Engagement and School Improvement. Mr. McIntosh has taught and led in both the elementary and secondary panels. We look forward to working with him.

At Knob Hill we are working hard at developing a safe environment to the best of our ability following Toronto Public Health Guidelines, Ministry requirements and TDSB Health and Safety Policies. Included in this newsletter is some of the changes we are making to ensure your child is safe. Please read carefully.

Masks (PPE)

All students will be required to wear a face mask or reusable cloth mask. This includes visitors, parents and caregivers. The school will provide cloth masks for students, they can bring their own from home as well. Students must wear their masks in class however, they will be provided outdoor times when they may take them off.

Screening and Pick up

Students will be screened with a series of questions each day regarding their health. Students that are unwell will be sent home. In order to keep school safe and well, please keep your child home if they display any symptoms of cold or flu - do not send them to school. Please refer to the Covid information sheet attached as well as signs posted.

Entry

From September 15th, students will be staggered in (further information to follow). Students will be lined up with their respective classes (their cohort). Areas will be labelled. Families are asked not to be in the pavement area where students are lining up. Teachers will be sending a welcome letter to families in their class once class lists are settled. Kindergarten students will line up at their designated labelled spots in the kindergarten yard (front of school). All classes will enter one class at a time and go straight to their classroom.

Exiting

Students will exit in the same area where they entered. One door is marked entry, the other exit. Classes will be staggered out at the end of the day (one class at a time).

Recess

Recesses will be staggered to limit the number of students on the playground/field. The playground structure is closed and will not be used during the school day. Students do not have to wear a mask when outside, but need to remain in the area designated with their class/cohort. Lines will be drawn to separate play areas.

Snacks

Students should bring their own snacks. Snacks will be eaten in class. At this time, the Snack Program is postponed until further notice.

Lunch

All students will eat in their classrooms. We are practicing Litterless Lunches - meaning any uneaten food or garbage will be sent back home in students lunch packs. Food, drinks and utensils will not be shared.

Lunch times are staggered - 1st floor, then 2nd floor. During outdoor time the outdoor areas are marked so that students stay in their designated cohort area. There will be NO lunch drop off. Students are expected to bring their lunch. In the case where a student has forgotten their lunch - A phone call and arrangements will be made by office staff. We are also encouraging students to stay for lunch as we want to limit exposure during the school day and lunches for siblings may be at different times. If a student must go home, please ensure that your child knows to go straight home and back. Students should not come back early and are to return just before the bell. They must sanitize their hands at the door and should wash their hands when they arrive in their classroom.

Belongings

This year the lockers (intermediates) and cubbies (in Kindergarten) will not be in use. Students will take their essential belongings straight to their class. As you can imagine, space is limited in classrooms so students are encouraged to bring only what they need to learn and their snack/lunch. We recommend that you go through your children's belongings nightly to wash and sanitize them.

Classrooms

Caretakers and Teachers are working hard at making sure classrooms have enough space for distancing. Carpets have been removed and desks are spaced in Junior/intermediate. Primary students are spaced where only 2 or 3 students are at a table. Students are encouraged to bring their own storage item with pencils/pens, masks etc. Please label everything with your child's name.

Children must also bring their own water bottle as the communal water fountains are closed. Children can refill their water bottles in the classroom.

Assemblies

Assemblies, guest speakers and presentations at this time will be limited and/or held virtually.

Isolation room

Throughout the day students may display symptoms of illness. Students will be sent to the isolation health room. Only one student can be there at a time. A call will be made for you to pick up your child. We understand that this will be a change to your schedules, however to maintain safety and follow protocol outlined by TPH please ensure that someone is available to pick them up immediately.

Online Forms

Please check the Knob Hill Website and TDSB website for up-to-date information. **All** registrations are done online. If you are unsure how to do this please contact the office and the lovely ladies in the office can assist you. Other forms such as medical, lunch, media etc will be sent through School Messenger. Please ensure the school has your most up-to-date email address.

Visitor Protocol

To ensure safety for all - visitors, parents, guardians will **not be permitted** into the building without an appointment. All school visitors must conduct a Covid-19 health screening at the front doors. Wait to be invited in to ensure appropriate physical distancing. There will be a sign in/out list for contact tracing. Please call the office if you need to set up an appointment. Masks must be worn and 2 meter distancing must be practiced at all times. Please report through the main front doors only. Only 1 person from the family in the office at a time. Please bring a pen if needed to fill out forms. Phone calls and virtual meetings are recommended in order to limit the amount of people in the building.

Emergencies/Phone Usage

Students will not be permitted to use the office phone. If you need to contact your child, please call the office and we can relay the message. We don't want students to miss class time so phone calls should be limited to recess or lunch times except in emergency situations.

Elementary Virtual Learning

For students whose parent/guardians have chosen to continue their child's learning at home, there will be a "Virtual School" assigned to our Learning Centre. Each Virtual School will be fully online and will be staffed with TDSB teachers, Principals, Vice Principals, guidance counsellors, and support staff. Students will take part in synchronous (live/online) learning throughout the day with a maximum class size of:

29 Kindergarten 180 minutes

20 Grade 1-2 225 minutes

35 Grades 4-8 225 minutes

This is in addition to asynchronous learning (independent work).

For further information please visit www.tdsb.on.ca

Again, Thank you so much for your patience and co-operation as we continue to figure things out. Further information regarding your child's start date (beginning Sept 15th) will be sent home next week.

Stay safe and take care,

Mrs. Dockstader and Mrs. Siriram