



## **FRIDAY FILE – Sept. 18, 2020**

***KINDNESS. RESPECT. PRIDE.***

***Follow us on twitter @ZionTdsb***

**School Website Link** <https://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/zionheights/>

**School Contact Information:**

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Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

The start of the school year has been like no other! Thank you for all of your efforts in educating and instructing your child(ren) about the importance of wearing a mask, washing their hands and maintaining social distance. This is key to minimizing infection. Please also remember to send a paper bag or ziploc with your child daily, to place their used masks. We are also thankful to parent donations and assistance which allowed us to paint lines on our field to help remind students to stay within their cohorts.

As many of you are aware, we cannot stress the importance of conducting the Daily Health Screening either using the NOW MOBILE Health APP or paper Health Pass that needs to be signed on a daily basis per child. If your child presents with one symptom, please keep them home. This will prevent their peers and teachers from potentially getting sick.

ZHMS staff are happy to start off our school year with your child(ren)! We have been anticipating the return of our students and we are consistently greeted with “smiling eyes” behind masks and happy that children are enjoying their return to school. We look forward to a wonderful year ahead!

Regards,

***Chi Le***  
***Principal***  
***Zion Heights Middle School***

***Chris Demakopoulos***  
***Vice-Principal***  
***Zion Heights Middle School***

## **TDSB Health & Safety / Return to School Update:**

### **RETURNING TO SCHOOL | A GUIDE TO THE SAFE REOPENING OF THE TDSB**

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#### **Introduction**

The health and safety of our students and staff is a top priority as we reopen schools and administrative buildings. As we continue efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19, returning to school and work will look different, but every effort is being made to support students and staff in this transition.

As school starts in the fall, it is critical that we do everything possible to ensure the health and safety of all school community members, while also providing the best academic experience possible for students, supporting mental health and well-being and considering the needs of families and staff.

*Returning to School: Safely Reopening the TDSB* provides details about a number of important areas and is supported by programming and operational guidelines for schools to implement these practices locally.

Our decisions and work will be supported by our guiding principles:



Prioritize health and safety



Support well-being



Provide predictable learning opportunities with high quality instruction



Foster connections to staff and peers



Ensure equity of access



Consider needs of staff, students and families



Be adaptable and flexible



Be financially feasible and sustainable

Please see the updated TDSB RETURN TO SCHOOL document here:

[https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/0/docs/Returning%20to%20School September%204%202020.pdf](https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/0/docs/Returning%20to%20School%20September%204%202020.pdf)

TDSB School Re-opening Safety Checklist:

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/0/docs/Health%20and%20Safety%20Considerations%20Checklist.pdf>

## **Trustee Update - Please see Trustee James Li's Ward 13 Newsletter:**

<https://t.e2ma.net/webview/k9akcd/40080d1eadc75d2d91d50daaf78577d0>

### **TDSB Parent Concern Protocol - 2020-2021**

When reaching out to your School, Principal and Superintendent this is the process we follow

#### **Step One - Classroom Teacher**

If you have any questions or concerns, the first person to go to is your classroom teacher. The classroom teacher can help with:

- Any questions about the classroom
- Classroom rules and consequences
- Homework and assignments

#### **Step Two - School Principal**

If you would like more information or you have questions that are beyond the classroom, the school principal can help.

- Concerns about an individual school
- Student registration
- Student schedules
- Report card concerns
- Classroom concerns
- Safety and security
- Fundraising
- School Council

#### **Step Three - School Superintendents**

Superintendents are responsible for a Network of Schools. They support school staff and can be contacted if you have questions that have not been answered or for help with:

- Alternate attendance request
- Suspension appeal

#### **Step Four - Trustee**

Trustees are your elected community officials. They are available to help you with the following areas of the TDSB:

- Concerns about your community
- Ideas and suggestions for the Board
- Items on Board Agenda
- Board policies under review
- Board budget
- Collective bargaining

## Zion School Council Community Message:



We at the Zion Heights School Council would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of our students and wish everyone a safe and successful academic year. Our school administration and teachers have worked tirelessly to make our school as safe as possible for our students returning for in-school learning, and for that we are grateful. Let's do our part in ensuring that we, the Zion Heights families, follow all the safety protocols that are recommended by the Toronto Public Health so that our community will remain safe and COVID free.

Based on the current communication from TDSB, we are planning to hold School Council elections during the week of October 14th, 2020. The elections and meetings will be held online through each School Council's Zoom platform, which will be set up shortly. The details regarding the process of Council elections and operations are still being finalized by TDSB. We will provide an update when more information becomes available. Staying in touch and being involved is more important than ever this year and we encourage you to stay connected with the School Council so your voice, ideas and/or concerns can be part of our collective community dialogue. In the meantime, you can visit the school website and review the School Council Bylaws if you have any questions about how the Zion Council functions.

Please free contact our Zion School Council Co-Chairs with any questions or concerns:

**Aaron Iravani** - [airavani@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:airavani@uwaterloo.ca)

**Key Kasravi** - [keykasravi@gmail.com](mailto:keykasravi@gmail.com)

## **VIRTUAL SCHOOL UPDATE:**



### **Entering From or Returning to In-Person Learning (Elementary)**

We recognize that parents/guardians and/or students may want to switch between in-person learning and Virtual School. It is important to note that, for health and safety reasons, and because of the impact switching would have on staffing, physical distancing and space allocation, it will not be possible to immediately transition between the two models. As a result, an opportunity to enter the Virtual School or to return to in-person learning will be provided at three key dates during the school year, as outlined below.

Movement from one model to another will be requested through the Principal of the student's home school. If a switch is required outside of the designated times, a limited number of exceptions may be made and will be reviewed by Principals on a case-by-case basis.

<b>Opportunity to Change</b>	<b>Date the Change of Class would Take Effect</b>	<b>Deadline for Requesting Change</b>
#1: Approximately One Month into School Year	October 13, 2020 (day after Thanksgiving)	September 30, 2020
#2: Following Progress Reporting Period	November 23, 2020	November 06, 2020
#3: Following Distribution of First Provincial Report Card	February 16, 2021 (day after Family Day Holiday)	January 29, 2021

Return to School Questions and Answers can be found here:  
<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Return-to-School/Questions-and-Answers>

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

**September 30 – Deadline for Requesting Change (In-school/Virtual school)**

**September 30 – Orange Shirt Day**

**October 14 – School Council Elections – More information to come**

### **Orange Shirt Day**

Orange Shirt Day is an annual event established in 2013 to recognize the legacy of Canada's Residential Schools for First Nations, Métis and Inuit families and communities. It is a show of support and acknowledgement regarding the damaging history of the Residential School system and its continuing impact on many First Nations, Métis and Inuit families today.

Orange Shirt Day 2020 falls on **Wednesday, September 30th**. By wearing orange on that day, we have an opportunity to bring awareness to the history of Residential Schools and to stand up against other injustices that may impact our children/students. The phrase, "Every Child Matters" reminds us that children are so very important and integral to our communities—they are our future.



**Zion Heights Middle School TDSB**  
@ZionTdsb

Wishing all our new Grade 6s a fantastic day, we are so glad you showed up today! Please be reminded of our enhanced safety measures to keep everyone in our community safe! [@LC2\\_TDSB](#) [@tdsb](#) [@ZionTdsb](#) [@JamesX\\_Li](#) [@Elizabeth\\_Addo3](#)



*(From Tuesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020)*