

SUNDAY, September 13th, 2020

Dear Parent, Guardians and DRAGONS,

I am excited to welcome you back to school. Our entire team has been working very hard to prepare our school for your return. We are adjusting school entrance ways, hallway access and classrooms to optimize safety and learning.

I am sharing a lot of information today. Please read over it carefully and keep it for a reference.

**Here is our MPPS 2020-2021 STAFF TEAM:**

KA - Caron Jackman, Emily Bradshaw & Sam Hood

KB - Joanna C & Lisy Lindsay

KC - Marie-Claude Sheedy McLellan & Shannon McDougall

KD - Hannah Newman & Celeste Gibson

KE - Whitney Fleras & Jenny Ou

R1/2A - Agata Skorecka & Caron Jackman (Core French)

R3/4A - Chrissy Lane & Caron Jackman (Core French)

R5/6A - Joanna Harvey & Caron Jackman (Core French)

EF1A - Josee Chretien & Julie Hoyles (Math)

EF1B - Jessica Sutherland & Julie Hoyles (Math)

EF1C - Morgan Campaner & Julie Hoyles (Math)

EF1D - Jennifer Chambers & Julie Hoyles (Math)

EF2A - Julie-Anne Lauzone Meloche

EF2B - Samantha Mask

EF2C - Kendra Durnford

EF3A - Candice Nesbitt

EF3B - Elizabeth Makuch

EF3/4A - Sarah Horton

EF4A - Matt McKechnie

EF4B - Christa Bauer

EF4/5A - Sadia Sial

EF5A - Miquela Skinner

EF6A - Marie-France Lague

EF6B - Jessica Cruz

Physical Education/Health/Arts - Lisa Hotte, Bernide Garnier, Julia Rooney, Christine Poirier

Remote School Staff (working within our school) - Katarina Mathiesen, Zakia Kaddir, Jenny Doull

Learning Support Teachers - Lisa Potter & Susan Steele

English as a Second Language/English Literacy Development - Cynthia Jaz

Designated Occasional Teacher - Heather Strickland

Custodial Team - Chief Lourdes Abano, Rick, Margharita, Angela and Jorje

Library Technician - Tammy Moffatt

Educational Assistants - Sonia Awad, Whitney Chisolm, Tetyana Gedeonova, Valerie Seeley

Front Office - Susan St-Louis, Carrie Foley, Sarah Elenezi

Vice-Principal - Karli Bergquist

PROUD PRINCIPAL - Marnie Patterson

Please watch the Welcome Back Video [HERE](#)

**Here are a few things you should know:**

**DESIGNATED DROP OFF AREAS:**

Since parents are **not permitted on property**, we are introducing two **MORNING WALK & WAVE** areas. One is located on Hemlock Road and one Eastbourne Ave. [Please see VISUAL B](#). Parents are asked to walk to these locations and wave goodbye to their children and a staff member (in an orange vest) will ensure students are safely walked over to their teacher and class line up. PLEASE NOTE THERE IS NO RECESS/PLAYTIME before school. DO NOT ARRIVE EARLY.

Parking /traffic information - We are anticipating an increase in traffic this year. Ottawa City Bylaw and the Ottawa Police Service will be assisting us

during our first few days. We are introducing a **KISS N RIDE** for parents who are driving their children to school. Please see VISUAL A for more information and watch the youtube video to learn more about this program.

### **Kiss N Ride (Mornings only)**

As we strive to improve the safety of our students at morning drop off, we have introduced a [KISS N RIDE program \(see linked visual\)](#) for our parents who are choosing to drive their children to school. We have worked with our community members, the City of Ottawa Bylaw department, as well as the Ottawa Police Service who will be supporting us as we welcome back our students.

This drop off system needs your cooperation and your patience for it to be safe for our students and staff.

Our Kiss N Ride will operate on Thornwood Street (at the back of the school).  
**STUDENTS CAN ONLY BE DROPPED OFF ON THE EDGE OF SCHOOL PROPERTY THIS YEAR.**

New NO PARKING signage will be installed by Bylaw within the next month, however, please follow our new safety routine.

### **KISS N RIDE and How it Works:**

**WHOM?** Any parent wishing to drive their children to school.

**WHAT?** Students will need to hold their backpack on their lap, their seatbelt removed so they are ready to promptly exit the vehicle when the vehicle door is opened by an educator. Parents cannot get out of the car and students cannot freely exit on their own.

**WHERE?** Thornwood Road at the back of the school. Our Kiss and Ride is **ONE WAY** only.

**WHEN?** At morning drop off between the hours of **8:20am-8:30am**.

**HOW?** Drivers/vehicles will turn onto THORNWOOD Road from HEMLOCK STREET and join the line of vehicles that are slowly and patiently approaching OUR STOP sign and EDUCATOR. We will open the vehicle door. Children will exit the vehicle from the RIGHT side door. Drivers then drive

away to the EASTBOURNE Avenue stop sign. Students CANNOT exit the vehicle into traffic (left side).

**PICK UP AREAS:** [Please see VISUAL C.](#) At the end of the day, teachers will be walking their students to the parent pick up area as well as their bus lines.

We will be posting this information on our website so that is readily available to you.

As you know, we will have a progressive start this week - students will start on different days. Here is our schedule:

Monday, Sept. 14	TUE. Sept. 15	WED. Sept. 16th	THUR. Sept. 17	FRI, Sept. 18
	Grades 1, 2	Grade 1 & 2	Year2 (SKs)	EVERYONE
		Grade 3 & 4	EVERYONE	
		Year1 (JK) ((Year2 (SKs) NEW TO MPPS or in Before & Aftercare))		

\*Note: Students enrolled in Before and After Care **may only** attend on the day that they attend school.

We will be following **Covid-19 protocols** and ask that families do the same.

- There will be signage and information when you arrive at school to guide you.
- All students in grades 4-12 must wear a mask.
- All students and staff will sanitize their hands each time they go in and out of the school and the classroom.
- We will be practicing physical distancing inside the school and in the yard.

**What families can do to prepare:**

- Talk with your child about returning to school. Focus on the joy of learning, seeing their friends and reconnecting with staff, building routines, and being [COVID-wise](#);
- Practice hand washing;
- Practice wearing a mask;
- Keep the link to the [Ottawa Public Health Self-Assessment Tool](#) in a handy spot so you can access it daily before sending your child to school.
- Review these helpful [back to school tips from CHEO](#).
- Watch this [COVID Wise for Back to School Video: A message from Dr. Etches](#)

- Learn more in the language you need from these [Multi-lingual Resources](#) from OPH.

### **Getting to School Safely - Bus Transportation, Walking, Drop offs**

The Ottawa Student Transportation Authority (OSTA) is experiencing severe driver shortages and have made many route changes and cancellations. Route MP140 PM has been cancelled for Manor Park. A full list of cancelled routes according to school [here](#). Families - please check the list and plan for alternative transportation to school. Note that due to continued uncertainty, OSTA warned that further routes may need to be cancelled. Parents should sign up to the [OSTA Parent Portal](#) to receive latest updates, including bus cancellations, and confirm the status of your child's bus route.

### **Traffic Safety**

With more parents dropping their children off at school, traffic safety is more important than ever. Please consider using the OSTA [walk-a-block maps](#) posted on the school website to park away from school and safely walk with your children. Or, use the route maps [linked here](#) (scroll to find Manor Park) and help children walk to school safely. It's a very important time to remind your child about traffic safety when walking or biking to school, especially with so many more cars near our school.

### **School Supplies**

The Four Most Important Things for Students to Bring to School Each Day are:

1. Backpack and 2 lunches
2. Mask (Grade 4-12 bring daily)
3. Refillable water bottle- LABELLED
4. Dressing in layers (dress for the weather as classes will be spending more time in the outdoors this year).

School supplies are voluntary. The school will have supplies available for students. Some families prefer to buy them, and if so, this [voluntary supply list](#) provides an idea of the kinds of supplies that are used by grade. School supplies cannot be shared between students in order to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and other viruses. If a student brings supplies, they should be labelled and stored in a pencil case (or a resealable plastic bag) for personal use. Students will be keeping all supplies at their desk. If you choose to send supplies, keep it to a minimum and replenish throughout the year.

We have taken a look at class size relative to classroom spaces. To meet physical distancing requirements and to provide the necessary work space for students and

staff, we have relocated these classes to some of our larger classroom spaces. In some of those classrooms, depending on the space configuration, we have taken additional measures such as providing table shields. I want to reassure you that we have taken every precaution to follow all guidelines and provide the safest environment for our students and staff.

### **A Warm Welcome**

Our entire staff is so excited to welcome students back to school. We know that it will be a different year, but we are so fortunate to have a school community that is committed to making this a success. We hope you have received an email communication from your teachers :)

Please take a moment to watch our [WELCOME BACK video](#). It is filled with information from our school. **WE ARE VERY EXCITED TO SEE YOU!**

Please remember that we can all help to keep school safe by following public health guidelines.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Proud Principal

Marnie Patterson