

September 2, 2020

Dear West Kings Families,

This letter follows my message sent on August 26, 2020, with more information about what our school will look like when students return on September 8th. We continue to plan for a full return to school. Should we be given direction from Public Health that our learning model must change, we will let you know immediately. We hope this letter, in addition to the details shared with you last week, will help your family prepare. To help your planning, a checklist is included at the end of this letter.

Google Classrooms have been created for each grade level. If your student is not a part of a WK grade level Google Classroom please email Jennifer.bishop@avrce.ca or call West Kings at 902-847-4440 to be connected to this.

Food Programs:

- Breakfast Club programs may look a little different, but students will still be able to have something to eat in the morning if they are hungry when they arrive at school. There will be “Grab and Go” stations at three locations in our school: the cafeteria, main lobby and lower lobby. This will start September 8th.
- Our cafeteria re-opens on September 8th and will offer a single menu item at lunch time. We will circulate our menu through the alert system, our school website, on our daily broadcast and in your student’s Google Classroom. Our cafeteria workers will be following Public Health guidelines and there will be enhanced cleaning procedures.
- If your student(s) want to have their lunch delivered to their third period class, they can order before school starts or during recess.
- Students can also purchase their lunch in cafeteria during lunch time.
- Students will be eating their lunch in classrooms, cafeteria or outside.
- **Grade 9 students are not permitted to leave the campus.**
- **Grades 10-12 may leave the campus for lunch and will wash/sanitize their hands upon re-entry of the building.**

Curriculum and Specialist Teachers:

- Students will have the opportunity to engage in all subject areas, although some may look different than previous years.
- Our students will pursue the courses they registered for in the 2020-21 school, as usual. They are to follow their schedule.
- Course changes sheets will be made available in the Guidance Office on the first day. Returned Course Change Sheets must have a parent’s/guardian’s signature. Signed sheets are to be returned to the Guidance Office for consideration.
- Students who attend the Learning Center will continue to do so.

- Academic Support will continue in the assigned rooms.

Please note:

There may be times when we go outside for classes. Therefore, students are to dress for the weather. There will be an emphasis on enhanced cleaning when students travel to a different learning space.

If you are interested in learning more about Nova Scotia's curriculum, visit <https://curriculum.novascotia.ca/>

Illness at School:

- Every year as part of your back-to-school planning, we ask families to have a plan in case your child must leave school early, whether due to illness or an unplanned early dismissal.
- **This year Following Public Health guidelines, we must send students home if they become unwell during the day. It is very important that you have a plan to pick up your child at school if necessary.**
- It is also important that we have up-to-date contact information for you and your child's emergency contact person. Please make sure that the registration form that will be coming home with your student is returned ASAP.
- Please know that **students will not be penalized for staying home when they are sick**, have any COVID-19 symptoms, or have been advised by 811 to stay home.

School Routines:

- Our regular emergency preparedness plans continue as they normally would. Throughout the year, we will practice emergency procedures such as routine fire drills, hold and secure drills, and lock-down drills.

School Supplies:

- Students will be given a list of school supplies that are needed for each course by their teachers.

Buses

- Requests for traveling on a different bus is limited to those who are involved in child care or need necessary school arrangements. Parents must contact the school by phone or email to make these arrangements.

We know back-to-school time is a very busy time for families.

This checklist may help you prepare:

- Know where your bus stop and what time the bus comes.
(many routes changed over the summer, so double-check at <https://transportation.avrce.ca> or by contacting transportation@avrce.ca or 902-538-4641)
- Make sure you know where your bus is located at the end of the day. The chart will be shared in your Google Classroom. All teachers will have the chart to refer to in their classroom. We are there to help. Do not wait until dismissal time to find out this information.
- Dress for the weather – classes may be held outside
- Wear a face mask. Two reusable face masks will be provided to all students.
- Help your student understand and practice good hygiene techniques, including proper hand washing, how to put on and take off a face mask, coughing/sneezing into a tissue or their elbow, etc.
- Please send a reusable water bottle with your students. We encourage them to bring it full in the morning.
- Have a plan and a back-up plan in case your student becomes sick at school
- Be ready to help make 2020-21 a memorable year! 😊

We will continue to stay in touch with you when there is new information to share. In the meantime, if you have questions that aren't covered here, the provincial Back to School website includes an extensive "Frequently Asked Questions" list that may be helpful, as well as posters and videos on topics like proper hygiene techniques. Please see novascotia.ca/backtoschool for more information. As always, you are welcome to get in touch with me if you have questions about your child's needs and experiences at school.

Also, we ask for your patience as we all settle into school routines, especially around busing. There have been changes to bus stops and routes since last year, plus system-wide busing for Pre-Primary is new this year. Just like any other school year, delays and adjustments can happen in the first few weeks of September, so your understanding is appreciated.

On behalf of everyone at West Kings, we are excited to welcome your student back to school soon and we thank you for working with us to help students feel as confident and ready as possible.

Sincerely,

Donna Baker
Principal