



Friday, May 7th, 2021

Good afternoon GMPS families!

We have completed our first week of May and our students have been fantastic! We are motivated by the amount of knowledge and perseverance they demonstrate daily. Keep it up! You are amazing! Thank you to staff and to families for the great work you do alongside and for our students, your children, each and every day!

Please continue to reach out to your child's teacher if you need anything.

Kindergarten Registration

While schools may not be open, families can still register for Kindergarten. Our school, along with all elementary schools in the Board, is now offering online registration. Families can access the online Kindergarten registration information at bit.ly/KindergartenYRDSB.

Please note: A laptop or desktop computer is strongly recommended to complete the online registration, rather than a mobile device.

Alternatively, families can also complete the elementary school registration form and email it directly to the school. Once schools re-open, families will need to bring in their documents. School office staff will reach out to make appointments.

Are you moving?

If your child/ren is moving schools and not returning in September, please email the school and at your earliest convenience. Please also let us know which school your child will be attending.

FROM YRDSB:

The communications below were shared with families via YRDSB Update email. They are repeated here for your reference, or should you have missed them.

YRDSB LETTER TO FAMILIES REGARDING 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

Dear Families,

I know this has been an incredibly challenging year for everyone, and while there is still uncertainty on whether this school year will be concluded virtually or in-person, we are beginning to think ahead to the 2021-2022 school year and would like to provide an update on our planning.

Through feedback, families have shared that priorities included children being connected to their home school, the ability to switch more readily when required between remote learning and in-person learning, and access to continuity of remote learning when necessary.

With these and other factors taken into consideration, we are planning to implement a hybrid model of learning for elementary and secondary schools for 2021-2022. Through this model, families will continue to have the ability to opt for in-person or remote learning, and placement for all students will be in their home school. This means that students attending face-to-face and students attending remotely will be taught simultaneously by the same educators.

Where numbers warrant and when operationally feasible, in some schools, some classes may begin in a fully face-to-face or fully virtual format; all classes however have the potential of being hybrid. In Secondary, we will be continuing with an adaptive model to be developed based on Ministry of Education directives and Public Health requirements.

We know that you may have many questions regarding the implementation of the learning model for the 2021-2022 school year. While we don't have all the answers at this time, as we continue our planning and more information becomes available, we will provide regular updates.

We will be reaching out to families during the summer to provide additional information about the learning models and request for you to indicate your preference for face-to-face or remote learning for your child.

We appreciate your ongoing patience as we work to support student well-being and achievement throughout the COVID-19 global pandemic.

Sincerely,

Louise Sirisko

YRDSB LETTER REGARDING USE OF TECHNOLOGY

Dear Families,

This letter is also available in the following languages: [Arabic](#), [Farsi](#), [Gujarati](#), [Hebrew](#), [Korean](#), [Punjabi](#), [Russian](#), [Simplified Chinese](#), [Tamil](#), [Traditional Chinese](#), [Urdu](#) and [Vietnamese](#).

To help protect student safety and privacy, the following parameters for participation in online synchronous learning sessions and expectations for use must be observed by all students and families in all aspects of online learning and all models of instruction (Adaptive and Virtual School). Teachers have previously reviewed the expectations in each student's homeroom or period one class. Should you have any questions, please connect with your school's principal.

Expectations for Use and Behaviour

When participating in "real time" synchronous teaching and learning, students and families agree to the following:

- *Use only [Board Approved Platforms and Synchronous Learning Tools](#);*
- *Follow [YRDSB Appropriate Use of Technology Policy and Procedures](#);*
- *Adhering to all rules of conduct and behaviour for the regular classroom, as they also apply to the virtual classroom, including but not limited to:*
 - *o participating in ways that are inclusive, considerate and respectful to all;*
 - *o not engaging in incidents of discrimination or hate, including but not limited to anti-Indigenous racism, ableism, anti-Asian racism, anti-Black racism, antisemitism, classism, homophobia, Islamophobia, sexism, transphobia; and*
 - *o immediately reporting any racist, hateful, discriminatory or inappropriate behaviour to a teacher or trusted school staff member.*
- *· Participation in synchronous sessions is limited to students only. Parents/Guardians may assist and support their child logging into or accessing learning platforms or digital tools. In all cases, parents are reminded of the importance of student independence in learning.*
- *Parents/Guardians and students will NOT:*
 - *o Record any aspect of a Google Meet or Zoom session (including pictures, voices or video) using internal or external recording devices;*
 - *o Distribute/post any recorded, copied or distributed materials in any way, including to all social media platforms;*

- o Take photos or screenshots of anything other than when given explicit permission or direction by the teacher to do so (e.g., a visual used for instructional purposes that won't be reposted later);
- o Edit or manipulate materials in any way; and
- o Share/distribute links to Google Meet and Zoom sessions provided by the teacher.

Failure to comply with these expectations may involve student discipline which could include suspension or expulsion.

Recording of Online Synchronous Learning Sessions

Please read the information below carefully to ensure that you understand the parameters for participation in online synchronous learning.

1. A teacher may record all or portions of online synchronous learning sessions for:
 - a. Student learning purposes
 - b. Student assessment purposes
 - c. Future instructional use

For more information about the purpose, access, storage and retention of the synchronous learning video recordings, please refer to the [Recording of Online Synchronous Learning FAQs](#).

2. In the absence of a real-time access note-taker, where applicable, transcripts of closed-captioned notes may be shared with individual students, based on identified needs. In these instances:

- *There is a written record of what was said during a lesson or class discussion;*
- *The transcript is not posted to the learning platform, but shared only with the student(s) who requires it; and*
- *These notes are used by the student who requires them in accordance with their IEP and are used for concept attainment and Executive Functioning purposes only.*

Should you have any questions, please connect with your school's Principal.

Thank you

OPPORTUNITIES AND EVENTS FROM YRDSB AND THE COMMUNITY

JEWISH HERITAGE MONTH – MAY 2021

[Canadian Jewish Heritage Month](#) was given Royal Assent in the Senate of Canada on March 29, 2018. As we approach the month of May, staff and students are encouraged to engage in opportunities that celebrate and affirm Jewish histories and the achievements of the Jewish community.

Canada is home to the fourth largest Jewish population in the world. There are close to 400,000 Jewish residents in Canada, and almost half of that number reside in Ontario. Jewish settlers in Canada can be traced as far back as 1760. Jewish Canadians have proudly contributed to Canadian heritage in all of its facets including the military, the arts, government, business, academia, law, medicine, culture, and sports. Throughout the month of May, we celebrate the contributions Jewish Canadians make in communities across the country.



ASIAN AND SOUTH ASIAN HERITAGE MONTH – MAY 2021

May is Asian and South Asian Heritage Month in Ontario. In May 2002, the Government of Canada officially declared May as Asian Heritage Month. At the provincial level, the Legislative Assembly of Ontario designated May as South Asian Heritage Month in 2001 and as Asian Heritage Month in 2005.

[The South Asian Heritage Act of 2001](#) established the foundation upon which South Asians, whose origins are or can be traced to the Indian subcontinent, can see themselves reflected and valued in the fabric of Ontario and our schools, and appreciated for their extensive contributions to Canada.

[In May 2002, the Government of Canada](#) signed an official declaration to designate May as Asian Heritage Month. This acknowledges the long and rich history of Asian Canadians from East Asia, Southern Asia, Western and Southeast Asia and their contributions to significant Canada

As we approach the month of May, staff and students are encouraged to join Ontarians and Canadians who will be coming together to understand, affirm and appreciate the vibrant heritage of people of Asian and South Asian descent. All staff members are encouraged to work with their school community to recognize, honour, affirm, and celebrate Asian and South Asian identities and experiences.

COMING UP:

- **Thursday May 13** – Eid-ul-Fitr
- **Monday May 24** – Victoria Day – no classes today
- **Wednesday May 26** - School Council
- **Monday, May 31st** - PA Day - no classes today

Please continue to check YRDSB's website site www.yrdsb.ca, Twitter <https://twitter.com/YRDSB> and Instagram yrdsb.schools for ongoing communication.

To our families celebrating Eid-ul-Fitr next week, I wish you a blessed celebration.

A Happy Mother's Day to all who celebrate.

Have a good weekend. Stay safe. Be well.

Eugenia Korinis

Principal
German Mills PS