



# The Holland Landing Highlights

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## September 8, 2020

### From the Office

### Welcome to the 2020-2021 School Year!



Our school team is excited to welcome our learners back to Holland Landing Public School! It has been a long time since we have been together, and it will be good to reconnect with our HLPS community.

Welcome back to our returning families, and a very warm welcome to new families who are joining the Holland Landing community. We'd also like to extend our very best wishes to our students and families who have chosen to embark on a Virtual Learning journey this fall. We will miss seeing you face-to-face each day, but know that you will be in good hands in the Elementary Virtual School (EVS). We'll keep our EVS students and families connected by continuing to include them in weekly newsletters, and information updates. Families who have selected Virtual Learning will be contacted by their EVS teacher on Sept. 8th or 9th with information about daily schedules, and instructions for how to log on.

This is a school year like no other – we closed out our last school year apart, and this new school year will begin with new learning environments, and new routines. We recognize that our learners and families have gone through a lot in these past several months. Our world has changed, and as we return to the routine of school, our goal is to ensure that each of our learners is safe, feels welcome, and included.

Our staff have been working hard to prepare learning spaces, and planning routines that will allow our students to safely return to school. Teachers have been setting up classrooms; support staff have been preparing student materials; our caretaking team has been preparing our building; and our office team have been welcoming new families and registering students. All staff have been involved in setting up routines to maintain a safe environment. There will be lots of new routines to learn, and our staff are prepared to support our students as we begin a new way of being together at school. Thank you to all of our staff for their work in preparing to re-open HLPS.

In addition to welcoming new students and families, we will be welcoming new permanent staff who are joining our school team:

Mrs. Whitehouse, Mrs. Tamboly, Ms. Maguire, Mrs. Apps-Kolar, Mrs. Michaud.

We also have several long-term occasional staff who will be supporting our school this year:

Ms. Companion, Ms. Iannacito, Ms. Ceci, Mrs. Canini, Ms. Jafari, Mrs. Hastings.

We would also like to extend our very best wishes to Ms. Jacobou and Mrs. Tamboly, who have been temporarily redeployed to the Elementary Virtual School. We can't wait to welcome them back to in-person learning, and know that their students at EVS will be in good hands!

Thank you to our Holland Landing PS families for your support as we transition to this new way of learning and being together. Our families, students, and staff will need to work together to make the return to school **safe**, and **positive** for everyone. We know there will be changes and adjustments to make along the way, but please know that all decisions we make as a school have our students' safety as the priority. We will exercise **patience** and **flexibility** as we navigate the reopening of Holland Landing Public School.

Our goals for September will be to **build positive relationships** with our students and families and to **create classroom environments which are safe, inclusive and responsive**.

This will be evident when we all see learning spaces that:

- reflect our learners' diverse lived experiences, identities, and interests;
- allow every voice to be heard and valued.

*We build trusting relationships based on respectful and responsive communication.*

*We value positive, meaningful relationships with all of our school community.*

*We value different ideas, and conversations where all voices are heard.*

Looking forward to a wonderful year of learning together!

Melissa King  
Principal

**This year, we have new health and safety measures in place to help keep students and staff safe from the spread of COVID-19.**

**Everyone, including families, plays a critical role in supporting health and safety in our school communities.**

**Please review the [Return to School Elementary Checklist](#).**

Every day, screen your child for symptoms of COVID-19 and keep them home if they:

- Feel sick or have symptoms of COVID-19
- Have been in close contact with someone who is sick or has confirmed COVID-19 in the past 14 days
- Have returned from travel outside of Canada in the past 14 days

### **First Day Procedures**

Normally, we gather together as a school on the tarmac to meet and greet our students and families. During these times, we need to maintain protocols for physical distancing and minimizing the number of people gathered together. This year, students have been divided according to surname, and will alternate attendance for the first few days. This supported entry will allow students to learn and practice new routines and procedures.

## **Kindergarten**

**SK students (all): full day, every day beginning Thurs., Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>**

**JK students (surnames A-L): full day on Mon., Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>; Wed., Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>; Fri., Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>**

**JK students (surnames M-Z): full day on Tues., Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>; Thurs., Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>; Fri., Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>**

Beginning at 8:45 am, Kindergarten students will go directly to the Kindergarten arrival and dismissal yard at the front of the school. Parents/caregivers dropping off Kindergarten students must wear a mask, and are asked to remain outside of the gate. As soon as your child has been welcomed in by their educator, parents/caregivers are asked to leave the school grounds.

## **Grades 1-8**

**Grade 1-8 students (surnames A-L): attend Thurs., Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> and Mon., Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>; attend every day beginning Wed., Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Grade 1-8 students (surnames M-Z): attend Fri., Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> and Tues., Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>; attend every day beginning Wed., Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>**

Beginning at 8:45 am, students will be meeting their teachers outside on the tarmac. An email will be sent to all families on Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup> outlining the location where their child will meet their teacher on the first morning (Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup>). There will be large signs with teacher name and classroom # posted on windows near each entry door. Students are asked to gather at their classroom meeting spot (maintaining 2-metres physical distance) under the sign, and the classroom teacher will welcome students there. These locations will also be the exit doors for your child's class at the end of the day.

### **Parents and Caregivers:**

Our student and staff safety is our priority. Masks must be worn by parents and caregivers on school property, and 2-metres physical distancing must be maintained by any adults and students on the property.

Parents/caregivers are welcome to walk younger students (gr. 1-3) to their designated entry door. For our older students (gr. 4-8), we would prefer to have families say goodbye at the sidewalk, and allow students to enter the property independently.

## **Morning Entry Routine**

- Students may begin arriving at 8:45 am. All students must enter the building upon arrival. Supervision will be inside the school building.
- At this time, there will be *no supervised outdoor play before the school day begins*.
- Parents/caregivers are not permitted to gather on school property, or remain on school property after dropping off their children.

### **Active Transportation (walk, bike, scooter, etc.)**

- Upon arrival, students will enter the building at their designated door and go directly to their classroom. Supervision will be in hallways to support physical distancing.
- Upon entry, students must sanitize their hands, and wear their mask (gr. 4-8; gr. K-3 encouraged).
- Kindergarten students who arrive with parents/caregivers will be dropped off at the Kindergarten arrival/dismissal yard at the front of the school and welcomed by their educators.

### **Bus Transportation**

- Students who arrive by bus will be met by staff supervisors in the bus loop.
- Supervisors will direct students to enter the building at the designated bus entry doors (front door closest to the gym).

- Kindergarten students who arrive by bus will be met by a Kindergarten staff member, and will be walked directly to their classroom.

### ***Kiss 'n Ride 8:45-9:00 am and 3:30-3:45 pm***

We are implementing a "Kiss 'n Ride" lane to help ensure our children can be dropped off safely.

- Parents/Caregivers will not be permitted to park in the parking lot between 8:45-9:00; and 3:30-3:45. *If parents/caregivers enter the parking lot, they must utilize the Kiss 'n Ride and remain in their car.*
- Parents/Caregivers of students who need to utilize the accessible parking spaces for safe arrival and dismissal are welcome to park in the designated parking spaces at any time.
- If parents/caregivers wish to park and walk their child to their entry door, there is ample street parking – [please click this link to view a map of street parking locations within 400 metres of Holland Landing Public School.](#)

### ***Kiss 'n Ride Tips:***

- Cars will enter the parking lot and pull up beside the school sidewalk, as far up as possible; drivers should remain in their car.
- Children must leave the car from the passenger side;
- Staff will approach and help students disembark and direct students to their entry door;
- Drivers will wait for staff supervisor to indicate it is safe to leave the Kiss 'n Ride loop;
- Drivers may not leave the Kiss 'n Ride loop and pass other vehicles – all vehicles will leave the Kiss 'n Ride loop from the top of the parking lot.

***Thank you for your patience as we begin our Kiss 'n Ride lane!***

## **Afternoon Dismissal Routine**

### ***Active Transportation (walk, bike, scooter, etc.)***

- Students will leave the school building via their designated door and promptly leave school property.
- Masks must be worn by parents and caregivers on school property, and 2-metres physical distancing must be maintained by any adults and students on the property.
- Parents/caregivers are welcome to meet younger students (grades 1-3) at their designated entry door. For our older students (grades 4-8), we would prefer to have families meet their children at a family-designated meeting spot off school property.
- After hours play on the tarmac, field, and playground between 3:30 pm and 6:00 pm is not permitted.
- Families will not be permitted to gather and remain on the school property.

### ***Bus Transportation***

- Bus students will leave from the designated bus door (front door closest to the gym).
- Students in grade 1-8 will line up according to their bus number, maintaining physical distancing. Students must wear a mask while waiting for the bus, and while riding the bus.
- Kindergarten bus students will be walked to the bus by a member of the Kindergarten educator team. Staff will help support students with safe boarding.
- All students will be assigned a designated seat. The seating plan must be adhered to.

### ***Kiss 'n Ride***

- Parents/Caregivers are asked to utilize the Kiss 'n Ride in the same manner as the morning drop off.
- Students will meet parent/caregiver at the sidewalk and enter the car from the passenger side.

## Daily Schedule & Routines

Adjustments have been made to our daily schedule and timetable to reduce the number of contacts students have with other students, and adults throughout the day.

- Rotary has been reduced so that students will remain with their homeroom teacher most of the day.
- Students will remain in their classroom; teachers will come to them.
- Students will be provided time during the school day to remove their masks to reduce mask fatigue (see next section for additional information about mask usage).
- We will continue to access the gym with sanitizing protocols and distancing in place.
- Our class sizes have been reduced to allow for distancing within classroom spaces.
- Each class is part of a “cohort” of no more than 50 students; cohorts will not change or mix.
- Cohorts will use a designated “zone” at recess; students will not have free access to the school yard, and will need to stay within their cohort and school yard zone. Zones will rotate each week so that students have access to all spaces within the yard throughout the month.

In order to maintain minimum of 30 minutes of active recess time twice per day, we have timetabled two different recesses and lunch periods:

### **Group A:**

- Morning Recess A: 10:30-11:00 am
- Lunch A: 12:50-1:20 pm
- Afternoon Recess A: 1:20-1:50 pm

### **Group B:**

- Morning Recess B: 11:00-11:30 am
- Afternoon Recess B: 12:50-1:20 pm
- Lunch B: 1:20-1:50 pm

*Information about your child(ren)'s daily schedule(s) will be communicated by your child(ren)'s homeroom teacher.*

Please be reminded of the following:

- Until further notice, all students are asked to remain at school for lunch and eat in designated areas (i.e., classroom).
- All special lunch programs/food days (e.g., pizza, sub) will be cancelled.
- All food delivery services (e.g., UberEats, Skip the Dishes) will not be accepted.
- Students must bring their lunch and snacks, for safety reasons; lunch drop offs will not be permitted.
- Please pack a litterless/boomerang lunch - all garbage will be sent home.

For additional information about health and safety measures and daily routines, please be sure to review the [YRDSB School Reopening Plan](#).

## Safe Mask Usage by Students at School

In Grades 4 to 12, students will wear non-medical or cloth masks while in school.

In Kindergarten to Grade 3 non-medical or cloth masks are strongly encouraged for students.

If a student does not have a face covering, they will be provided a non-medical mask by the school.

### **Parents and students should remember:**

- Provide multiple snug and comfortable masks (at least 3) for your child, so they have back-ups ready.
- We suggest separate bags to store clean and dirty masks and a pouch or fanny pack to hold them. Wash cloth masks daily.

### **Opportunities for Mask Breaks:**

York Region Public Health recommends that students be provided time during the school day to remove their masks to reduce mask fatigue. Recess is one opportunity where students may choose to remove their masks (students are permitted to wear their mask outside for recess if they prefer).

Teachers may consider additional times to provide students a break from mask wearing such as:

- Indoor or outdoor gym classes where 2-metres physical distance can be maintained;
- Daily Physical Activity (DPA) outside;
- Other instructional times when staff may wish to take their students outside.

*\*Please note that for community walks students/staff will still be required to wear a mask and maintain physical distancing at this time.*

Students are asked to bring their own storage source (e.g., fanny pack, split pack, cloth bag or pouch) to store their mask during outdoor recess, and other designated mask breaks as indicated above. Students will be reminded not to frequently take their mask on and off, in order to minimize risk of cross contamination from improper storage and poor hand hygiene.

***Morning Entry:***

- Students come to schools with their masks on, which remain on until recess.
- Students enter in a physically-distanced manner.

***Recess Exit:***

- Students sanitize hands while in the classroom.
- Students who are not wearing their mask outside are to take off their mask, fold it in half so that the outer surface is inwards (so that the outer surface which is contaminated is not contacting anything during storage) and store appropriately in the classroom (e.g., in a student owned pouch or on a paper towel on their desk).
- Staff will walk their class out to their recess cohort zone. Students will exit in a safe, orderly, and physically-distanced way.

***While Outside:***

- Students are to play with only students from their cohort and must maintain two meters physical distancing.
- Students will be discouraged from entering the school during recess (e.g., washroom, drink). Opportunities for washroom/drink breaks will be scheduled before and after recess.
- In emergency situations students may seek the approval of staff to enter the building, and staff must ensure physical distancing.

***Return from Recess:***

- Teachers will meet their classes outside, and walk the class into the school.
- Students will enter the school, maintaining 2-metres physical distancing and proceed directly to their classroom. They should not be stopping to use the washroom, get a drink or return items to their coat hooks before donning their mask.
- When back inside the classroom students wash or sanitize hands and put on their mask.

**Message from Our Trustee**

As we begin a rather different start to the school year, I want to take this opportunity to welcome all new and returning students and families. Whether you are returning to school in person or participating in remote, online learning, we look forward to welcoming you into safe, inclusive and engaging learning spaces.

Staff members have been working hard over the summer months with the Ministry of Education and public health experts to develop a [reopening plan](#) that prioritizes the health, safety and well-being of our students and ensures that important [health and safety measures](#) are in place.

Please know that whatever learning model you chose, we will continue to provide your children with high quality education, and to support their learning, achievement and well-being. Our school staff are prepared to help your child transition back into our learning environments, and we will continue to partner with families to support your child's success.

We know that families have many questions about what to expect as their children return to school. You can find information about what to expect at the start of the school year on the Board website, including frequently asked questions that you may find helpful at [www.yrdsb.ca/school-reopening](http://www.yrdsb.ca/school-reopening).

As your school board trustee, it is my role to advocate for quality public education in York Region, and to ensure that our students remain at the centre of all of our decision making. The [Board of Trustees](#) makes [policy](#) and [budget](#) decisions, and communicates with the public, among other [responsibilities](#).

We are also responsible for setting direction for the school board, through our [Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#). This plan sets out four priorities: Foster Well-Being and Mental Health, Build Collaborative Relationships, Champion Equity and Inclusivity, and Empower Ethical Leadership.

The relationship that we have with families is important, and I will continue to keep you informed of our work and priorities. You can also find the [message from the Chair of the Board](#) on the Board's website. You are welcome to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

I hope you have a great start to the school year and wish you a happy, healthy and successful year ahead.

Elizabeth Terrell-Tracey  
Trustee, East Gwillimbury and Whitchurch-Stouffville

