



OSCAR PETERSON PUBLIC SCHOOL

Principal: Nazreen Freeman
Vice Principal: Jennifer Briggs

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Welcome Letter from your school Principal: Elementary (Kindergarten)

September 2, 2020

Dear families,

I hope you are healthy and doing well, and had a restful summer. We look forward to welcoming our new and returning students and families. While we were connecting online, we missed our students and look forward to welcoming them back.

This letter contains important information about the return to school. Please review it. I also encourage families to visit www.yrdsb.ca/school-reopening for videos, frequently asked questions, important health and safety information and more about the school reopening. There is a translation tool on the website that will translate the content into over 100 languages.

School Return Dates and Procedures

This year, we will be delaying students' return to school to give school staff time to prepare for your child's return. For the first few days of school, we will be welcoming students back in smaller groups to give them additional time to learn and practice our new health and safety measures, and to support their transition back to school after the school closures.

Typically, your homeroom classroom teacher placement is provided on the first day of school. This year, as we finalize the staffing process and timetables for students, we are working to provide you with your child's homeroom class placement before school begins. We will send you a follow up communication with this information. We know that this will help especially with some of our younger students, as well as those with various identifications.

Kindergarten - Year One (Junior Kindergarten)

If your child's last name begins with **A-L**, they will:

- Attend school on **Monday, September 14.**
- Attend school **Wednesday, September 16** (they will NOT go to school Tuesday or Thursday that week).
- They will begin attending school every day with their full class on **Friday, September 18.**

If your child's last name begins with **M-Z**, they will:

- Attend school on **Tuesday, September 15.**
- Attend school **Thursday, September 17** (they will NOT go to school Monday or Wednesday that week).
- They will begin attending school every day with their full class on **Friday, September 18.**

All Kindergarten students who are placed in a community class will be invited to attend all day every day beginning on **Thursday, September 10**.

Kindergarten - Year Two (Senior Kindergarten)

Students in Year 2 Kindergarten will start school **Thursday, September 10, 2020**. They will attend school every day.

Arrival

When students arrive at school on their first day, they should go to the kindergarten yard located at the front of the school between 8:35am and 8:50am. Staff will be ready and available to let students into the gated area, and help escort them to their classrooms. Dismissal bell time is at 3:20pm. Please ensure your Kindergarten child has someone standing and ready at the gate to pick them up at this time. Staff will be with students looking for a guardian to make eye-contact with. Please note that the front of the school is our bus-loop, so parking is illegal in this area. Please try to park a block and walk your child to school, or park on local side streets, as our parking lot is full and preferably reserved for staff members.

If your child is registered for a Before and After Care program, please contact your provider for more information regarding the start time for before and after care.

What to Bring

Please send your child to school with:

- A mask (strongly encouraged but not required for Kindergarten students). Please label or write your child's name on the mask.
- snack and lunch
- change of clothes
- sunscreen and hat
- water bottle
- bag to fit all of the above items inside

Please label all of your child's items with their first and last name.

Health and Safety

We ask families to remember that, as a result of health and safety guidelines:

- On a daily basis, parents/guardians of students under 18 and students over 18 are responsible to review and adhere to the [checklist from York Region Public Health](#). Any student experiencing COVID-19 symptoms **is required** to remain home.
- Where possible, students must maintain a physical distance at all times, as they enter, move through and exit the building.
- Students in Grades 4 to 12 will wear non-medical masks while in school. Students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 are strongly encouraged to wear masks while in school. Please send your child to school with a mask.
- Until further notice, visitor(s) are not to enter the school during hours of operation unless identified through a prearranged exception.
- We are minimizing class sizes as much as possible. Students will remain with their class throughout the day, including for lunch and recess.
- Floor decals and classroom set-up are designed to minimize close contact.

- Hand sanitizers will be placed at the entrance to the school and in all classrooms and students will wash or sanitize their hands throughout the day, including when entering or leaving the classroom, before and after eating, after using the washroom and after touching shared objects.

Supporting Transitions

We also want to assure you that our caring, skilled and professional staff members are well prepared to support student learning and well-being in this transition back to school. We know that the closures affected families differently, and that some students may not have been able to access learning as regularly, or experienced disruptions in their routines. We will work with you and your child to support your child's mental health, well-being and academics during this transition back to school and to our new school routines.

If you have any specific concerns about your child's well-being or transition back to school, please speak with your child's teacher.

We have a dedicated staff with a strong commitment to student well-being and achievement, and to promoting positive, inclusive and supportive relationships with students, families, staff and community members. We are committed to providing a learning environment where everyone feels safe, welcome and respected.

We look forward to welcoming you and your child back to school.

Sincerely,

A blue ink handwritten signature, appearing to be 'NF', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nazreen Freeman
Principal

A blue ink handwritten signature, appearing to be 'JBS', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jennifer Briggs
Vice-Principal