



# REVIEW



September 10, 2021

## Message From Administration

Hello Rouge Park Families,

Welcome back to the 2021/22 school year. It has been so exciting to greet our returning and new Rouge Park students. It is certainly going to be another year of uncertainty and change but we can't think of a better community to travel this road with. Thank you to our families for staying so positive while we send out information related to start-up procedures, added health and safety measures and new protocols to follow. We truly appreciate your support.

Our primary goal for back to school is to focus on the mental health and well-being of our students and staff. We know that when children feel safe, welcomed and have a sense of belonging, then great learning can happen. Staff will be building their classroom communities, helping students develop friendships and making sure that everyone has the tools they need to learn and grow.

Below and in future weekly communications, you will find pertinent information and reminders. Please be sure to read *The Review* each week.

Please know that we are here to support the transition to school. If you have any concerns about your child or questions you need answered, reach out to their teacher or to the office and we will do our best to help.

Here's to a fabulous year!

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## New Screening Tool

A new [screening tool](#) for the 2021-2022 school year has been provided by York Region Public Health (please click on Check for Symptoms Daily). This screening tool replaces previous versions and all students and staff must complete the screening prior to attending any YRDSB school or facility. Parents/guardians of elementary students (or the students themselves depending on their age) will have to provide confirmation of a successful screening as follows:

1. Parents/Guardians of Elementary students are required to complete on-line self-assessment [COVID-19 School and Child-Care Screening Tool](#) (please click on Check for Symptoms Daily), prior to their child entering the school
2. Upon completion of the self-assessment, Parents/Guardians will complete the response to the question: "Have you completed the self-screening tool?" in the [Confirmation Form](#) using their child's GAPPS account login information. Information on how to access your child's GAPPS account is available on the [Board's website](#). If you do not have a student number/username, one will be provided by your child's teacher.

Any students who are experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19 as identified in the screening tool (not related to a COVID-19 vaccine) or answer yes to any of the screening questions, must not enter any school and follow the guidance in the screening tool. **Our office staff must follow up with every student who does not submit a Confirmation Form. Please help reduce their workload by ensuring you submit every morning.**

## The Hybrid Classroom

As we embark on a new way of teaching and learning, the Hybrid Model, staff have been busy learning how best to support their students learning face to face at the same time as those learning virtually from home. Like any new system, it will take time to iron out the kinks! Thank you for your patience as we learn what works best. A few points about hybrid learning:

- Students learning remotely should use both their audio and video when participating in collaborative activities in order to maximize connections with their peers and teacher(s) during Google Meet/Zoom sessions. The use of a blurred background or stock image for the virtual background is recommended.
- Educators may set up activities and spaces where face-to-face and remote students are working together in pairs or small groups, e.g., small group activities to support collaborative problem solving. Students will have knowledge of specific areas of the classroom where the camera will usually be pointed, e.g., front or corner of the classroom.
- Educators will be equipped with headsets and a web-camera for the purpose of supporting remote learners to see and hear lessons; the web-camera will generally point toward the teacher and the whiteboard/chalkboard and at times, may capture the voices/images of students learning remotely or face-to-face for learning purposes.
- Subjects such as physical education and outdoor learning will be asynchronous for our virtual learners as it is not possible to have a google meet during these times.

## Reporting an Absence

Our school operates a safe arrival program that requires that we check the whereabouts of all students who are absent each day. It is important that parent(s)/guardian(s) let us know if their child is going to be absent. We have a 24 hour absence reporting line. When you call in please clearly state your child's name and state their teacher's name as well. You may leave a message anytime at: (905) 350-0005. You may also report an absence through Edsby. **Even if your child is a virtual learner, you must report their absence. When you don't report, our office staff has to phone every family to ensure they are accounted for.**

## Parking

Please remember to use our kiss'n ride at the side of the school when you are dropping off your children in the morning. Staff on duty will watch them exit the car and head to their entry door, allowing you to pull forward and exit the loop. If you would like to park and walk your child to their door or to the kindergarten play area, please park on the street as our parking lot is for staff members only. Thank you!

## Congratulations

Rouge Park would like to congratulate Joanne Trim and Archana Selvarajan, both of whom have been promoted to the role of Vice-Principal at schools in our board. We are also saying a fond goodbye and congratulations to Amanda Ramkarran who will be working as an Equity Facilitator with the YRDSB. You will all be missed but we are proud of you and excited to hear about your new adventures.

## School Council

School Council meetings will once again be virtual this year. We will hold our first meeting on Thursday, September 30, 2021 from 6:30-7:30 pm. At this meeting we will vote on our new executive and set some goals for the year. All are welcome to attend.

## Keep Scrolling

## First Day Pictures

We had a fabulous first day of school. Students did an amazing job of following our Covid-19 rules and routines. Please see the pictures below showing our wonderful displays and some happy faces; some of whom were starting school for the very first time! A special thank you to Mr. Gunn for playing incredible music to welcome everyone back to school!



## Coming Soon:

Did you notice Rouge Park's two new logos in recent communication? We will soon have finalized versions of these ready for Spirit Wear! Stay tuned for clothing options coming your way.



## Message from Our Trustee

We have many reasons to feel optimistic as we begin the 2021-22 school year. Schools are reopening to in-person learning, vaccination rates continue to increase, and our students can start to resume some of their favourite school activities.

As we return to school, our [reopening plan](#) continues to prioritize the health and safety of students, families and staff members. We are working with public health to ensure we are taking all appropriate measures. For more information on the plan, including health and safety measures, please visit [www.yrdsb.ca/school-reopening](http://www.yrdsb.ca/school-reopening). You can also find additional information from York Region Public Health at [www.york.ca/safeatschool](http://www.york.ca/safeatschool).

The pandemic and last year's school closures affected students and families in many different ways. This has been a challenging time. Our caring, skilled and dedicated staff members are prepared to prioritize the mental health and well-being of students as they transition back to school, as well as supporting their academic learning and growth. If you are worried about your child, please speak to your child's teacher or principal. You may also find some of the [learning and well-being resources](#) on our website helpful.

Whether your child will be attending school in person or online, we know how important it is that they feel safe, respected and valued. We want every student to feel supported, to take pride in their identities and to know that they matter. Any form of hate or discrimination in our schools is not acceptable. This school year, we will continue to implement the [Dismantling Anti-Black Racism Strategy](#) launched in March to address anti-Black racism in schools. We also remain committed as a school board to honouring the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action](#). As an education system, it is imperative that we create learning environments that enable all of our students to feel valued and to be successful.

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 so 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.

There are also many other ways you can stay connected with what's happening in the school board. Visit our [newsroom](#). Listen to our [podcast](#). Follow us on [Twitter @YRDSB](#) and on [Instagram @yrdsb.schools](#). Watch the latest videos, including news, features and profiles about our schools, students and staff members on our [YouTube channel YRDSBMedia](#).

As we begin another school year, I am so pleased to welcome all of our new and returning families. I hope you have a great start to the school year and wish you a happy, healthy and successful year ahead.

Allan Tam  
Trustee – Markham Wards 4 and 5