



Spartan Speaks - Stouffville District Secondary School

Rose Walker, Principal - Jeff Foran, Vice-Principal – Carolyn Albanese, Vice-Principal 905-640-1433
Elizabeth Terrell-Tracey, School Trustee, East Gwillimbury and Whitchurch-Stouffville 905-953-0562

Sep 4, 2020

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.

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

Welcome From Principal, Ms. Walker

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to all our new and returning families. Our caring, professional and dedicated school team has been working hard to prepare to welcome and transition your children back to school, and to help them learn our new health and safety practices.

- This start-up package includes important information about our school, and I encourage you to review it.
- Families will also receive the [Guide to the 2020-2021 School Year](#) which includes important Board information.
- If you have not had an opportunity to review the [Return to School Plan](#) and information on the Board website, I encourage you to do so.

We know many families have questions about what to expect this school year, and information and resources, including frequently asked questions are available and continue to be updated at www.yrdsb.ca/school-reopening.

Each year we ask families to complete some **important forms** to indicate they have reviewed and understand school and Board policies, and to indicate permissions. We are pleased to let you know that families will be able to complete this information online this year. You will receive an email from YRDSB Update. Please take the time to review and complete the forms. If you prefer to receive and complete a paper copy, please let us know.

Earlier in September, we shared information with you about the [supported entry plan](#), and the dates on which your child will be attending school during the first two weeks. If you have any questions about this, please contact the school.

There are a few upcoming dates I would like to highlight, including:

- Thursday, Sept 10 – In-school day for grade 9s – Cohort A
- Friday, Sept. 11 – In-school day for grade 9s – Cohort B
- Monday, Sept. 14 – In-school day for **ALL GRADEs** Cohort A
- Tuesday, Sept. 15 – In-school day for **ALL GRADEs** Cohort B
(Cohort assignments will be forthcoming)

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 supporting our students' transition back to school and to providing a learning environment where everyone feels safe, welcome and respected.

We value the relationship we have with families, and look forward to speaking and working with you in the months ahead. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any questions. We welcome the opportunity to connect with you.

There are many ways to stay connected with what's happening in our school. Visit our school website for up-to-date information about events. Look for our weekly school newsletters, Spartan Speaks and follow us on Twitter @StouffvilleDSS and/or Instagram @stouffvilledss. You can also find updated information about the Board at www.yrdsb.ca and Twitter @YRDSB.

I wish you all a happy, safe and successful school year.

Sincerely,

Rose Walker
Principal

New Covid-19 Health and Safety Protocols:

Information for Students, Parents, Caregivers

As school begins we will be implementing a number of protocols/procedures to ensure everyone's safety. Please read the following carefully. Note information is subject to change.

School Entry

- 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](#).
- [COVID-19 and Children factsheet](#) from York Region Public Health
- Any student experiencing COVID-19 symptoms is required to remain home (the use of a mask is not an acceptable alternative).
- 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 face coverings (non-medical masks) while in school.
- Masks are to be worn in accordance with the school dress code: no inappropriate designs, symbols, signs or language permitted
- Should a student need a mask, the Main Office will provide one

- If there is a medical reason as to why a student cannot wear a mask, please connect with the school administration at:

jeff.foran@yrdsb.ca (student alpha surname A-L) carolyn.albanese@yrdsb.ca (student alpha surname M-Z)

- Do not enter the building if you have been tested and are awaiting results or have been diagnosed with Covid-19, or you have been told by Public Health to self-isolate
- Do not enter the building if you have recently returned from travel that requires a 14 day period of self-isolation

Permitted Visitors

- Until further notice, the only visitors permitted are those who have a prearranged meeting (examples: school registration, meeting with Principal or Vice Principal)
- If you are a permitted visitor, you must conduct a COVID-19 Self assessment and check in at the main office. Please ensure that you wear a mask
- Wherever possible, visitors will be provided with an information sheet ahead of time outlining school visit protocols
- Food delivery services such as Uber Eats, Skip the Dishes, Door Dash and others (including parent drop off) are not permitted.

Hand Sanitizing

- Students, staff and permitted visitors are to sanitize their hands upon entering the school. A hand sanitizing station is in the front lobby and there is hand sanitizer in classrooms
- Students are to use hand sanitizer after: entering/leaving the classroom, touching shared objects, using the washroom, sneezing, etc.
- It is **not recommended** that students bring their own sanitizer due to issues around quality, fragrance, potential hazard management. Aerosol/spray type products or dispensers of alcohol-based hand sanitizers are not permitted in the school.

Entering the Main Office

- Students and permitted visitors are to wait in the hall to be called into the office. Floor decals will be spaced to indicate proper waiting areas.

Movement within the school

- Signage will be installed throughout the school to minimize close contact with others
- Hallways and stairwells will be divided into 2-way paths
- Directional floor decals for stairwells and hallways will be visible to manage flow

Lunch

- The Cafeteria will be closed and there will be no food purchases available in the serverly
- Food delivery services such as Uber Eats, Skip the Dishes, Door Dash and others as well as parent drop off of food are not permitted.

Washroom Use

- Students are to maintain physical distance at all times, where possible, when in the washroom
- Students are to wash/sanitize hands when they enter and exit the washroom
- Students are not to enter the washroom if the number of students exceed the number of stalls/urinals. Student is to wait in the hall
- Teachers will monitor who leaves their classroom for a washroom break
- Students are to leave the washroom immediately after finishing

Guidance Department

- Guidance will be offering face-to-face and virtual meetings
- Face to face meetings are by appointment only. No “drop-in” meetings permitted at this time
- Physical distancing will be maintained for pre-arranged face-to-face meetings. Students will wear a mask while attending a Guidance appointment

Lockers

- No lockers are being used until further notice. Students are asked to bring only what they need for their class
- No Gym lockers will be available for use until further notice

Study Hall

- Students may access Study Hall in the afternoons, for the purpose of using Wifi. Further information on this pending. Physical distancing is to be maintained at all times in accordance with Public Health regulations.

Dismissal

- Students are to leave school premises immediately after being dismissed from their face-to-face class unless they are remaining for Study Hall (quiet study).

Cleaning and Disinfection

- As part of the shared responsibility for health and safety, students will be responsible for cleaning and disinfecting personal items including laptops.

Student Timetables

Student timetables will be sent out sometime next week. We thank you for your patience at this time. We will be welcoming our Grade 9's on September 10th and 11th in the morning, followed by afternoon online learning for all grades.

Please check out the following web sites for current Board and school information:

- 1) York Region District School Board - www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca
- 2) Stouffville District Secondary School - <http://www.stouffvilledistrict.ss.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/>

Follow us on Twitter & Instagram

We are excited to announce that the SDSS twitter & Instagram accounts have regular updates about school information, initiatives and they are fantastic ways to learn about the amazing things happening at SDSS!



@StouffvilleDSS



@stouffvilledss