

Hello Ross Raiders and Families! Welcome Back to School!



On behalf of the entire staff at Ross, we are so excited to see everyone next week!

I hope the following information will support a smooth return to school on

Tuesday, September 7th.



THE WEEK LEADING UP TO SCHOOL - HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD PREPARE

When talking about school plans with your child, you can help determine your child's mindset.

Set them up for success by teaching them to make the best of it; assure them that every effort is being made to keep them safe. Please see www.dsbm.org for more resources.

CLASS PLACEMENT

On Thursday, September 2nd you will receive an email or quick phone call from the school with your child's class placement information. If you don't hear from us - don't worry! There will be many staff members to help get students to the proper class on the first day of school. Like always, during the first days of school, class assignments could change, due to enrollment changes.

See here for the DSBM Parent Guides: <https://www.dsbm.org/backtoschool/elementary.html>

Kindergarten Parent Guide: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1aFsfkVbvNpP7pG3HHnEXBj866q_1yhd/view?usp=sharing

MORNING ENTRY

Our parking lot is busy, with busses arriving, student drop-offs, and ACW daycare parents. Please be sure to use patience and extreme caution to ensure safety for all our students..

KINDERGARTEN

Morning entry: Parents may drop off their Kindergarten child at the **front Kindergarten gates** (on the front yard facing Niagara St.), anytime between 8:20 am and 8:35 am. We strongly encourage parents to either walk to school or park on the adjacent streets. The crossing guard will be at the front of the school helping families and students cross Niagara St. Upon arrival, kindergarten students will enter the outdoor Kindergarten play area as soon as they arrive. There will be staff members at the gate to happily greet them. Due to important health and safety parameters, parents will not be permitted past the gates or chain link fence.

Kindergarten students who are being transported by bus will be greeted by a staff member and safely walked to the Kindergarten play area.

Dismissal: Classroom Communities will be outside at dismissal. Again, parents may pick up at the front gate (in the front yard). Bus students will be escorted by a staff member to their bus. Please be sure to practice physical distancing with other families when dropping off and picking up your child.

GRADES 1, 2 AND 3

Morning Entry: Parents may drop off at the gate (off the parking lot) leading to the primary playground, or along the one-way lane of our parking area leading to Aquaduct St. Due to important health and safety parameters, parents will not be permitted past the gates or onto the tarmac or field. Students will be welcomed by staff members and will join their class in their designated area in the schoolyard. Parking on adjacent streets and walking to the school is advised since buses will also be pulling into our parking lot at 8:20 am.

Primary students who are being transported by bus will be greeted by a staff member and safely guided to their designated area in the schoolyard.

Dismissal: Classroom Communities will be outside at dismissal. Parents may pick up at the gate (off the parking lot), or along the one-way lane leading back to Aquaduct St. Please let your child's teacher know your plan. Parking on adjacent streets and walking to the school is advised since buses will be pulling into our parking lot. Bus students will be escorted by a staff member to their bus.

GRADES 4, 5, 6, 7 AND 8

Morning Entry: When students arrive in the morning, they will join their class at their designated area in the schoolyard. If parents are dropping students off, please consider a quick drop off along Aquaduct St, as this will be close to their designated space in the schoolyard.

Dismissal: Students will either be dismissed from their outdoor designated space. They will either board their bus, walk home, or be picked up by a parent. If parents wish to wait for their child, they may do so along Aquaduct St.

IMPORTANT

Please do not arrive early. Staff supervision on the yard begins at 8:20 am and this is when the first students should be arriving. Please remind your children that the playground structure is closed before and after school (classes will have scheduled time throughout the school day to use the playground equipment).

MORNING BELL and the FIRST 20 MINUTES OF THE DAY

Bell Times are 8:35 am - 2:55 pm- Bell times and the structure of the school day remain the same as they were last year. Teachers will be sending home a copy of the student timetable during the first week of school. At the morning bell:

- Enhanced health and safety protocols will be in place.
- Teachers will take attendance.
- From the outdoor class waiting zones, teachers will lead classes in a staggered fashion.
- Students will be reminded to physically distance themselves and put on their masks when entering the school.
- Students will go directly to their homeroom classroom where they will wash their hands and/or use hand sanitizer provided.



TRANSPORTATION

If your child qualifies for busing, please go to www.nsts.ca for procedures and health and safety guidelines. Niagara Student Transportation Services is following Ministry of Education protocols for Transportation. Please remember to 'opt-in' if your child did not take the bus last year but will be taking the bus this year.

WHAT TO BRING GRADES 1-8

Please bring **MASKS** (labeled with your child's name). The DSBN will be following all mask guidelines as provided by the Ministry of Education and Niagara Region Public Health. Grades 1-8 students will require a non-medical mask each day, and we encourage Kindergarten students to also wear a mask. Please send a backup mask or two in a labeled Ziploc bag or container, to keep in their backpack. The use of non-medical masks for students in Grades 1 to 12 is required on school vehicles.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

We understand that many families like to purchase school supplies. As always, you are welcome to do this. However, the school will provide all necessary learning materials. If you need these items, many of our community partners will be providing supplies. Please let us know.

SNACK PROGRAM



In collaboration with community partners and adhering to public health guidelines, our school-based snack program will be offered this school year. Special lunch days, such as pizza and sub days, will also be possible this year. More information to follow!

ATTENDANCE

Please note that due to starting our days outside, attendance calls will start a bit later (i.e. after 9 am.).

TIMETABLES

Each homeroom teacher will provide a 10-day timetable for every student. Please note, our lunches will be staggered again this year. Students in primary classes will have their nutrition and fitness breaks at different times from our junior and intermediate students. Therefore, siblings cannot go home for lunch together. Grade 7 and 8 students will stay at school (unless going home for lunch with parent approval) for their nutrition breaks, and not be permitted to go out for lunch in the community.

CLASSROOM SETUP

Classroom sizes vary across the DSBN, but we have removed unnecessary furniture and will be setting up desks with as much distancing as possible, allowing teachers an instruction space at the front of the room. Desks will be faced forward in staggered rows, rather than in circles or groupings.

CURRICULUM

As always, our teachers will be focused on delivering the Ontario Curriculum. The school day will be divided into nine 40 minute periods (7 instructional periods, 2 nutrition/fitness breaks) with all subjects being taught. The majority of your child's subjects will be taught by their homeroom teacher. We will also be including expanded outdoor learning opportunities this year.



SPECIAL EDUCATION

Our staff, including our Learning Resources Teachers and Educational Assistants, will be supporting your children during the 2021/2022 school year. This includes meeting the needs of students who have accommodations and modifications as outlined in their Individual Educational Plans (IEP).

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

An important part of transitioning back to school is to focus on students' social-emotional learning skills so they can build resilience, manage their stress, and build positive relationships. Our mental health and well-being staff have provided classroom-based activities to help school staff support students for a smooth transition.



PARENT COMMUNICATION

We will continue to use School Messenger to email you important information. In order to ensure you receive information from the school, please ensure you provide your homeroom teacher and our school secretary with all your up-to-date information. Verification Forms for updating information will be sent home the first week of school.

Have you joined us on Twitter yet? Please follow us at @ross_dsb. Our Facebook Page is @rossschoolwelland

WASHROOM BREAKS

Students will have access to washrooms as needed and during nutrition and fitness breaks. All washrooms have specific signage to coach students on handwashing expectations and identify the number of students allowed to use the washroom at one time. Staff will support students in learning and practising washroom routines. The DSBN is committed to ensuring a clean and healthy washroom environment with enhanced cleaning.

NUTRITION AND FITNESS BREAKS

Students will:

- Have two 40-minute breaks each day supervised by staff members. You will receive a class-specific schedule for each child from the homeroom teacher.
- Engage in 20 minutes of mask-free outdoor time, in their designated classroom community zone. For health reasons, **students will not be permitted to bring personal sports equipment to use during the fitness break.**
- Students will not be allowed to share food.
- To start, we will not be having any pizza lunches or special lunch days.
- **Please refrain from sending treats in for your child's classmates (i.e. birthday).**

2021/2022 STAFF

Teachers/DECE		Support Staff	
Kindergarten	Mrs. Bolduc, Mrs. Cohoe	Educational Assistant	Mr. Banga
Kindergarten	Ms. Matte, Mrs. Lymburner	Educational Assistant	Ms. Ettinger
Grade 1	Ms. Davis	Educational Assistant	Mr. Jung
Grade 1/2	Ms. Bida	Educational Assistant	Mrs. Riddick
Grade 2/3	Mrs. Higgins	Educational Assistant	Mrs. Smith
Grade 3/4	Ms. Gabbani	Lunch Room Supervisor	Mrs. Colquhoun
Grade 4/5	Miss Turpin	Lunch Room Supervisor	Mrs. Cupolo
Grade 5/6	Mrs. Conway	Mental Health & Wellbeing	
Grade 6/7	Mr. Deiter	Youth Counsellor	Mrs. Hamilton
Grade 7/8	Miss Riedke	Social Worker	Miss Vanderbent
SSP	Mr. Ahmed	Caretaking	
French	Mlle Raso	Head Custodian	Mrs. Carpenter
Rotary	Mrs. Dickson (also Grade 2/3)	Assistant Caretakers	Miss York, Mr. Hayes
Learning Resource Teacher	Mr. Ferrara	Office Staff	
Learning Resource Teacher	Mrs. Romeo	Administrative Assistant	Ms. Murphy
Instructional Coach	Mr. Eckhardt	Principal	Mrs. Donato

Looking forward to seeing everyone on Tuesday, September 7th!

Mrs. J. Donato
Principal