

Dear NES Families,

Our staff are looking forward to welcoming the students back on September 9th. We know the return to school will look different this year and we are committed to continuing to create a safe and caring environment for all.

Last week you received information about the Hanover School Division plan for return to school. The HSD plan, as well as Public Health Guidelines have been used to create a plan for our staff and students at NES. As we have all experienced, changes occur quickly and we will do our best to communicate in a timely manner when this occurs. Below you will find a list of areas that we have addressed to assist with making the return to school as safe as possible for all students and staff. Please review this important information and share the relevant information with your child as you see necessary. We look forward to continuing to support your children as they learn and grow this year. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Tracy Beaudin, school principal.

Section 1: School Day Structure / Learning Plans

Click here for: [NES Daily Schedule 2020-21](#)

Events

- **Meet the Teacher:** We were very thankful to have the opportunity to invite many of the students to come into the school in June to participate in our school “Bump up Day”, where they saw their new classroom and had time with their new teacher. This year we will not be having our usually Meet the Teacher event the evening before school. Because we need to limit the number of people entering our building, **this event will be done virtually on September 8.** You will receive an invitation to sign up for a time slot to talk with your child’s teacher through a ‘Google Meet’ video call.
- Hot lunch and milk sales will be ‘paused’ for the start of the school year. We will look at these options again at a later date.
- There will be no assemblies scheduled for the start of the year. This will be reviewed at a later date.
- There will be no after school clubs occurring at this time.

School Attendance and Participation

- As always parents are asked to contact the school if their child will be away. Please use the parent portal, email the office at nes@hsd.ca or call the school at 204-388-4861.

- All student learning will be in person in classrooms. If a child were to be absent for an extended period of time due to illness or need to self-isolate, the school will make arrangements for learning packages to be sent electronically.
- If the province were to move to implement remote learning in the future and the school was advised by public health we were moving to scenario 3 we would transition to the use of the SeeSaw app and digital learning similar to what was completed in the spring.
- Click on the 'School Day' tab to see School Attendance and Participation in the [HSD Plan to Resume In-Class Learning](#)

Physical Distancing

- Signage and arrows on the floors in the hallways are in place for reminding students and staff of 2 meter physical distancing
- Students have been placed in cohorts to maintain appropriate group sizes
- Classroom layouts have been adjusted to maintain a minimum of 1 meter distancing between student seating locations

Cohorts - Recess/Lunch Breaks

- As per provincial instructions we have divided sections of our school into cohorts of no more than 75 students. A cohort is their classroom group and also they belong to a secondary cohort which is for recess and lunch breaks.
- The school playground has been divided into 5 sections and students will rotate with their cohort group to different areas based on the day of the week

Cohort A - K1 & K3

Cohort B - K2 & K4

Cohort C - 1R & 1M

Cohort D - 1H & 1RW

Cohort E - 2A & 2S

Cohort F - 2F & 2H

Cohort G - 3M & 3W

Cohort H - 3N & 3G

Cohort I - 3/4K, 4N & 4P

Cohort J - 4K & 4R

Student Arrival and Departure Planning

- Students who are walking or being transported by parents are asked to arrive at 9:00 and enter directly through the assigned door to the classroom. Parents are asked to say goodbye to their child outside and not enter the school building.

- Bus students will come directly to the assigned door and go straight to their classroom.
- Students will wear their outdoor shoes directly into the classroom. No stopping at boot shelves.
- There will be no playing on the playground in the morning or after school.
- Parent pick up and drop off should occur by the assigned grade access doors. Parents who pick up their child during the school day must report to the front office and sign their child out. Please make sure to communicate any changes of the home time plan to the classroom teacher **and** the office nes@hsd.ca or 204-388-4861
 - Kindergarten door east side main school entrance (by flag pole)
 - Grade one door south side of school (across from Coop)
 - Grade two door north side of school (by staff parking lot area)
 - Grade three door north side of school (by playground swings)
 - Grade four door south side of school (across from Wiens)

No-Sharing Policy and Personal Items

- Students are required to have their own personal belongings. Please make sure all items are clearly labeled. Hallway boot locker will not be used for the start of the year. Students will wear their outdoor shoes to the classroom and change there.
- Teachers are creating small bags of some classroom supplies such as math manipulatives and other items to separate for each individual student to use in the classroom.
- Click the 'School Day' tab to view the "No-sharing Policy" in [HSD Plan to Resume In-Class Learning](#)

Section 2: Mental Health and Well-Being of the School Community

- We know the changes to school may cause anxiety and concern for students. Social and emotional well being will be the primary focus for the first few weeks of school and as always, will continue to be a part of the approach our teachers take to support and understand the needs of our students.
- Staff have received virtual professional development training with Kevin Cameron, a trauma specialist, to assist with understanding students and their anxiety. Teachers will continue to build strong relationships with their students and work together to develop a positive classroom culture of learning

Section 3: Communication

- Relationships and communication with our parents is very important to us. Because we are needing to reduce the number of people entering our building, this may look a little different this year.
- Visits to the school should be minimized to the greatest extent possible. When possible we encourage parents to use online communication or phone calls rather than in person school visits.
- We will follow directions given to us from the school division and public health and communicate necessary information to parents in a timely manner.
- Click on 'Communication' tab in [HSD Plan to Resume In-Class Learning](#)

Section 4: Public Health Order and Guidance

- Click 'Public Health' tab to view [HSD Plan to Resume In-Class Learning](#) Public Health Orders and Guidance

Masks

- All staff and visitors will wear non-medical grade masks when 2 metre physical distance is not possible
- All grade 4 students are required to wear non-medical masks in the classroom when 2 metre distancing is not possible and **all students** traveling on the school bus are required to wear a mask.
- For students in Kindergarten to gr. 3 mask wearing is a parental decision while at school.

Screening

- Signage, with exclusion criteria, is posted on all entrances of the school. A student or staff member who meets any of the exclusion criteria will not be admitted to the school. Staff and students will be required to stay home when they are sick. Call Health Links at 204-788-8200 or 1-888-315-9257 if you notice symptoms or if you need more information. If your child develops symptoms at school, they will be isolated and parents/caregivers will be called to pick up promptly. Please make sure the school has your current information, as well as an emergency contact if we are unable to reach you.
- Parents and caregivers are asked to monitor their child daily for symptoms before sending them to school. Parents and caregivers are responsible for ensuring their children are not displaying symptoms before sending them to school or on the bus.
- An up-to-date list of symptoms can be found on the [COVID-19 facts](#) page

General Hygiene Measures

- Only two students will be allowed in the bathrooms at one time to allow for physical distancing. All classrooms have alcohol-based hand sanitizer stations installed for supervised student use. In addition, teachers will schedule times for students to wash their hands throughout the day. We would prefer if students **do not** bring their own hand sanitizer to school.
- Increased cleaning procedures by custodial staff will be occurring several times throughout the day. Classroom will be cleaned and disinfected by the evening custodial staff.
- Proper hand washing posters are displayed in all washroom areas as well as by hand sanitizer dispensers.
- Teachers will teach, review and model proper etiquette for coughing and sneezing.