

# James Li TDSB Ward 13 - Don Valley North

## TRUSTEE UPDATE

Aug 2021

### A New School Year

#### Dear Friends

As we are about to begin a new school year, I want to share with you with a preliminary outline on how the TDSB will operate, not only with regard to the academic excellence and equity for all our students, but also to ensure their safety and well-being.

The Toronto District School Board is doing everything possible to ensure the health and safety of the whole school community while at the same time providing the best academic experience possible for students, supporting mental health and well-being, and taking into consideration the needs of families and staff. We will continue to take our direction from Toronto Public Health and the Ministry of Education and ensure that updates are provided in a timely manner.

For the most up to date information on learning models, mental health and well-being resources, health and safety measures, our pandemic recovery plan and so much more, please refer to [www.tdsb.on.ca/school-year-2021-22](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/school-year-2021-22). This webpage will provide updates with relevant information and resources to help support you and your family.

**Information below are as of August 17, 2021 and are subject to change as the pandemic develops.**

### Health and Safety

#### Screening for COVID-19 Symptoms Daily

- Requiring all students and staff to conduct a daily self-assessment and stay home if they have symptoms or other COVID-19 exposure risk factors.
- Following guidance from Toronto Public Health in the event of symptoms or other COVID-19 risk factors.

#### Wearing Masks

- Staff are required to wear a medical mask, as well as face shields and other PPE as appropriate.
- All students, Junior Kindergarten to Grade 12, are required to wear a mask at school.

#### Practicing Physical Distancing

- Encouraging and maintaining physical distancing measures as much as possible.
- Marking floors with stickers to designate traffic flow and distancing.

#### Practicing Proper Hygiene

- Posting visible signage about hand washing and proper respiratory etiquette.
- Building in hand washing time into daily routines, including after washroom use, recess and lunch breaks.
- Providing alcohol-based sanitizers throughout the school and at designated entry and exit points.
- Using water fountains only to refill water bottles.

#### Vaccination & COVID-19 Testing

- The province of Ontario has announced that policies will be released to require vaccination or periodic testing for all educational workers.
- Vaccination mandate for students has yet to be legislated by the province.



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## Facilities

### Enhanced Cleaning and Other Measures

- Caretaking staff will perform routine cleaning of general facilities through the day and enhanced cleaning of high touch surfaces such as light switches, handrails, door handles, etc.
- Identifying capacity limits in washrooms and on elevators.

### Improving Ventilation

- Installing institutional-grade HEPA filters in every occupied classroom.
- Increasing ventilation in schools and classrooms with mechanical systems by adjusting the air exchanges and running them two hours before class and two hours after class.
- Increasing natural ventilation by opening windows for short periods of time.
- Investing \$165 million (Provincial and Federal funding) to
  1. Upgrade air handling system in 66 schools
  2. Automating building ventilation system in 103 schools
  3. Installing new ventilation systems in 21 portables

## Learning in Elementary Schools (JK – Gr 8)

**Learning Model:** Both in-person and virtual options are offered and selected by parents in August.

**Attendance:** Students will attend school on a daily basis in-person or virtually over the internet.

**Class Time:** In person learning will follow regular school schedules. Virtual learning will involve 180 minutes (JK/SK) to 225 minutes (Gr 1—8) of live synchronous learning in addition to asynchronous learning components.

**Class Room Structure:** Once teacher per classroom as per provincial mandate. Rotary scheduling in middle school will be paused to align to provincial requirements. Specialized teachers may rotate to different classrooms while following health and safety protocols.

**Virtual Learning:** Groups of local schools will administer and operate learning hubs, which will provide students with virtual learning (for those who have selected Virtual).

## Learning in Secondary Schools (9 – 12)

**Learning Model:** Both in-person and virtual options are offered and selected by parents in August.

**Attendance:** Students will attend school on a daily basis in-person or virtually over the internet.

**Class Time and Structure:** Two 150 periods per day, following a modified semester structure. Students will learn 4 courses per semester while learning 2 subjects per alternating week.

### Virtual Learning:

- Groups of local schools will administer and operate learning hubs, which will provide students with virtual learning (for those who have selected Virtual).
- A classroom composed of simultaneously a in-person and online cohort may be implemented for certain subjects depending on need.