

Percy Centennial Public School

News

"We Challenge and Support our Students through Learning"



September 9, 2020



2020-2021: WELCOME BACK

The staff at Percy Centennial hope that you and your families have been enjoying a safe and peaceful summer.

Thank you to Mr Post and his team of summer custodians who worked hard over the summer to get it ready for all of us. As always, Mrs Eddy has kept everything organized in the office!

Returning to school will look different this year but staff are excited to see our students and get back to some great learning experiences.

We know that a lot of information has been coming out about school reopening and that the Board has shared many update emails with you.

To start, a copy of our Board's "**Back to School Plan**" can be found [here](#). Click on the link and it will take you to the information.

KPR has also created a list of "**Frequently asked Questions**" which is being updated as information is received and can be found [here](#). There is some important information and some responses to questions that Parents and Guardians have been asking.

We appreciate your patience as we continue to work on making plans to bring your children to school safely. Please note that our planning is based on protocols set out by the Ministry of Education, Public Health, and KPR Guidelines.

During the *staggered entry days*, we will watch and learn how the routines we have in place are working and make any changes needed.

Thank you for your patience as we work to return to school as safely as possible. Please check Edsby often for updates from the Principal and staff.

Important Information and Questions You May Have:

What happened with Opt Out? *Percy had 30 students opt out of in person school. Other families have requested to home school their children and others have decided not to have their child start JK, but remain at home or in their current child care.*

What will my child do when they get to school? *All students will go to their classrooms immediately when they arrive in the morning. Allowing this to happen, will naturally stagger students in the hallway before school begins, and keep them from clustering on the school yard. This will be supervised by staff on duty much like we do on rainy mornings. Parents are not permitted in our school yard this year. Please say goodbye to your child at the gates or as you put your child on the bus. Your child will be brought to you at the gate at the end of the day, if picking up.*

What's happening with the breakfast program? *We know how important our morning nutrition is, especially for students who have long bus rides or might miss breakfast. To start the year, the breakfast program will have pre-packaged items available in their classrooms - things such as granola bars. Students will also be able to eat a snack they bring from home before school in their classroom.*

Does my child need special supplies for back to school? *Each teacher runs a different program and uses different things. Your child's teacher will let you know what they would like you to send. We are working to be minimalists this year to help our custodians with our cleaning routines! As always, if purchasing school supplies is hard for your family, the school will get what you need. Every child at Percy will have access to the supplies they will need for learning. All materials and items, including lunch containers and wrappers, will be taken home by each student, each day.*

Clothing - pockets & made to play. *This year students will be spending as much time as possible outside, for play and learning. With that in mind please dress your child appropriately to be outside, playing and sitting on the grass. In addition, try to make sure children in grades 4 to 8 have pockets or a fanny pack to keep their masks in when they are outside. With the focus on outdoor learning closed toe shoes would be ideal.*

How will movement in halls be managed? *The halls will be organized as a 2-way highway. There are arrows on the floor to help students know on which side of the hall they are to travel.*

- *Students grade **4-8 will wear masks** at all times while in the school. They can be removed as soon as they've gone through the exit doors and will need to be put on just prior to re-entering.*
- *Hallways will be clear of belongings and students will be keeping everything in the classroom.*
- *For September, please have your child keep their indoor shoes at home (excluding students in Mrs Ward and Mrs Buttar's classes). This will prevent having to change them in the halls, and keep a minimum of "stuff" at their desks. Please be sure that the shoes they do wear to school are practical for running and playing. Indoor shoes will be reexamined once our procedures are more practiced and understood.*
- ***Hallway hooks will not be used this year.***
- ***Washrooms** will have a limited number of students in them at any time.*
- *Our **flow of hallway traffic** will be consistent.*
- ***Planning teachers will go to the students**, the students will not go to them.*

- The **library and gym will be closed areas this year**. Students will have gym classes outside.
- Parents and Guardians must **make an appointment** to enter the school and meetings will be held by phone whenever possible.
- Students will stay in school all day and **will not be able to go out for lunch**, unless they are being picked up and signed out by and signed back in by a Parent or Guardian.

What to do if your child is ill? It is essential that students are screened at home in the morning and if there is any sign of illness **stay home**. If they come to school with signs of sickness, they will be quarantined in a room and we will call you **to come and get them and all siblings**. We know how difficult it is but please keep your child home even with a very minor symptom of illness. We need to be extra vigilant during this time to support our community. You might want to put a plan in place now for emergency childcare provisions.

KPR message about staggered start. What’s happening with that?

Both elementary and secondary students across KPR will have a two-week staggered start. All Percy families have been called to inform you of your child’s “staggered start” day. The two-week period will be as follows:

- *September 8 – September 11 – Schools remain closed to students. Staff continue preparing school for the new school year. At Percy, we will have some of our transition visits during this time.*
- *September 14 – September 18 – Student and class groups will attend school on different days to become familiar with classroom and school processes.*

All students will be attending school full-time on Friday, September 18.

Staff at Percy Centennial PS for the 2020/21 School Year

Mrs Buttar/Mrs Garrison	JK/SK
Mrs Ward/Mrs Kelly	JK/SK
Mrs Brown	SK/1
Mrs K Watson	Gr 1/2
Mrs T Watson	Gr 2
Mrs Burley	Gr 3
Mrs Allanson-Kelly	Gr 4
Mr Brackenbury	Gr 4/5
Mr Matthews	Gr 6
Mr Brahaney	Gr 7
Mrs Anderson	Gr 8
Mrs Bahun	Primary Planning
Ms Bickle	Core French
Ms Hogg	SERT
Mrs Eddy	Secretary
Ms Deveaux	CYW
Mr Post	Custodian
Ms Gray	Principal

Let's consider...

It's time to change the narrative a bit about our kids returning to school. This is not said to belittle anyone who is struggling with the decision. We all have tons of own anxiety about our children's mental and physical health upon returning to school. Teachers have had to make immense changes to their teaching style and learning environment. It's so hard. It's scary. It's different. And we are all grieving that change in our own way. But for our children's sake, it's time to acknowledge that we are grieving and then look at what else we are not saying. It will be hard, yes. It will be different, yes. Will it be sad? It feels like yes - but that's where we are forgetting that we have choice in how we see it. Right now we are telling our kids and ourselves that different is sad. That distance is sad. And it can be. We are hard-wired for connection and community. Be we are also hard-wired to survive. And to adapt. In the collective conversation about returning to school we need to see the focus on resilience.

We can do hard things.

We can do change. We can connect differently. Our kids need to hear this message. When they hear our own anxiety, they will forget that they can do hard things. They will forget that they can have fun and make friends and learn and find joy and fulfillment even through tough times. If we want to change our children's year for the better, and if we want to shape our children's mental health to be resilient and strong, then we need to tell them the message that just because it's hard does not mean it's impossible. Just because it's hard does not mean it has to be sad. So many things in life are hard and the sooner we can start equipping our children with the inner narrative of I-Can-Do-This and I-Can-Be-Happy-Even-In-Hard-Times, the sooner we begin to ease the strain on our mental health system and simply promote a happier, more well world. (borrowed from Dr TL Wilson, psychologist)

Yes, it is hard. But we can do hard things. This is our mantra this year at Percy. Please talk to your kids and help them view their return to school during a pandemic in this way.

Thank you.
Ms Gray