

- Parent Handbook** Our Parent Handbook is linked in this Orientation Package. Please take the time to review this document before the start of the school year. High School parents please also refer to *Appendix 3* for specific details as they relate to our secondary program.
- Rose Ceremony** All Grade 1 families are warmly invited to attend this special event on **Tuesday, September 8 at 10:00 am** at the Grade School campus in the large play yard. Please be advised that parking is not available on-site and parents will need to allow ample time to find street parking. Physical distancing measures will be in place to ensure a safe, yet warm celebration.
- Opening Assembly** **Tuesday, September 8 at 11:30 am** all students are to attend a special virtual opening assembly to learn about what is in store for the school year. You are welcome to join your child for this unique opportunity to witness this annual tradition. Please register in advance at [https://ca01web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_88MV4HOF52CXzIXbK\\_h3yQ](https://ca01web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_88MV4HOF52CXzIXbK_h3yQ).
- First Day of School** Classes commence as usual for all Grade and High School students on Wednesday, September 9.
- School Hours**
- Grades 1-7**  
Mon - Wed, Fri 8:15am - 3:00 pm  
Thu 8:15am - 2:10 pm\*
- Grade 8**  
Mon - Fri 8:15am - 3:00 pm\*\*
- High School**  
Mon - Fri 8:30am - 3:15 pm
- \*Bus families, please be aware of the adjusted drop-off times regularly on Thursdays.*  
*\*\*Students in Grade 8 who take the bus will need to make alternate arrangements on Thursday afternoons.*
- Parking/Drop-off** The parking at the Grade School will be limited to faculty, staff, and individuals with babes in arms in ECC or Grade 1. Everyone else is asked to park in the surrounding neighbourhood and walk your child to the bottom of the driveway where they will be met by staff who will escort them on to the property.
- The Kiss and Go lane will still be accessible for drop-off and pick-up, however, time restrictions will be enforced.

## Calendar

The Important Dates & Closures Calendar is available on our website. We encourage you to refer this as well as The Current newsletters, Monday Week at a Glance emails for updates and events.

## Learning Groups/ Cohorts

In order to ensure the safe return to full-time in-class instruction in September, the Provincial Health Officer has recommended the use of cohorts or Learning Groups to control the number of close, in-person interactions for individuals. This model will reduce the number of people each student or staff member comes into close contact with, thereby reducing the risk of transmission and ensuring quicker contact tracing by health authorities.

Per the Ministry of Education, K- 12 Education Restart Plan, the majority of elementary schools will return to full-time, in-class instruction with minimal modifications to school structures or timetables. At our High School, we are fortunate that its relatively small population has enabled similar minimal modifications and the ability to also return to full-time, in-class instruction.

Cohorts are groups of students and staff who primarily interact with each other. We have chosen to use the term “cohort” rather than Learning Group and have structured our cohorts based on the definition of elementary school as Kindergarten through Grade 8 and secondary school as Grade 9 through 12. The cohorts will likely remain together throughout the school year, but may be changed if necessary and only with substantial notice after a school break.

The following physical distancing and physical contact guidelines for in-cohort and outside of cohort behaviours apply to both students and staff:

1. Within a cohort, minimizing physical contact is advised, but physical distancing need not be maintained at all times;
2. Outside of a cohort when indoors, such as with some subject teachers, physical distancing (2m) is still advised;
3. In an elementary or secondary school, two classes from different cohorts can be in the same learning space at the same time if physical distancing (2m) can be maintained between people from different cohorts;
4. Outside of a cohort when outside, physical distancing is not required in elementary schools. Students can socialize with peers in different cohorts if they can minimize physical contact;
5. Outside of a cohort in secondary schools, students can socialize with peers if they can maintain physical distance, indoors or outdoors.

Our cohorts are as follows:

- In the Grade School, buddy classes and their teachers form cohorts so that they can build and maintain relationships as well as occasionally meet for additional learning activities. All other staff members will be

assigned to one cohort and will be permitted to interact with other cohorts but only by maintaining appropriate physical distance (2m) or, where not possible, by wearing PPE.

- All high school students and staff will form one cohort. Some staff members will need to move between the high school and other cohorts. These individuals will maintain appropriate physical distance (2m) or, where not possible, wear PPE.

Classes are grouped into the following cohorts:

- Grade 1 and Grade 5 with Helena Trainer, Lori Johnston, Chris Henley, Sandra Valle, Michele McCormick, and Cary Stewart
- Grade 2 and Grade 6 with Leila Alemi, Raja Chrimes, Irina Shcherbakova, and David Lallane
- Grade 3 and Grade 7 with Fia Dionne, Simon Briault, Anika Chen, David Szigeti, and Lani Steed
- Grade 4 and 8 with Beni Johnston, Marlies De Ceuster, Bart Strykers, and Vanessa Amadio

As we work toward finalizing the class schedule, we have had to be creative with some of the classes to allow for closer proximity with certain lessons (such as Handwork) but not break from the cohorts. We are pleased with how the class schedule is coming together and will share it with you shortly.

We have approached planning with the utmost care and attention to current health and safety guidelines.

#### **Emergency Forms & Health Information**

Before your child may attend on September 9, we require that you **log on to** [www.bigsis.com/portal/](https://www.bigsis.com/portal/) to update your Emergency Contact & Health Information.

- On the main page, select the **Parents** tab at the top
- Click the Request for Information tab
- Select **Fill out Form** or **Update** (separate forms must be completed for each child)
- **Claim** & complete form (don't forget to submit at the end)

Our Administrative staff will be on hand to assist you during the week of August 31 – September 4, the afternoon of September 9 and all day on September 10.

#### **Emergency Closures**

Parents can find information three ways if the school is closed:

1. Listen to the **radio**, CBC AM 690, News AM 1130
2. A school email *and/or* text/phone-tree message from your Class Rep
3. If possible, a message indicating school closure will be placed **on the school answering machine and website.**