

Class Placement for All Gr 1-8 Students

- On **Friday, September 3, 2021**, at **3 pm**, you will be able to access information about your child's class placement. This information will be available on the Board's website at www.hcdsb.org, and will be shared with you via email, but we will be using a different program than we have in previous years. **PLEASE NOTE: In order to access this information, you will require your child's Ontario Education Number (OEN), which can be found on his/her report card.**

Gradual School Start for Kindergarten Students

Our New-to-Kindergarten meetings on September 7 and 8 will be virtual this year. You should receive a phone call or email from the school confirming the time, and then an invitation to a Teams meeting with your child's educators. A gradual school start for our Kindergarten students will help provide a calm environment to help students learn the health and safety routines at school and get to know their learning environment in smaller groups.

The following schedule will apply to students in Kindergarten:

Date	Schedule
Thursday, September 9th	Year 1 Kindergarten Students – Last Names A-M ONLY AND Year 2 Kindergarten Students attend school
Friday, September 10th	Year 1 Kindergarten Students – Last Names N-Z ONLY AND Year 2 Kindergarten Students attend school
Monday, September 13th	All Kindergarten Students attend school

Drop-off and Pick-up

We wanted to review the drop-off and pick-up protocols that will be in place to help minimize contacts and prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our school community for the first few days of school and the start of the school year:

- Only one parent or guardian will be permitted on school property to drop off and pick up children. We would encourage you to wear a mask to set a good example for our students and protect yourself and others.

- Parents and caregivers will remain outside and will not be permitted to enter the school (unless there is an extenuating need, and prior approval has been obtained as per the Visitor Protocol).
- On Tuesday, September 7, students in Grades 2-8 will enter the building from the back of the building without lining up as they would usually do during inclement weather (Door 5 – Gr 2-4 & Door 9 – Gr 5-8). Staff will be available to greet them at the doors and direct them to their classrooms from 8:30 am onwards.
- Students in Grade 1 will meet their teachers at the entrances to the gym at the back of the school. Class 1A will be at the east door and Class 1B will be at the west door. Again, no parents or guardians may enter the building.
- Kindergarten students will enter the school immediately upon arrival in the morning using the entrance from the school playground on the West side of the building.
- Parents and caregivers are asked to leave the school property as soon as they drop off their child(ren). No gathering or congregating will be allowed on school property.
- We will be practicing lining up and entering the building safely, and we will review exit procedures for students as well. From September 8 onwards, students arriving at school between 8:30 and 8:45 am will be asked to join their class line and stand on one of the dots. **Students will need to put their masks on before entering the building.**

Daily Self Screening

Parents and guardians must perform daily screening of their child(ren) for COVID-19 symptoms **BEFORE** leaving for school using the [COVID-19 Self-Assessment](#).

Please note that if a student or staff member cannot pass the screening they cannot come to school. They must follow the direction from public health about isolating, testing, and returning to school.

What happens if your child feels unwell at school?

It is important for your son or daughter to let their educator know if they are feeling unwell at school.

Students who show signs/symptoms of COVID-19 during the school day **will be taken to our school's 'isolation room' and we will contact the parent or guardian to come and pick them up.** Families will need to follow the direction of public health about isolating and returning to school.

It is very important that we have current contact information for all of our families so that we can get in touch with you quickly. Please contact our school office if there have been any recent changes to your contact information.

Use of Masks and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

The use of personal protective equipment (PPE) is one of the measures we will have in place in our schools to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. PPE is protective clothing or equipment designed to protect the wearer's body from injury or infection. PPE can include gloves, masks, face shields, gowns, safety shoes etc.

Wearing of Masks at School

- Medical masks will be worn by all teachers and other school staff.
- All **HCDSB students (K- 12) are required to wear properly fitted non-medical or cloth masks while indoors at school.** This applies to school vehicles as well as before and after school programs. They will not have to wear them outside at recess.
- For more information about mask exemptions, please contact the school directly.

[Use of Non-Medical Masks or Face Coverings in Schools – Tip Sheet](#)

Visitor Protocol

This school year, in an effort to minimize contacts and help prevent the potential spread of COVID-19, we are limiting visitor access to our school.

All visitors, including parents and HCDSB staff who are not assigned to our school, will require approval and pre-screening before entering our building. Where possible, meetings or visits will be conducted virtually.

Visitors who are granted approval will be required to complete an online screening form prior to arriving at our school. Once inside, all visitors will be required to wear medical masks supplied by the school board.

Lunches

For the health and safety of our students and school community, it is strongly recommended that all elementary students remain at school for the full duration of their lunch periods. **Only students signed out and picked up by a parent or guardian will be allowed to leave for lunch.**

As we limit visitors to our school throughout the day, **lunch drop offs will not be permitted during the school day.**

At this time, we will not be starting our lunch programs as we work through our safety protocols. Parents and guardians are asked to provide their child(ren) with lunch in the morning before students enter the school building.

Considerations for Lunch Prep:

- Lunches should be prepared as individual meals and snacks.
- Sharing food items will not be permitted.
- Please try to use containers your child can open independently.
- No peanuts or tree nuts are permitted in lunches.

Water Bottles

Students and staff will be able to bring reusable water bottles and refill them at designated refill stations in our school. For the health and safety of our students and school community, the use of water fountains for drinking will not be permitted.

Water Fountains and Reusable Water Bottles:

- Each student is required to bring their own drinking bottle to school that is labeled, kept with them during the day, and not shared with other students.
- All water fountains will be wrapped and/or made inoperable.
- Although bottle filling stations will be in use, students and staff are not advised to touch any filling station apparatus.

Transportation

The 2021-2022 bus schedules have been posted on the Halton Student Transportation Services website here, and you can access them using your child's Ontario Education Number (OEN): <https://www.haltonbus.ca/2021/08/available-now-2021-22-student-transportation-schedules/> (Students new to Kindergarten who haven't received an OEN yet will receive a phone call confirming their routes.)

If your child is eligible for bus transportation but does not plan on riding the bus to school next year, please complete the HSTS online [Opt-Out Form](#) online.

For more information, visit the HSTS website at: <https://www.haltonbus.ca/>

Courtesy Seats Will Not Be Offered on School Buses for the 2021-22 School Year at this time.

Ongoing Communication

We will continue to share information and updates with families directly through email. Updates will also be posted on the [Return to School Plan website](#) and through the Board's social media channels:

- Twitter: [@HCDSB](#)
- Instagram: [@HaltonCatholicDSB](#)
- Facebook: [Halton Catholic District School Board](#)

We will also continue to send out our regular weekly updates on our school website and post to our school's Twitter page: <https://twitter.com/OLPhcdsb>

Please let us know if you have any questions, and thank you for helping to keep us all safe so that we can learn!