The intention of these updates is to build on our previous communication (see updates here), respond to parental questions and provide any new information.

Today we are providing more information regarding the AMDSB learning models.

Parents in AMDSB have been asked to select either face to face or online learning for Fall 2020. In accordance with the Ministry direction on July 30, we are unable to provide a hybrid model at this time. Once families make their decision, students will have very limited opportunity to switch from online learning to face to face learning before January 2021. If students are hoping to switch from face to face to online, this may be accommodated earlier but will take time and will be addressed on a case by case basis.

What does learning look like in the face to face model?

**Elementary classrooms**
- **Early Years (JK - 2).** The youngest students in AMDSB will be participating in active play-based learning opportunities throughout the day. In all of our kindergarten classrooms, JK/K children will not be expected to stay at one desk all day. We will be encouraging physical distancing in these classrooms as much as possible. Further details of the kindergarten program will be shared directly with these parents in a separate update next week.
- **Outdoor Learning.** We will be encouraging all teachers to provide outdoor learning and activities throughout the day, whenever possible.
- **Schedules.** Once the online pre-registration forms are completed, schools will be able to finalize their start and end times. This information will be communicated with families before the start of school.
- **“Rotary” subjects.** Students will remain in their homerooms throughout the day and itinerant, or rotary teachers will come in to provide specific programming, such as music, art or French. Teachers will be wearing their Personal Protective Equipment and no classroom will have more than four teachers coming in over the course of the week.

**Secondary classrooms**
- **“Quadmester”**. Secondary schools will be organized so that students will at any given time take two courses. So, until mid November, students will have two courses, and then will switch to two different courses until the end of the semester.
- **Revised school year calendar.** The calendar is currently being approved and will be released as soon as possible. It will include all examination days and quadmester “turn around” dates.
● **Secondary timetables may change in many of our schools.** This change in scheduling, along with the shifting enrollment due to online learning will mean that staff will be working on these changes later in August, and schools will communicate how timetables will be shared with students later this month.

● **Cooperative learning, technological studies, music and physical education.** We anticipate that specialized programming will have enhanced safety guidelines. Full details coming soon.

**What does learning look like in the online model?**

When families choose online learning, they are not choosing home-schooling. They are still registered with AMDSB, with their learning supported by a certified teacher (employed by AMDSB), and they will return to their home school when they choose to do so (at the approved times).

**Elementary:**

● **Number of hours.** Students will be engaged in daily learning and will participate in the same number of instructional minutes as students returning to school in a face to face model (300 minutes daily).

● **Subjects.** All curriculum areas and subjects will be taught, including French, for those students between Grades 4 and 8.

● **Format.** Students will be expected to participate in real-time, synchronous (live) learning every day. They will also participate in assigned, independent learning activities. This will include instruction for students as a whole class and in small groups.

● **Classmates.** Students will be assigned to a ‘central’ class with other students from across the district. This class may be a single grade or a split grade class, depending on demand for online learning opportunities.

● **Teachers.** The teacher(s) in this centrally assigned, remote class, will likely **not** be a teacher from the child’s home school.

● **French Immersion.** At this time we may not be able to offer French Immersion programming in our online learning model. This will depend on the number of students who register for this type of learning.

**Secondary:**

● **Delivery.** Courses will be delivered using our AMDEC (Avon Maitland District E-learning Centre) school program.

● **Format.** Students will be expected to participate in real-time, synchronous (live) learning every day. They will also participate in assigned, independent learning activities. This will include instruction for students as a whole class and in small groups.

● **Timetables.** Although efforts will be made to honour students’ existing timetables in a remote model, students may need to alter their selections based on the courses that are available remotely.

We will continue to release details as they become available. If you have additional questions please contact us:

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