Dear AMDSB parents/caregivers,

We are quickly approaching the return to school and we are working around the clock to finalize details and keep you informed. Today we are making two important announcements.

1. Staggered Start to School

As plans are finalized, including staff assignments and schedules, bus routes and safety plans, time pressures have resulted in the decision to stagger the start date for students. This decision was not made lightly and was made with student safety as a priority. This will allow more time to:

- transition vulnerable students into school
- ensure we have the most up-to-date health and safety guidelines in place for students and staff
- teach new school health and safety routines to small groups of students
- reallocate staff and allow them time to prepare for new assignments
- finalize plans for our two remote (online) learning schools (elementary and secondary)
- allow bus operators to adjust routes to accommodate students who have selected face to face learning

During the week of September 8, invitations for an early orientation for students with special needs, vulnerable students or those who may require a more supported entry, will be made by individual schools.

During the week of September 14, all other students will be part of a staggered entry plan to enable a slow introduction to the new health and safety protocols. “It is very important that students understand the new routines that are being implemented. We anticipate that they will feel more comfortable if they can learn about these details in smaller groups.” said Dr. Lisa Walsh, Director of Education. The schedule will include:

- **Monday, September 14:** Only students with last names beginning with A-G will attend
- **Tuesday, September 15:** Only students with last names beginning with H-N will attend
- **Wednesday, September 16:** Only students with last names beginning with O-Z will attend
- **Thursday, September 17:** All students begin daily attendance.

Kindergarten students will begin their staggered start on September 14 as well. Details include:

- **Monday, September 14:** JK interviews
- **Tuesday, September 15:** SK students attend
- **Wednesday, September 16:** SK and half of JK students attend
- **Thursday, September 17:** All students begin regular attendance.

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Students enrolled in remote (online) learning will begin Thursday, September 17.

**AMDSB Back to School Plan**

The Board has also released our AMDSB Back to School Plan that includes the majority of the details for the students returning in person or online to the remote learning option. This Plan contains up to date details and will be updated when new information becomes available. **In order to read the most up to date version, please visit the Back to School Planning page on the Board’s website.**

Families will receive full details about their child’s first day (start/end times, entry/exit doors, etc.) directly from their school.

To keep up to date on back to school planning:

- Visit: [amdsb.ca/apps/pages/BacktoSchool](https://amdsb.ca/apps/pages/BacktoSchool)
- Follow us on:
  - Facebook: [Avon Maitland Schools](https://www.facebook.com/AvonMaitlandSchools)
  - Twitter: [@yourschools](https://twitter.com/yourschools)
  - Instagram: [@yourschools](https://www.instagram.com/yourschools)

Sincerely,

Dr. Lisa Walsh

Director of Education