August 4, 2020

Dear AMDSB Students and Families,

The purpose of this letter is to clarify options for your child(ren)’s return to school for September 2020. On July 30, the Ministry of Education announced that all AMDSB students, both Elementary (K-8) and Secondary (9-12) will be returning to school full-time, beginning on September 8, 2020. We look forward to welcoming your child to school this year.

In order to plan for the return to school, families must pre-register using an online form (details below). We ask that families express their intentions for in-person or online learning, as well as busing. This information will help us plan appropriately. See details for both options below.

What does a full-time return to school look like (Model A)?

- Student expectations:
  - Daily screening for symptoms before coming to school.
  - Regular hand hygiene (washing with soap and water and/or using hand sanitizer) throughout the day.
  - Mandatory masks for students in grades 4-12. Recommended and encouraged masks for younger students, provided where possible, by families.
  - Students in elementary schools will eat in their homerooms, and will have staggered, supervised times outdoors.
  - Students in secondary schools will eat in common areas, such as cafeterias, and spaces will be organized to reinforce physical distancing.
  - Students who display symptoms while at school will be isolated and parents contacted to take their child home.

- School expectations:
  - Staff will complete a self-assessment for symptoms before coming to work each day.
  - Appropriate PPE (e.g. masks) will be provided to all staff.
  - Cohorting of students
    - Elementary students will remain with their homeroom class for the day.
    - Timetables are being developed for secondary students that ensure that they have less than 100 contacts with other students. More information regarding timetabling will be coming.
    - Physical distancing will be encouraged.
  - Enhanced cleaning protocols (increased touch point cleaning and sanitization practices).
  - There will be limitations to non-essential visitors to buildings. Following entry in the morning, all exterior doors, with the exception of front doors, will be locked.
  - There will be designated entry and exit doors, bathrooms and movement throughout the school.
  - Buses will have assigned seating and take precautions such as open windows to improve ventilation when possible.
  - There will be strict protocols in place if a student or staff member becomes ill at school that will assist us in isolating those that are ill immediately.
  - Seating plans and other tracking systems will be put in place to ensure clear contact tracing if necessary.
  - Staggered entry and exit procedures to minimize congestion in common areas.

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What does online learning (“Learn at Home”) look like (Model C)?
Parents who prefer that their child(ren) not return in-person can choose full online learning. Details include:

- Will offer both types of learning opportunities: synchronous (‘live’ face to face communication) and asynchronous (previously recorded one way communication).
- Will cover all subject areas.
- Parents should anticipate that we will not be able to accommodate a return to face-to-face learning before the completion of the first term/semester of learning (January 2021) due to the expectation of ensuring strict cohorts of students.

Please give this deep consideration prior to making your decision. We look forward to welcoming back all of our students in AMDSB. We hope families understand that these parameters are put in place for the health and safety of each child.

What do we need from you now?
Parents/guardians listed as the primary contact will be sent a unique link to a pre-registration form for each child registered in Avon Maitland (for example, if you have 3 children attending school, you will receive 3 separate emails). If we do not have an email address for the primary contact, a phone call will be made.

It is very important that all parents/guardians complete this form so that we can plan for a safe return for all. Deadline to complete the form is Wednesday, August 12 at 4pm.

Steps for completing the form:
1. On August 5, parents/guardians listed as the primary contact will receive an email from noreply@gemailserver.com. It will contain a link to an online form.
2. Complete the form to pre-register your child(ren) and to indicate your intention of having them return to school in person or participate in online learning (“Learn at Home”) and, if applicable, your intention for your child to ride the bus.

Having difficulty with the online form?
If you have any difficulty accessing the form, if you do not receive the email(s) with the link to the forms, or you need assistance for any other reason, please contact Audrey Rooseboom at 519-527-0111 ext 124. You can also send an email to covidpre-registration@ed.amdsb.ca.

We thank you again for your continued partnership as we navigate this evolving situation. We will be best prepared with your help to ensure we know the plan for each child in our system. We are confident that the work underway will help keep students and staff healthy and safe.

Our immediate goal is to understand your return to school preference. Then we will be sharing more details with you regarding what to prepare for, school and bus schedules, and specific school health measures that students should anticipate, as we return to school.

Thank you again for your partnership,

Dr. Lisa Walsh, Director of Education