

# Newcombville Elementary School

## 2020-21 Back to School Family Information Sheet

As detailed within the Nova Scotia Back to School Plan, there will be significant adjustments to some routines and activities that were typical for a normal school year. To help families navigate these changes, we have created this school information sheet for you. Please know that things are ever-changing. You should expect them to change even between now and the start of the school year. We are working hard to make sure that you feel safe and comfortable before the opening of school on Tuesday, September 8th.

### What to Expect at School This Year:

#### Before Each School Day:

- **At-Home Self-Monitoring for COVID:** Families are required to monitor children for COVID-19 using the COVID-19 Daily Checklist. The most up-to-date version can be found online at <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/docs/Daily-COVID-checklist-en.pdf>. By monitoring daily, you are helping to identify any potential cases of COVID-19 as quickly as possible. A copy of the “COVID-19 Daily Checklist” will be emailed to all our registered families prior to school re-opening.

Students need to stay home when they are ill, even if their symptoms are mild. If you are unsure if you or your child should self-isolate, please contact 811.

- **Remember to pack a face mask and water bottle:** Masks are required for students in Grades 4 & 5 and are required for all students travelling to and from the bus. Also, students who travel by bus will be required to wear a mask while on the bus. Each student and staff member will be provided with two face masks on opening day, or you can pick them up prior to school starting on the 8th by contacting the school.

Water bottles are recommended as water fountains will not be accessible. Students will have access to a filling station close to their classroom. Sending your child with a full water bottle in the morning is recommended and appreciated.

#### Arriving and Leaving School:

- Masks are required for all students travelling on buses. Family members travelling on the bus should sit together. Buses will be cleaned twice during the school day and in between each run.
- Students being dropped off by parents in the morning can enter the building as they arrive and go straight to class while wearing their masks.
- Parents will not be allowed to enter the building to take students to class or pick them up from class.
- Once bus students arrive at school, students will enter the school through the front entrances practicing physical distancing and wearing their masks. Students will wash/sanitize their hands as they enter their separate classrooms.
- All parents who drive children to school will drop off and pick up students outside the front of the building. There is a designated pick up area outside the main entrance. School doors will be locked to limit access. Access will be by a buzzer system between the entrance of the front doors.
- Please stick to the following drop off and pick up times for our school:
  - **Drop Off:** between 8:00 AM and 8:15 AM
  - **Pick Up:** between 2:00 PM and 2:09 PM

## During the School Day:

### Hygiene:

- Hand Hygiene: There will be an emphasis on handwashing, before & after eating and during the day. Hand sanitizing stations are at the main entrance and there will be bottles in the classrooms. Classrooms that have sinks will have added hand washing.
- Students who are in Grades 3/4 split, 4 and 5 will need to wear masks in class as physical distancing is not possible in our classes. Every student and staff member will be provided with two non-medical masks. If a student forgets their mask, disposable masks will be available.
- There is a “no-sharing” policy on food, personal belongings, and individual school supplies.

### School Design:

- Classrooms will have less material and furniture, and desks/tables will be spaced out allowing students to have more physical distance.
- Students will notice additional signage including directional signs to control flow in hallways, common areas, and outside spaces. Signage includes traffic flow arrows, physical distancing reminders, proper hygiene, and designated Entrances & Exits.
- Elementary hallway hooks will be able to be used.

### School Schedule:

- An emphasis will be placed on outdoor education, when possible, to encourage physical movement and support our students' well-being.
- School-based technology devices will be cleaned between use.
- As always, families with specialized needs will continue to work together with Newcombsville Elementary staff to provide program planning needs.
- All students will continue to be able to access healthy options through the school's Breakfast Program. Breakfast will be prepackaged and delivered to classrooms each morning.
- Students in Grades PP-5 will have access to cafeteria services. The food service provider will follow public health guidelines. Students will pre-order recess snacks and lunch. If your child is bringing their own lunch, please ensure it is something they can manage independently to avoid unnecessary handling of items by others. **The Region has directed us that microwaves will not be available at this time for heating food. If this changes in the future, we will let you know.**
- To start the school year, all students will eat snacks and lunch, as well as play, with their classroom cohort.

### Illness at School:

- If a child feels unwell or begins to exhibit COVID-19 symptoms, a parent or guardian will be contacted for pick-up. It is very important to ensure that your contact information and other emergency contacts for your child are kept up to date at the school during the school year.
- Any student who becomes unwell at school will have a separate location in the school to wait to be picked up. **Students who become ill during the day will not be permitted to return home on the bus.**
- If a child exhibits COVID symptoms, parents/guardians must contact 811 to receive advice from Public Health on what to do next, including if/when the child can return to school.
- Our schools will continue to monitor illness in schools and will follow directions from Public Health on specific processes. Parents are asked to call in to excuse their child for any absence.
- If a COVID-19 case is identified, Public Health will provide direction to Newcombsville Elementary as well as the Regional Office.

We will continue to provide updates as new information comes, which can be accessed on our Newcombville Elementary and social media feeds. If you have specific questions regarding your child's return to school, please let us know.

We are all working hard to implement the Return to School plan. With your support, we will figure this out together as we move forward, just in a different way.

Best regards,

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