



## **Hello James Morden Mustangs and Families!**

We are excited and busy preparing to welcome all of our students back to school. We hope the following information will support a smooth return to school on **Tuesday, September 7th**. ***This email is for students returning to James Morden in-person. If your child is continuing with remote learning, you will receive information soon!***

### **THE WEEK LEADING UP TO SCHOOL - HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD PREPARE**

When talking about school plans with your child, you can help determine your child's mindset.

Set them up for success by teaching them to make the best of it; assure them that every effort is being made to keep them safe. Please see [www.dsbn.org](http://www.dsbn.org) for more resources.

### **CLASS PLACEMENT**

- On Thursday, September 2nd you will receive an email and/or phone call from the school with your child's class placement information.
- Be sure to make note of this information for the first day of school.
- There will be many staff members to help get students to class during the first week of school, so don't worry!
- Like always, during the first days of school, class assignments could change.

### **ENTRY**

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- Like last year, students will go directly to their assigned meeting spot on the yard. There will be many staff members outside to help students find their meeting area.
- Enhanced health and safety protocols will be in place.
- From the class waiting zones, there will be a staggered entry.
- Students will be reminded to physically distance and put on their masks.
- Once the school day begins, students will go directly to their homeroom classroom where they will wash their hands and/or use hand sanitizer provided.
- Please do not arrive before 8:35am

### **DISMISS**

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- Walking students will be supervised by staff and dismissed in a staggered manner.
- Bus students will be supervised and will be meeting at our bus loading zone, outside. Staff will escort bus students to the loading zone and to the bus.



## TRANSPORTATION

If your child qualifies for busing, go to [www.nsts.ca](http://www.nsts.ca) for procedures and health and safety guidelines. Niagara Student Transportation Services is following Ministry of Education protocols for Transportation. Please remember to 'opt-in' if your child will be taking the bus.



## DRIVING YOUR CHILD

- Parents are also welcome to drive their child to school.
- Our James Morden parking lot can get very busy. Please follow the drop off procedures and traffic flow at our school, do not park or stop in the bus lane. Please be patient and help us ensure the safety of all our students and families!

## DO NOT ARRIVE AT SCHOOL TOO EARLY!

- We will need time to set up zones and markings to be ready to greet your children. Due to the need to prevent crowding, and taking up space in the yard, parents will not be permitted on the school yard.
- There will be designated drop off areas. Our top priority is the health and safety of our students, staff and school community. It is essential we plan for spacing and minimize direct and indirect contacts with staff and other students.
- Thank you for doing your part to model physical distancing and your help to keep our school community safe.

## 15 MINUTES BEFORE SCHOOL START TIME (starting at 8:35 am)

- Supervision staff on duty
- Students begin to arrive
- Bus students are greeted by staff and taken to their class zone
- Parents will say goodbye at the school designated drop off area (sidewalk along west side of school - Dorchester Rd) and staff will direct students to class waiting zones.
- Please note that parents will not be permitted on the school yard.



## MORNING BELL AND FIRST 20 MINUTES

Our bell rings at **8:50 am**. Homeroom teachers will take attendance outside in their class zones. Daily outdoor instruction will begin, including expectations, education and reminders about:

Mask protocol  
Handwashing  
Physical distancing  
Hallway flow and directional arrows  
Washroom use  
Cough and sneeze protocol and reporting illness  
Other school specific expectations

At times, teachers may choose to extend the outdoor learning time.



### WHAT TO BRING GRADES 1-8

- **MASKS** (labelled with your child's name). The DSBN will be following all mask guidelines as provided by the Ministry of Education and Niagara Region Public Health. Grade 1-8 students will require a non-medical mask each day, we encourage Kindergarten students to also wear a mask.
- Please send a backup mask or two in a labelled ziploc bag or container, to keep in their backpack. The use of non-medical masks for students in Grades 1 to 12 are required on school vehicles.



### SCHOOL SUPPLIES

- We understand that many families like to purchase school supplies. As always, you are welcome to do this. However, **our school will provide all necessary learning materials.**
- If you need these items, many of our community partners will be providing supplies. Please let us know.



### SNACK PROGRAM

- In collaboration with community partners and adhering to public health guidelines, our school based snack program will be offered this school year. We will provide more information as the program gets up and running in the next few weeks.
- Special lunch days, such as pizza and sub days, may be possible this year. More information to follow!

### ATTENDANCE

- Please note that due to starting our days outside, attendance calls will start a bit later.

### TIMETABLES

- Each homeroom teacher will provide a 10-day timetable for every student.
- Please note, our lunches will be staggered this year (similar to last year).



### CLASSROOM SETUP

- Classroom sizes vary across the DSBN, but we have already removed unnecessary furniture and will be setting up desks with as much distancing as possible, and to allow teachers as much instruction space as possible. Desks and tables will be faced forward rather than in circles or groupings and staggered.



### CURRICULUM

- As always, our teachers will be focused on delivering the Ontario Curriculum.
- The school day will be divided into seven 40 minute periods with all subjects being taught.
- The majority of your child's subjects will be taught by their homeroom teacher.
- Classes with desks will be in staggered rows. We will also be including expanded outdoor learning opportunities this year.

## SPECIAL EDUCATION

- Our staff, including our Learning Resources Teachers and Educational Assistants, will be supporting your children during the 2021/2022 school year. This includes meeting the needs of students who have accommodations and modifications as outlined in their Individual Educational Plans (IEP).



## MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

- An important part of transitioning back to school is to focus on students' social-emotional learning skills so they can build resilience, manage their stress, and build positive relationships.
- Our mental health and well-being staff have provided classroom-based activities to help school staff support students for a smooth transition.

## WASHROOM BREAKS

- Students will have access to washrooms as needed and during nutrition and fitness breaks.
- All washrooms have specific signage to coach students on handwashing expectations and identify the number of students allowed to use the washroom at one time.
- Staff will support students in learning and practicing washroom routines.
- The DSBN is committed to ensuring a clean and healthy washroom environment with enhanced cleaning.



## NUTRITION AND FITNESS BREAKS

Students will:

- Have two 40-minute breaks each day supervised by staff. You will receive a class specific schedule for each child, from the homeroom teacher. Supervised by a staff member, students in grades 1-8 will eat lunch on a staggered schedule to support distancing while not wearing their masks.
- Engage in 20 minutes of mask free outdoor time, in their designated classroom community zone. For health reasons, **students will not be permitted to bring personal sports equipment to use during fitness breaks. Each classroom will be provided with a set of outdoor equipment to play with during fitness breaks.**
- Students will not be allowed to share food.
- To start, we will not be having any pizza lunches or special lunch days. More information will follow.
- Please do not send treats in for classmates.
- Please note, our crossing guards lunch crossing may not be the same as your child's second break. As soon as we have a scheduled time from the city for the lunch crossing we will send it out. This will be important information for you to note if you are planning on having your child walk home during second break.

**Looking forward to seeing everyone on Tuesday, September 7th!**

Mrs. Scheer  
Principal

Mr. McMurray  
Vice-Principal