



James Morden News

September 2021

Message from Mrs. Scheer

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year! On behalf of the staff at James Morden, we would like to welcome back all our returning students and families. For our students and families new to JAM, we are excited that you will be joining our 'Mustangs' this year. A new year is always filled with possibilities. At James Morden, we know that this year will be full of new learnings, new experiences, new opportunities, and new friendships.

Although things will look different, we will create an amazing, healthy, and safe learning environment for our Mustangs!

There is a great deal of information in this newsletter and I appreciate the time you are giving to reading it all! If you have not already taken a few minutes to read the [DSBN Elementary In-Person Learning Guide](#), please do so. This newsletter will supplement the information in that guide with details specific to our James Morden community.

Please visit the [DSBN website](#) and click on the 'Back to School 2021-2022'. You will find many valuable resources to prepare for your child's return to school, including:

- a [Welcome to Kindergarten Parent Guide](#),
- [updates](#) and [advisories](#) as they become available,
- information about how DSBN is '[Keeping Schools Safe](#)',
- links to [Niagara region Public Health](#) and the [COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool](#),
- information about [Standardized Ventilation Methods](#) (coming in the fall).

The first day of school brings life back to the building, such as seeing smiling students eager to share their summer tales and hearing excitement in the air as students settle into their new classrooms. Thank you to Mr. Bacon for the excellent job he has done this summer getting the school ready to greet our students.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

School Office Opens.....	Aug. 30
Labour Day.....	Sept. 6
First Day of School.....	Sept. 7
Wear Purple for Child Abuse Day....	Sept. 27
School Council Meeting.....	Sept. 28
Rowan's Law Day - Wear purple.	Sept. 29
Orange Shirt Day.....	Sept. 30

PREVALENT MEDICAL CONDITIONS

If you have a child with a prevalent medical condition (Anaphylaxis, Asthma, Diabetes, and/or Epilepsy or others) we want to make sure we have a current Plan of Care to support your child. All parents of children with prevalent medical conditions are asked to fill out the new Plan of Care and submit to the school. You can download the forms here dsbn.org/prevalent-medical-conditions. For more information, please contact the school.

RETURN OF BORROWED DEVICES

Did you borrow a Chromebook during the spring remote learning or through the virtual school last year, and have not had a chance to return the device? Please send it in with your child on the first day of school.

Parent Role in Keeping our Children and Community Safe

The DSBN Parental Agreement will be available on School Cash Online on the first day of School. As acknowledged in the DSBN Parental Agreement, it is the responsibility of parents and caregivers to assess their children on a daily basis before sending them to school. Please be sure to sign and submit this agreement promptly through School Cash Online. If you require a paper copy, please contact the office.

Mental Health Family Supports

As the return to school approaches, most students typically experience a variety of emotions; some may be excited, others may be nervous or worried, and most will have mixed feelings. There are many ways that parents and caregivers can help prepare students for a mentally healthy return to school. The DSBN has compiled some high-quality, current resources, which are available on our website at www.dsbn.org/programs-services/well-being/. We encourage our families to visit the Parent Resources page frequently throughout the school year to access updated information.



What Do I Bring To School?

We understand that many families like to purchase school supplies. As always, you are welcome to do this but please keep it simple (pencils, erasers, pencil crayons or markers, scissors, and a calculator for our students in Grade 6-8). However, the school will provide all necessary learning materials. If you need these items, many of our community partners will be providing schools with supplies. Please let your school know. Personal non-instructional items in their backpacks will be taken home each day.

Please label all items with your child's name.

KINDERGARTEN	GRADES 1 to 8
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ A BACKPACK that is large enough to carry their lunch bag.○ LUNCH - Consider packing food in containers that can be easily opened by your child. Healthy snacks are encouraged.○ REFILLABLE WATER BOTTLE○ HEADPHONES to use with technology. Headphones that cover the ears work best. Place headphones in a labeled bag (e.g. a large Ziploc).○ INDOOR RUNNING SHOES that will be kept at school. (e.g. Velcro and slip on shoes).○ OUTER CLOTHING (e.g., jacket, snow pants, etc.) appropriate for the weather.○ A CHANGE OF CLOTHES that will be kept in their locker. Place clothes in a labeled bag (e.g. a large Ziploc bag).○ MASKS - The DSBN will be following all mask guidelines as provided by the Ministry of Education and Niagara Region Public Health. Kindergarten students are encouraged to wear a mask.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ MASKS - 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. Please send a back up mask or two in a labelled Ziploc bag or container, to keep in their backpack.○ OUTDOOR CLOTHING - In addition to fitness breaks, a portion of your child's day will include outdoor learning and breaks for mask relief. Please send your child to school dressed for the weather.○ PAIR OF INDOOR SHOES○ REFILLABLE WATER BOTTLE○ LUNCH○ BACKPACK○ HAT AND SUNSCREEN○ You may choose to provide your child with some basic SCHOOL SUPPLIES; however the school will supply all necessary learning materials.○ HEADPHONES to use with technology, in a labeled bag (e.g. a large Ziploc)

Things my child should not bring to school from home:

- Toys or stuffed animals
- Any food containing any nut or nut product
- Shared foods (e.g., cupcakes, Timbits)
- Perfume or cologne products

Bell Times and Supervision

James Morden entry and dismissal times will be as shown. Please note that morning supervision begins at 8:35 before school. PLEASE DO NOT ARRIVE EARLY. We will be busy preparing for student arrivals. Bus students are supervised at 3:10 p.m. until they have boarded their buses for home.

Morning Supervision Begins at 8:35 AM

Staggered Entry 8:35 - 9:10	
Period 1	9:10 - 9:50
Period 2	9:50 - 10:30
Period 3	10:30 - 11:10
Period 4	11:10 - 11:50
Period 5	11:50 - 12:30
Period 6	12:30- 1:10
Period 7	1:10 - 1:50
Period 8	1:50 - 2:30
Period 9	2:30 - 3:10
Dismissal 3:10	



Arriving at school

If you access DSBN transportation provided by Niagara Student Transportation Services (NSTS), please visit nsts.ca for updated school bus rules and protocols. NSTS is following the Ministry of Education and local public health guidelines for student transportation.

- Students who Opted-In to ride the bus in the 2020-21 school year will be automatically assigned a seat for the 2021-22 school year
- Students who are eligible for the bus and did not ride last year, are required to notify NSTS if they intend to ride the bus this year to ensure they have a seat assigned. Visit nsts.ca and sign-in to the Parent Portal to view your Opt-In to Transportation status
- Complete the Opt-In to Transportation Form if you need to change your status
- Consider signing up under “My Subscriptions” in the parent portal to be notified through email of any delays in your child’s transportation

To view preliminary transportation arrangements, visit nsts.ca and sign-in to the Parent Portal. For questions about transportation, visit nsts.ca, email general@nsts.ca or call 905-357-6787

Parents are also welcome to drive their child to school. Please do not park or stop in the bus lane, as this is reserved for the buses that transport our Mustangs. Please be patient and help us ensure the safety of all our students and families!

Morning Arrival

DO NOT ARRIVE AT SCHOOL TOO EARLY! We will need time to set up zones and markings to be ready to greet our students. Due to the need to prevent overcrowding parents will not be permitted on the school yard. Parents will say goodbye at the school designated drop off area and staff will direct students to their class designated area. Teachers will be greeting their class communities outside at their class' area every morning. 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.

For the safety and security of all students within our class communities:

- Supervision staff are on duty
 - Students must be on time and follow all routines that support the well-being of the whole school.
 - Parents are asked to say good-bye to their children at the front sidewalk and allow them to enter the school yard to join their friends with the support and guidance of their teachers.
 - There are two locations designated as drop-off and pick-up points. One area for our Kindergarten students and one area for our Grades 1-8 students. Staff will be out to provide guidance.
 - Pick-up and drop-off of students can only happen outside of the school. Parents will not have access to the front foyer, classrooms, and unscheduled visits are not permitted.

Staggering Entry into the School

Students will be assigned to the same door for entry and exit the entire year based on the location of their classroom in the building. This will minimize physical contact and ensure space between class communities.

At 8:50 am our instructional day will begin and classes may choose to extend their outdoor learning time. We have allocated 20 minutes during this first portion of the day to ensure all classes can enter the building in a manner that allows for physical distancing. Before entering the school, students will be reminded to physically distance themselves and put on their masks. Students will go directly to the homeroom classroom where they will wash their hands and/or use hand sanitizer provided. Students are able to access lockers and hooks. This process will be staggered to allow for physical distancing. In a staggered manner, all students will be escorted by their teacher to their classroom zone for dismissal.

Grade 1-8 Dismissal

Bus students will be supervised and will be meeting at our bus at the outside loading zone. Staff will escort bus students to the loading zone and to the bus.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is taken twice daily. Please help us to ensure the safety of our students by reporting your child's absence or anticipated late arrival. Your cooperation in calling will assist Ms. Gillis immensely. If we do not hear from you we will call you either at home, on your cell, or place of employment. If you could not be reached at these numbers we would then move on to the provided emergency contacts. Please note that due to starting our days outside, attendance calls may be a little later than usual. Also, all students who arrive late to school (morning or afternoon) must report to the office. Parents will not be able to escort their child into the building. A staff member will meet the child at the front door and will ensure the child gets safely to their class.

How can I report my child's absence or late arrival? Whether it's an illness, a medical appointment or other important event, there are times when students may need to be away from school. Using the [Safe Arrival](#) system, parents will be able to report daily absences, and even schedule absences in one of three ways:

1. Call toll-free before bell time: 1-866-606-5567
2. Logging on to the web portal (<https://go.schoolmessenger.ca/#/account/login>). Use this website to set up your account in order to report and schedule absences.
3. Using your smartphone or tablet. Simply download the SchoolMessenger app. The app is compatible with both Apple and Android devices.

Please report all absences prior to bell time for the current day. If your child has an upcoming appointment, you can also schedule future absences by using one of these three methods. Please do not contact the school directly to report your child's absence. For more information, please visit: <https://dsbn.org/safearrival/>

If you are changing your child's pick-up time, the office must know by 2:30 pm as it gets busy near the end of the day and some classes may be extending their learning outside at that time.

Fitness and Nutrition Breaks

All students will have two 40-minute breaks each day which consist of a 20-minute fitness and a 20-minute nutrition break, both supervised by staff. You will receive a class specific schedule from their homeroom teacher.

Nutrition breaks for students in grades 1-8 will occur on a staggered schedule to support distancing while not wearing their masks. 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.

During their fitness break, students will engage in 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.



School Council- Let your Voice be Heard

We understand that the partnership between home and school is vital to your child's success. We would love to have you join our James Morden school council. Over the past year, our school council meetings have taken place virtually. At this time, virtual meetings will continue for the 2021-2022 school year. Please email lisa.scheer@dsbn.org if you are interested in attending the school council meeting scheduled for *Tuesday, September 28, 2021 and whether you would like to be considered for an elected position on the James Morden School Council. We are required to have a minimum of 4 meetings per school year but may schedule additional meetings depending on the needs of the council. Meetings are usually held on a Tuesday evening. We would love to have as many parents participate as possible! If you are interested in a position on the school council, I will send the nomination form to you via email. Elections for positions will be held during the meeting on September 28, 2021.*

School Cash On Line

We know that you have many different priorities competing for your attention each day. To respect your valuable time, we'd like to make it a little easier for you to connect with our school. With [School Cash Online](#) you are able to approve permission forms and make payments for any of these items online. With the understanding that we're quickly becoming a cashless society, we know it can sometimes be a challenge to find exact change for items and then send it to school through your child's backpack. Using [School Cash Online](#) allows you to use your debit, credit card or echeque to make quick and easy payments. It will also allow you to track payments made and you will receive an invoice for your purchases. As we are trying to minimize papers travelling between school and home, we encourage all families to register for [School Cash Online](#). We will be using this platform to send out important beginning of the year information that you can approve with the click of a button!

[School Cash Online](#) is a safe, reliable portal that will ensure the security of your information. The system is already active. You are able to gain access through the [School Cash](#) button which has been placed on our school website. We are asking that you click on the button and follow the simple instructions to register. Registration should take less than five minutes. If you registered last year, you do not need to register again! If you require some assistance registering for [School Cash Online](#), please call the office to book an appointment time and we will be happy to help get you set-up and ready to go!

Important Forms to Sign

Most of our very important back to school forms will be available through [School Cash Online](#) during the first week of school. With a click of a button, these items can be quickly approved. If you would prefer a paper copy, please call and let the school know and we will send a paper copy home the first week of school. The back to school forms that are required to be returned include:

Student Verification Report
Permission to Participate DSBN Curricular (Physical Education)
Athletic Program form
Information Technology Digital Citizenship Agreement, which must be signed in order for students to use computers within the school

James Morden Staff 2021/2022

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Lisa Scheer – Principal

Mike McMurray—Vice Principal

Tasha Gillis - Secretary

Jim Bacon—Custodian

Tara Rost—KDG 1 (Rm 5 A&B)

Tammy Harris—DECE

Sarah Mar nell (LTD to January)—KDG 2(Rm 5)

Michelle Ireland - DECE

Heather Gorham Nowell - Gr ½-1 (Rm 7)

Nancy Gunstein – Gr ½-2 (Rm 6)

Corrie Collins - Gr. 2 (Rm 4)

Robyn Smylski - Gr. 3 (Rm 8)

Kelly Jonz - Gr. 3 (Rm9)

Juli Braukmann - Gr. 4 (Rm 15)

Melissa McKinney Lepp (am) Michelle Nave
(pm) - Gr. ½ (Rm 14)

Stephen Fish—Grade 5/6 (Rm 16)

Rochelle Tkach - Grade 6/7 (Rm 17)

Nathan Haggerty—Grade 7/8 (Rm 12)

Jessie Glenow—Grade 8 (Rm 1)

Amanda Litke – SSP (Rm 2)

Sarah Violante—FSL

Kerry Fclstead—Prep Coverage

TBD—PREP

Melissa McKinney-Lepp - LRT (pm)

Kelly Carpino - EA

Brooke Cote - EA

Brian Gillies—EA

Tracie Maure—EA

Semhar Tesfay - EA

Kathy Scott—EA

Brenda Steinburg—EA

Rada Pascoe—ELL

Lindsay Barrow—Youth Counsellor (Virtual -
Thursdays)

Marisa Giesa—Social Worker (Virtual -
Wednesdays)

Kara Coens – LRS

Cheryl Ferguson- LRS

Audrey Green - LRS

Vi Kertez - LRS

How to communicate with your child's teacher

Electronic communication through email or class platforms such as Google Classroom or D2L is encouraged. At this time, if you would like to meet with your child's teacher, please understand that this will take place over the phone or through a virtual meeting until further notice. Parents are welcome to call the school to request a phone meeting time.

Parent Access To School

One of our goals is to maintain a school environment that minimizes the number of potential contacts for students and staff. For that reason, parents should not enter the school. Pick-up and drop-off of students can only happen outside of the school. Parents will not have access to classrooms and unscheduled visits are not permitted. Please note that ALL visitors must make an appointment with the office prior to entering the school. If you have made an appointment, you must complete the [Visitors Self-Assessment](#) on the DSBN webpage and wear a mask to enter to school.

Student Accident Insurance

School Student Accident Insurance forms will be sent home during the first week of school. Please consider purchasing this insurance as the DSBN does not provide medical coverage for students. Remember to send those insurance forms directly to the company. Do not return the envelope to the school. We encourage you to purchase this low-cost student accident insurance that will protect your children from accidental injuries, particularly dental injuries.

Agreements and Documents

Please inform the school if there are special custody orders for your child. Any relevant custody orders MUST be kept on file at the office. Please ensure that the school always has the most recent custody orders for your child(ren).

We are a scent free building

Scented products have chemicals that can cause health reactions in people with asthma, migraines, allergies, or environmental sensitivities. Please help keep our air breathable for everyone and use unscented or scent reduced products where possible. James Morden is a Scent-Reduced Environment. Some staff and students have a sensitivity to odours, smells, and scents. Please do not wear, or send your child with, perfume, cologne, after shave, or scented body lotion into the school.

Anaphylaxis – Be Nut Aware!

Anaphylaxis is a severe and potentially life-threatening reaction to certain food substances. We have students in our school that suffer from a severe allergy which can cause an anaphylactic reaction. An anaphylactic reaction is an allergic reaction so severe that in some cases, it can be life threatening. These children have a severe allergy to nuts. Prevention is the best approach. Therefore, we ask your cooperation in not sending any snacks or lunches containing nut products with your child.

What if I need to Get Something to My Child?

If your child has forgotten something that they cannot do without, we will have you ring the bell at the front door and let our staff know who the item is for. You may leave the item in the designated space at the school entry. Staff will take care of delivery for you. We will see that your child receives it.

Student Use of Phone

In order to minimize touch surfaces and direct and indirect contact with others, including our office staff, students will not be permitted to use the phone unless it is an emergency. Any after school plans need to be arranged prior to the start of the school day.

Technology and Devices

Technology is an important part of our program and there will be many opportunities for learning using desktops, video equipment, cameras, and more. To ensure student safety and appropriate use, we will take on a three-fold approach:

1. Strict enforcement of the "Information Technology Digital Citizenship Agreement"
2. Educating students to use technology safely and responsibly, and
3. Ensuring technology from home doesn't come to school without both parent and teacher permission.

Students should not bring valuable personal property to school. Loss and theft are facts of life, and often these lost or stolen articles are never returned to their rightful owner. Similarly, other items may cause unwanted distraction and/or confidentiality or safety concerns. Unless given permission by the teacher to complete school assignments or projects, all electronic devices (i.e., cell phones, cameras, tablets) must be kept in a student's backpack throughout the entire school day, including nutrition breaks. If any of these items are used during school hours, they will be confiscated and will be returned with the date to be determined as per each offence. Electronic devices are not the responsibility of the school. It is, therefore, best that such items be left at home.

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Dressing For Success

Everyone has their own unique style and aesthetic. We celebrate students' individuality and respect their ability to express themselves. Our only expectation is that all students come to school dressed appropriately for a learning environment.

When deciding clothing, we ask that all members of our school community are mindful of:

- Health and safety concerns
- The dignity and well-being of all students and staff (i.e. clothing that is free of inappropriate or discriminatory imagery or wording).

Rowans Law Day

Rowan's Law was named for Rowan Stringer, a high school rugby player from Ottawa, who died in the spring of 2013 from a condition known as second impact syndrome (swelling of the brain caused by a subsequent injury that occurred before a previous injury healed). Rowan is believed to have experienced three concussions over six days while playing rugby. She had a concussion but didn't know her brain needed time to heal. Neither did her parents, teachers, or coaches.

Rowan's Law and Rowan's Law Day were established to honour her memory and bring awareness to concussions and concussion safety. We wear purple on this day as this was Rowan's favourite colour.

Orange Shirt Day – Thursday, September 30

Orange Shirt Day is a legacy of the St. Joseph Mission residential school commemoration event held in Williams Lake, BC, Canada, in the spring of 2013. It grew out of Residential School survivor Phyllis Webstad's account of having her new orange shirt taken away on her first day of school, and it has become an opportunity to keep the discussion on all aspects of residential schools happening annually. The initiative calls for every Canadian to wear an orange shirt in the spirit of healing and reconciliation. The date was chosen because it is the time of year in which children were taken from their homes and placed in residential schools, and because it provides an opportunity to set the stage for anti-racism and anti-bullying policies for the coming school year.

This year, DSBN will be recognizing this day on Thursday, September 30. Please join our school staff in wearing an orange shirt on September 30. We hope to see all of our students and many community members wearing orange on September 30.

So Many Ways to Stay Informed and Connected

In our busy lives, events can sometimes be overlooked. Technology allows us multiple ways to connect with families. The following is a list of ways we use to connect with families to ensure all families are aware of the many events happening throughout the year.

School Website

<https://jamesmorden.dsbnschools.ca/>

Our website includes current newsletters, school calendars, code of conduct, school council information, a school year calendar, classroom websites, and bell times.

School Messenger

Using the School Messenger program, all families will receive a monthly email with the monthly newsletter and other messages that need to be communicated. If you are not receiving these emails, please check your contact information with the office to ensure we have the most current information.

Monthly Newsletter

All newsletters will be posted to the school website and sent via School Messenger through email on the first school day of the new month.

