



## COLLINGWOOD SCHOOL

### NEWS & REMINDERS

[中文版本](#)

August 28, 2020

Dear Families,

As we prepare to welcome everyone back to school on Tuesday, September 8, I am writing to share [Collingwood Reunited: Information and Learning Plan](#). At the time of this writing, Collingwood School has not received feedback from the Ministry of Education on our Restart Plan. However, we wanted to share information with our parents now with a caveat that some details may change when we hear back from the Ministry. There are also instructions for next steps and details related to the information we will need to gather from families before the school year begins.

### Health and Safety

The health and safety of our students, faculty, staff and families remained at the forefront of our work this summer. Many of the same protocols that were in place in June will be present with some adjustments and some enhancements for September. You will find many answers to your Health and Safety questions [here](#). Some key topics include daily self-assessments at home, daily temperature checks on site, hand hygiene, learning groups, enhanced cleaning protocols, and COVID-19 response protocols.

### Masks

Masks and face shields have been ordered and will be supplied to all staff. Students in Grade 6-12 will be asked to wear a mask at school daily on arrival, when moving through the school and in other situations where physical distancing cannot be maintained outside of their learning group. Wearing a non-medical mask or face shield within learning groups or classrooms is a personal choice for students and staff. However, we will be making masks mandatory for all staff and students Grade 6-12 in common areas like hallways, and when social distancing outside of one's learning group is not possible. Masks will also be mandatory for all students—regardless of age—when using the school bus. Please note: these guidelines are in compliance with the rules set by the Provincial Health Officer and the Ministry of Education.

We ask that parents ensure that any non-medical masks being worn by their children are appropriate to be worn at school. We will not permit inappropriate or scary, Halloween-type designs to be used on campus.

### Learning Groups

At both campuses, learning groups have been assigned as per the Ministry of Education's mandate. Learning groups at Collingwood will often be well below the allowable maximum of 60 students at the junior school level and 120 at the senior school level. We will have different coloured bracelets for all Wentworth students and different coloured lanyards for all Morven students so we can easily ensure students remain in their cohorts. These learning groups reduce the number of interactions between students and staff, while safely providing increased peer connection. As a policy, we will never have more than 50 people gathered in common areas including cafeterias and gyms.

### In-class Learning for All Students

As previously communicated, we are focused on in-class instruction at this time. We believe that learning at school better meets the social-emotional needs of children than online learning. The Learning Groups provide a range of benefits for students including increased peer interaction and support and decreased feelings of isolation.

We understand that some families are still not ready to return to school. We encourage families to review our [Health and Safety FAQ](#) as you consider your plans. At the time of this writing, the Ministry of Education gave authority for all public-school boards to entertain remote options for learning. A decision has not been made by the Ministry for independent schools at this time. We thus far have been given the direction of limiting learning to in-class options only. As a school, we are ready to pivot and to put an interim remote transitional learning plan in place to meet the needs of our families. To clarify, this would not be an online or hybrid learning model like in the Spring but may include independent study including receiving packages of work and a weekly check in with a faculty member. We await Ministry clarification and will communicate early next week if this option is available.

### Learning Plans

As a school, we are committed to providing the same scope of courses that Collingwood has become known for. Some adaptations have been made to accommodate health and safety protocols.

**You will find detailed learning plans for Wentworth and Morven [here](#).**

### Student Absence

We know there will be greater student absence this year with the need to be away from school with any cold or flu like symptoms. Our teachers will maintain SeeSaw (JK-3) and Google classrooms (Grades 4-12) so that students can keep up with their schooling in these instances.

As always, any student who is absent from school must have their parents fill out the [Attendance Form online](#). Each and every student absence must be documented as mandated by the Ministry of Education. All extended absences (more than 3 days) must be supported by medical documentation. The School will work with the student, family and medical professional to ensure continuous learning if this extended absence occurs.