

August 20, 2020 – Venture Heights Families

Good morning Venture Heights families,

Our staff has been meeting this week on numerous occasions as we get ready for our students in September!

A few themes that keep emerging are:

1. Our staff are very excited to get your kids back to our school and are relieved that schools are opening.
2. SAFETY of children and staff is the key consideration in all elements of our planning
3. We are going to start the year with “back to the basics and building relationships” learning in order to ensure safety and predictability. Once available, we will add more components.

Yesterday we received the “Safe Schools” template from the school division that we will complete by Monday at 2:00 pm. This template will then be scrutinized by the Division office, sent back to us for alterations and then sent to the province on the 26th. Mrs. Moen and I are planning to meet with the other Martensville school administrators throughout this, in order to gain consistency throughout our community. Our schools and school division are taking our lead from the provincial chief medical officer. If they give us new or alternate directions, we will work as a staff and with families to adjust accordingly.

Some considerations to let you know about in the meantime:

1. On the first day of school for students (staggered start or otherwise), all students will meet their classroom teacher outside of the building. Each classroom teacher will connect with you about the location of where each class will meet. By doing this, we can greatly control entry to the building. Teachers may choose to keep the kids outside for a while and do some of the typical “start of day” activities before heading in. This start of the day (and lunch) will be the standard for how we start each day moving forward. We ask that kids don’t come to the school any sooner than necessary. **Arrival just in time to meet classroom teachers is the best scenario.** (Before and after school program will still function, so those kids will be there much earlier of course).
2. For at least the first 6 weeks of school, the school division has determined that no one other than staff and students will be in the building (this doesn’t include maintenance personnel, emergency services, etc.). Our staff will gladly meet any parents outside for meetings though!
3. Our library will be closed for the first six weeks. There will be no band, grade 7/8 enrichment, extra-curricular, field trips that require busing or mingling of students (care partners for example) as we start the year.
4. Our classroom environments will be focusing of mental health, FUN, building relationships and community, reading, writing and math. We will build on our students strengths as we meet the needs of all our students this fall and throughout the school year.

5. Masks – will be a key component of our planning; we recognize this has been very controversial, but students will need to bring masks.
6. Lysol wipes – at this time, PSSD is creating a disinfecting plan that does not include students bringing their own wipes. **Do not send Lysol/Clorox wipes to school with your child. Disregard this item from the supply lists.**
7. Prior to September 8th - we are looking at scheduling times for parents and kids to come to the school, meet your teacher outside and drop off school supplies. Details to follow!

*****Just a caution, this email is not our “plan”, it is just some preliminary information for you. Please email me with any questions you have!!!! ron.biberdorf@spiritsd.ca**

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NEVER announce that you are a Knight....simply behave as one
Sir Thomas Lemuel Hawke of Cornwall
1483
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