



DIAMOND SCHOOL

May 28 Newsletter

Dear Diamond families,

We hope this letter finds you and your family in good spirits. As we prepare for the part-time reintroduction of in-class instruction starting June 1, we understand you may have questions about what school will look like and what processes we have set up to help ensure everyone’s health and safety while on-campus. Please carefully review the following information.

Survey of Attendance

Thank you to everyone for responding to last week’s newsletter informing as to whether or not your child will be attending on-campus in June. Knowing what students will be attending ensures we are able to schedule effectively to ensure everyone’s safety. **You must notify the school office no later than Thursday the week before if your student will be attending. We are unable to accommodate students without sufficient notice.**

June 1-19 Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Kindergarten Grade 1	Grade 2	Kindergarten Grade 1	Grade 2	Remote Learning Day
Grade 3 Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 3 Grade 4	Grade 5 Grade 6	
Grade 8	Grade 10	Grade 7	Grade 9	

Essential Service Workers

We have been working with families of essential service workers (ESWs) with children up to 12 years old who require childcare during the week. Children of ESWs may attend school Monday through Friday. These students will attend with their regular class when possible and join an adjacent class when theirs is not at school. On Fridays, there will be teachers designated to provide an on-campus program for children of ESWs. If you are an ESW and have not already spoken to us, please feel free to contact the school office to discuss your situation and make arrangements in advance for your child’s care.

School Building and Safety

You will notice the following changes to the school buildings and site:

1. Water fountains have been disabled and covered
2. All new bathroom sinks have been installed in the upstairs elementary washrooms with touchless bathroom faucets
3. These same faucets will be installed in all student washrooms
4. Playground entrance will be blocked
5. Computer labs will be off-limits to students
6. Forest trails and outdoor classroom spaces have been cleared and widened
7. Doors will be propped open where possible to reduce surface touching
8. Lockers and cubbies will not be used or accessed by students (any personal items have been put in labeled bags and are available for pickup by appointment from the school office)
9. Cones, barriers, and signage have been set up to ensure physical distancing throughout the parking lot and all outside walkways
10. Signs and floor markings are used to direct walking paths throughout the school
11. Signs reminding and explaining proper hand hygiene are posted throughout the school
12. Students will be reminded to wash their hands frequently throughout the day
13. Wearing non-medical masks will be a personal choice for students and teachers
14. Hand sanitizer stations are located throughout the school and in each classroom



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Continuous Cleaning

In addition to our regular evening deep cleaning team, we will have a full-time cleaner every day to continuously sanitize frequently touched surfaces, including doorknobs, light switches, washrooms, tables, etc. In addition, cleaning supplies and cleaners proven effective for COVID-19 are provided in every classroom for sanitizing needs.

Building Access

Any student with symptoms of cold, flu or COVID-19 will not be allowed entry to the school. Parents are responsible for assessing their children at home, prior to arrival at school. The school building will be closed to all parents, except for parents with a prior appointment.

Arrivals/Departures

Arrival time: between 8:40 am and 8:55 am only

Departure time: between 3:00 pm and 3:15 pm only

If you are arriving or picking up a student outside of these designated times, you must make arrangements in advance by phoning the school office.

K-4 arrival/departure station: elementary back entrance

5-6 arrival/departure station: M4 (Grade 6 portable)

7-10 arrival/departure station: secondary school main entrance

Line-up markers have been set up to ensure physical distancing is maintained while you are waiting in line at these designated arrival/departure stations.

Kindergarten - Grade 6 Procedure: A parent or guardian must accompany students to the building and pick up students in-person at the end of the day at their assigned arrival/departure station. Please do not drop off students in these grades in the parking lot.

Grade 7-10 Procedure: Students must line up at the designated line-up markers at the front of the secondary building. Parents should not leave the school property until they have confirmed their child has been admitted to the building. To collect students at the end of the day, parents may text their student when they arrive or go to the secondary school main entrance.

Classroom Changes

Students will notice some changes to how their classrooms look:

- All touchable surfaces will be cleared so they can be cleaned and disinfected easily
- All soft items (cushions, stuffed animals, etc.) have been stored away
- All unnecessary shelving is turned or covered
- All classroom furniture and desks will be arranged to maintain a physical distance of at least two meters between students when they are both seated and upon exiting or entering
- In classrooms, one door will be used for entering and another for exiting
- Each classroom will have a hand sanitizing station by the entrance door

Instructional Schedules

On-campus attendance is optional for all students. Online instruction will continue for all grades, including Zoom sessions and assignments. The at-school schedule will accommodate our new blended instructional program, with both online and in-class instruction. Zoom lessons and online instruction will continue for all students when they are at home.

The weekly event schedules for at-home learning will continue to be posted on our website here: www.diamondschool.ca/schedules (see the emailed newsletter version for login info)



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Lunches

The goal for food and drinks brought to school is that students will be self-sufficient, requiring no teacher assistance. Please ensure students bring a lunch and snack that

- does not require a fridge, microwave or kettle (these will not be available to students)
- is easily opened by the student
- is simple and not too messy (avoid things that easily spill or encourage licking of fingers)
- contains all eating utensils (forks or spoons will not be provided)
- is peanut free (classes may be in different rooms so we need to ensure everyone's safety)
- includes a water bottle (or two) with water sufficient for the day (water fountains have been disabled)

School Clothing

All students are welcome to wear comfortable non-uniform dress code at school. Gym strip will not be needed. All other dress code requirements will apply:

- No clothing with offensive or inappropriate language or images
- Clothing and shoes should be comfortable and allow for adequate movement when sitting outside, walking in the forest trails, etc.
- Ensure young children are able to do up clothes themselves (ie. no shoes with laces if the child cannot tie their own shoes, no complicated fasteners the child cannot operate themselves, etc.)
- Please ensure the student has or wears non-scuffing shoes appropriate for the gym

Personal Items & School Supplies

Students will not be using lockers. All personal items will be kept at student's workspaces.

- **K-6:** Depending on grade level, students will either bring their own school supplies from home or will be assigned supplies. You will receive an email from your classroom teacher with specific instructions.
- **7-10:** Students should bring their own laptop. If they do not have one, a school laptop will be assigned to them for June.

How to help your child prepare for June

To assist in preparing your child to return to campus, we recommend reviewing the above information with them. Additional things to discuss/ensure your child understands include:

- How to properly wash hands and use hand sanitizer
- Social distancing procedures and reasoning, such as ways to greet others from 2 meters away
- the importance of not sharing food or personal items with others

Last Day of School - Online Goodbye

There will be no on-campus instruction on the last day of school (Friday, June 19th). Each class will have a virtual year-end party scheduled in the morning on Zoom to allow students a chance to meet together and say goodbye to their classmates and teachers before summer break.

Community Message

While we know some of you are nervous about the changes and potential risks that this partial return to campus brings, we want to assure you that we are putting your family's safety and health as a top priority. Just as every child is unique, every family is also unique and faces different circumstances and challenges of their own. Whether you choose to have your child attend on campus or choose to wait until September before returning, know that we support your decision and will continue to work hard to provide all students with the quality learning program you expect from Diamond School.

For those who will be on campus in June, we look forward to seeing you in person, and for those who will remain home in June, we look forward to seeing you in Zoom!

Sincerely,
Diamond School