August 23/20

Hi Parents/Guardians,

I hope you have been enjoying these beautiful summer days. What amazing weather!

Thank you for being so patience surrounding the logistic details about Shatford’s reopening. School is scheduled for student September 8th. I ‘ve come to realize over the last few months that there are no certainties especially during a worldwide pandemic. We are navigating uncharted waters and this year will be one remembered in the history books. What I can assure you is that the staff and myself will work diligently under the guidelines of public health and the Department of Education to provide your children the safest environment that you can provide during a pandemic. In fact, the first few weeks there will be a strong focus on safety routines and practices. It is imperative that you as a parent support us on this process.

I thought at this point I would share our work that will be happening in the next few weeks in preparation for school to open and to share what the first few days of school will look like. Please see below.

If you know of anyone in the area who hasn’t registered for school and is planning on it. Please tell them about late registration on August 26th 9am till 2pm. We will be following safety COVID protocols.

In the next few weeks before school:

1. Classrooms will be removing furniture to go into storage to try to meet the Dept. of Health requirements of one-meter distancing in the classroom.
2. Operations will be putting directional signs and waiting spots inside the building to control travel throughout the hallways. Travel through the hallways will be minimal. Many subject areas will be taught in the classroom (library and music) All grade levels will be expected to wear a mask in the hallways. No mask is required outside.
3. Plans for recess and lunches are being finalized and will be shared later. All students will be eating in their classroom or at times outdoors.(More details to follow)
4. Sanitizing stations throughout the building have been installed and more stations will be set up. In addition, every classroom will have a station designated for them.
5. The Dept of Health requires Grade four and higher to wear a non-medical masks. Since one of our classes is a ¾ combined, our grade threes will also be expected to wear mask in the classroom. This will help to keep the consistency in the classroom. All children will receive two free masks from the Dept.
6. Most of the school supplies will go back –n-forth in your child’s backpack. We have been asked to not keep a great deal of supplies in the school. Teachers will decide what supplies stay and what supplies need to travel back-n-forth and what can stay home until needed.
7. The two younger classes will each have their own entrance and exit door. The 3/4 and 5/6 class will continue to use the side door leading onto bball court.
8. In the first few days of school, students will be welcome directly into the school as they arrive at 8:05 with the first bus. We will be directing the students into different doors. P/1 will be entering and exiting through what we consider the main doors. 1/2 Willies will be entering/exiting the secondary main doors parallel to main door. The ¾ and 5/6 classes will meet on the bball court and use the side door. Preprimary students will go directly in the side door that was the daycare door. This routine will be standard. Walkers will enter their designated grade level door.
9. At this point, any adult who is not staff is not able to come into the building. This can be very difficult especially for the little ones ( and let’s face it parents too.) This is for the safety of all. I know this doesn’t make it easier. Please review this with the children that this is the process. “Kiss and go” by the rocks no lingering please.
10. Students will be washing their hands frequently.
11. The school bell to end school is 2:15pm. We will have two buses in the school yard this year. Walkers will dismiss first out of their designated doors. Please make sure you are waiting for them a few minutes early at the designated door. This will help with social distancing. If you feel that your child may walk home alone please let your child’s teacher know.
12. After late registration, our class lists will be set. Grade one parents will be called to let you know whether your child is in the p/1 or the ½ combined.

What you can do to help prepare your child/children for school:

1. Make sure that your children can mask on and off correctly. Labelling masks with first name and last name or even initials to help if a mask goes astray. As well, designate a place in their bookbag where they can put their mask for storage when needed. A paperbag in their book bag would do.
2. Practice walking out of a designated room and find sanitizer bottle and get them to rub on hands and in between fingers. Every time, a child leaves their classroom they need to sanitize Every time they enter classroom they need to sanitize (use hand sanitizer station.)
3. Talk about the concept of NOT SHARING RIGHT NOW IS ACTUALLY CARING. Hard concept to get across as our society encourages sharing. To keep kids safe we need them to understand that their supplies /clothing cannot be shared.
4. All non-school essential items should remain at home. Ie toys.
5. Preteach your children how to open up the items in their lunchbag. This includes packaging and containers.
6. Talk to your children about social distancing at school.
7. Practice with the children following traffic flow signs with your children. Getting them to follow the signs and direct you would be good practice.
8. All students must wear masks on the bus. Please make sure you talk to your child about the importance of this. Also, please register your child for bus tracker.

As the days go by this plan might need to have slight modifications. Please continue to monitor your emails and the website. Our staff is excited to welcome your children back to school or in the case of our new students, preprimary and primary students to school. Shatford is an amazing school with a wonderful sense of community. Be assured we want the best for all our students and will do whatever we can do to help them develop not only academically but also socially and emotionally.

As the classrooms get set up and the signage is posted I am hoping to make a video and post it on our website so that you can preview with your child what their classroom and hallways look like. Stay tuned. If you have any concerns or questions please contact me at any time, swile@hrce.ca

Sarah Wile