

## Updated Dartmouth High School Opening Information #2

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Thanks for your patience while we continue to sort through and prepare for our new norm. This serves to provide you with some updates subsequent to the recent information that was sent home last week. Please note that some of the previous information shared may be repetitive and/or modified.

As a school, we pride ourselves on building strong relationships between home and school, as this is vital to student well-being and their achievement. However, under the **Back to School Plan** <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/docs/back-to-school-plan.pdf> visitors, which includes parents/guardians, will not normally be permitted in the school. The school will look for alternative ways to engage with parents/guardians that do not require parents to physically enter the building.

To address some of the confusion around our structured scheduled day, please see our 4-day rotational cycle. E.g. If a school day is A, Students will attend only their Block 1 (8:25-11:05) class in the morning and only their Block 2 (12:25-3:05) in the afternoon. Please note that the first day of school Tuesday, September 8 is Day A, so student will report to their Block 1 class upon arrival to school.

	<b>Day A</b>	<b>Day B</b>	<b>Day C</b>	<b>Day D</b>
<b>Morning</b>	1	3	2	4
<b>Afternoon</b>	2	4	1	3

- On opening day, students will need to know their block one class. Information was sent home on how to access the PowerSchool Portal to view their schedule. Paper schedules will not be distributed this year.
- Busing – If your child is a bus student, you should have already received communication from the HRCE Transportation Dept, re: pick up and drop off times, etc.
- A reminder that each grade level is assigned specific doors for entering and exiting the building to maximize our social distancing efforts in the halls. Please note door change for grade 10s from previous email. Doors are labelled.
  - > **Grade 9's Main doors on Victoria Rd.**
  - > **Grade 10's John Regan Doors (by gym)**
  - > **Grade 11's Thistle Street (Doors by DHS Crest)**
  - > **Grade 12's Harbour One (back of school facing Zatzman sportplex)**
- On opening day, student council members will be at the grade 9 and grade 10 entry ways to welcome our new students and guide them to their scheduled class where they will meet their teacher.
- Students will not be permitted to enter the building until 8:10 a.m. and must proceed directly to their class.
- To get a feel for the building, we invite students new to DHS to click on the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BFVnTgNUHnw> for a virtual tour if you have not already done so.

- Students will notice bright directional floor decals being used to control the flow of traffic in the hallways and common spaces to allow for physical distancing reminders. In the interest of keeping everyone safe and healthy, it is imperative that all students pay close attention and adhere to these directives.
- Sanitizing stations have been placed strategically to enable students to hand sanitize upon entering the school and throughout the course of the day.
- Excess furniture have been removed from classrooms. Desks have been arranged to maximize social distancing in classrooms.
- All students will be provided with 2 non-medical cloth masks. When students are unable to maintain the required 6 feet distancing, they must wear a mask.
- You may view the following video with your child to reinforce the need for everyone to mask up <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/video/covid-19-wear-non-medical-mask-face-covering-properly.html>
- Lunchtime and afterschool dismissal from courses will take place by grade level at staggered dismissal times within the last 10 minutes of the course in order to reduce congestion in the hallways at the start of lunch and at the end of the day. To clarify, confusion in the last email, it is staggered dismissal, not early dismissal as was indicated in the previous email.
- We encourage students who live within walking distance to go home for lunch to reduce the building capacity.
- Likewise, off block students who live within walking distance are also encouraged to go home, however students who must remain at school due to bussing, etc. may use the library and supervised spaces.
- Lunchtime procedures will look different. We have created five (5) supervised locations where students may eat lunch: the common space attached to the cafeteria, the cafeteria, Library, Victoria 1 and Victoria 2 where tables have been set up. Additionally, a few teachers have offered to host a limited number of students in their classroom for lunch. Details will be posted once finalized.
- These supervised lunch spaces will be utilized on a rotating basis, over the lunch hour. Students must follow public health protocols in these spaces to maintain sanitization and social distancing.
- A gentle reminder that microwave ovens will not be made available, therefore students may want to bring their hot lunch in a thermos.
- Students are encouraged to bring a full bottle of water to school each day. We continue to use water coolers for refills for the time being.
- Given that lockers will not be accessible this year, students are asked to bring only the required learning materials to school for that day.
- Teachers are continuing to use Google Classroom to post information, etc.; we encourage students who own a portable technology device to bring it to school daily.
- We will be signing out Chromebooks on a priority needs basis in order to ensure equitable access to technology. If your child does not have access to a portable technology; please let their Block 1 teacher know.

- If your child did not return the loaned Chromebook last year, please have your child return it to their Block 1 teacher so we may reformat and reactivate it for use.
- For everyone's health and well-being, we ask that you monitor the health of your child each morning using the COVID-19 daily checklist found on the DHS website at [dhs.hrce.ca](https://dhs.hrce.ca) as well as the school's APP.
- Please download the free DHS APP if you have not already done so. It is one of our primary communication tools, that many students, families and community members have come to rely on for school/community related information.
- We had our first on-site staff meeting on Sept. 3 via Zoom from classrooms. Teachers are eager to meet their students as we embark of this new learning journey together, establishing new routines and exploring the course curriculum.
- Given the longer block of class time, the admin team has impressed upon teachers the need for flexibility in organizing built-in stretch and bathroom breaks throughout the course.
- Teachers understand that their immediate priority for their planning for student learning is to review and assess where students are with regard to foundational learning outcomes to determine areas of focus for student achievement in their respective courses.
- One final reminder that the Victoria Road parking lot is off limits to parents and students. This includes dropping off and picking up students.

Thank you for taking the time to read this, I know it is a lot of information to process.

Looking forward to a positive and productive year!

Eartha Monard, Principal