Communiqué

Urgent Attention Required.

To: ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local Members

From: Craig Smith, President, ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local (ETFO TVTL)

Date: January 29, 2021

Regarding: Letter from TVDSB to Parents / Guardians - Return to In-person Learning Update #3

Message to Parents and Guardians – ELEMENTARY

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are happy to welcome our elementary students back to in-person learning on Monday, February 1, 2021, following a decision by the Ministry of Education and our partners in Public Health. Here is some additional information that students and families need to know before returning.

TECHNOLOGY

At this time, we will not collect technology from students who requested a TVDSB device for remote learning. We encourage students to bring their devices to school for daily use.

REQUESTS TO CHANGE LEARNING MODELS

Requests to change from **In-Person Learning to Full Remote Learning** will be reviewed by the Full Remote Learning Committee on a case-by-case basis and will only be approved for circumstances that are exceptional. Following approval, families will be provided with a transition date. Please note that time is required to allow for classroom placement. Please send learning model change requests to your school principal.

Requests to change from **Full Remote Learning to In-Person Learning** will be permitted where space in schools is available. Please contact your home school with your request.

DAILY SCREENING AND REPORTING STUDENT ABSENCES

It is important that the daily screening for COVID-19 symptoms is completed daily. If your child is unwell, we ask that you follow direction provided through the screening tool and continue to report absences through SchoolMessenger or contact the school.

MASK REQUIREMENTS FOR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

In TVDSB, students in Kindergarten to Grade 8 have been wearing masks to school since September 2020. The Ministry of Education has changed the requirement for students in Grades 1-3 to wear masks; previously this requirement from the province was for students in Grades 4-12. Therefore, we would like to remind families to please ensure your child continues to attend school with a mask. A mask will be provided, if needed.

For families requesting a mask exemption, this is to be provided in writing to the school principal. All requests will be reviewed by the Mask Exemption Review Panel. Until an exemption is approved, students are required to wear masks.

Masks are now required to be worn outdoors, for recess breaks and outdoor learning where physical distancing cannot be maintained. Students will be supported to have breaks from mask wearing during these times while maintaining the requirement to be safely distanced from peers. In addition, congregating outdoors before and after school is not permitted.

Thank you for working with us for the health and safety of our students, staff and communities.

We are very excited to have our students back in our schools on Monday, February 1 to engage in learning to support their academic success and well-being.

For more information regarding this *Communiqué* please contact the ETFO Local office by phone at 519-474-3150 or by email at etfotvtl@etfothamesvalley.com.

c. *ETFO TVTL Released Officers*
Terry Card, President, ETFO Thames Valley Occasional Teacher Local