



TO: Elementary Principals and Vice-Principals

FROM: Learning Support Services

SUBJECT: February Return to School Planning for Elementary Schools

DATE: January 29, 2021

This memo is to provide support to Elementary Administrators as we prepare to welcome our students and staff back to school on Monday, February 1, 2021.

Focus on Re-Connection and Routines

During the first few days of school, the priority for staff in elementary classes is to welcome students back to In-Person Learning and to provide an opportunity for community building, connection and re-establishment of routines and relationships. To support this work, resources such as the January and February versions of “*In the Valley*” newsletter are available on the Mental Health and Safe Schools SharePoint site.

In addition, during the first few days of in-person instruction, please take time to reinforce all Health and Safety protocols and introduce our newly required protocols which include mask wearing outdoors when physical distancing is not possible.

Here is a link to a previously provided PowerPoint that has been revised and may be of use to your staff as a reminder of the practices that were in place prior to the winter break:

 [Reentry slides v.Q3.pptx](#)

NEW! Masking Requirements

The Ministry of Education is requiring additional measures during this return to school phase. This includes the requirement for students in Grades 1-3 to wear a mask while indoors at school. Kindergarten students will continue to be asked to wear masks in TVDSB, which has been an expectation since September 2020.

For students in Grades 1-3, the NEW requirement for masks will necessitate a need to review previously granted exemptions. School Administrators are asked to review the list of mask exemptions for their school and an LSS Memo will be provided next week with instructions for ensuring these exemptions are



consistent with masks exempted by the TVDSB Mask Exemption Review Panel. We would ask that this review also include previous mask exemptions for students in Grades 4-8 to ensure consistency.

Loaned Devices and Tech-Reduced Instructional Practices

All computing devices that were loaned out to students to support remote learning will remain with students, for the time being. Loaned devices will not be collected from students at this time. Please do not ask for, or require that, devices be returned.

Students who have been loaned a computing device are encouraged to bring this device to school, each day for In-Person Learning so that this device can be used by the student while in class. It is not to be shared with other students.

Over the next number of weeks, the Information Technology Team will work to deploy more centrally purchased Chromebooks to schools for use in classrooms where school device inventories have been significantly depleted. More information about the distribution of centrally purchased devices to schools in need will be provided as soon as possible.

Our students and staff have been teaching and learning online very successfully over the past month. This is an opportunity to shift to other teaching and learning strategies to meet the needs of students as we return to In-Person Learning.

Changes to Learning Models

We recognize the significant disruption to classes due to our system-wide Change of Learning models. As such, we are reviewing requests on a case-by-case basis and approvals will be granted for exceptional reasons only.

For families who are awaiting the review of their request for acceptance into FRL or their child has not yet returned to In-Person Learning, as was the process prior to the school closure period, the classroom teacher will continue to connect with the student and leverage the digital platform to provide asynchronous learning opportunities. As a reminder, these students are marked as "G-Regulation 298" for attendance purposes.

If a student is granted approval to FRL, there is a transition period that must occur. Approval emails are provided to the IPL and FRL Administrator and the School Superintendent.

Messaging to Parents/Guardians in response to their request for FRL:

"This request is being reviewed and we will communicate the decision as soon as possible. Until such time, we welcome your child to continue to participate in independent learning activities provided by their current teacher through the digital learning platform. If approved, we appreciate your understanding that transition requirements will delay the start date for your child in Full Remote Learning."

Report Cards



Since schools have re-opened, we will be returning to our past practice with respect to Elementary Report Cards. More information will be provided in a separate LSS memo.

Daily Screening

Families of students who are attending In-person Learning are required to screen each of their children daily using the [Ontario Screening Tool](#) found on the TVDSB main website.

All **staff** are also expected to complete the TVDSB Staff Screening Confirmation Form on a daily basis. This form is in the [Employee Portal](#) under *COVID Screening Confirmation*. Administrators are asked to review the weekly screening report, located in the Employee Portal, and remind those staff members of their requirement for daily screening.