

Welcome Back to the Wolfpack!



We are so excited to be returning to inperson learning - - we are looking forward to seeing all the Timberwolf smiles! Welcome to all of our returning Timberwolves, and a warm hello and welcome to our Timberwolves who are new to our school community. There is always an abundance of information that happens at this time of year! Thank you for your patience and flexibility as we prepare for September 7th, 2021. Here are some information points regarding COVID protocols and some summary points from our student handbook (full updates coming soon) to help prepare for our return:

- All students **MUST** pass the student COVID screener prior to coming to school. The screener can be accessed at [COVID-19 school screening \(ontario.ca\)](https://www.ontario.ca/covid-19-school-screening)
- Masks for students from grade 1-8 are mandatory inside. Masks for Kindergarten students are recommended. Please always be prepared with a backup mask. There will be masks available at the office as well. Masks are not required when students are outside.
- Physical distancing continues to be in place. We will have routines for our arrival, dismissal, hallway travel and transitions, etc. that support physical distancing.
- Hand hygiene, including hand sanitizer and hand washing, will be built in frequently throughout the school day.
- Please send a refillable water bottle every day. There are three water bottle filling stations that the students can use, so that they stay hydrated.
- Please plan as much as possible for litterless lunches.
- Parents/Guardians are asked to not enter onto our school yard during drop off and pick up times.
- For all students who are walking, biking or being dropped off, please do not arrive prior to 8:45.
- We are all encouraged to not congregate.

In preparation for Day One of the 2021-2022 school year, teachers will connect with families on Thursday September 2nd, to introduce themselves, and let you

know where your student is to go upon arriving to school on the 7th. For example, intermediate students will line up on the intermediate tarmac, grade 5 and 6 students will line up against the outside gym wall on the intermediate tarmac, grade 3, 4 and 5 students will line up on the east junior tarmac at the back of the school, and primary students will line up at the south, primary tarmac. Teachers will meet their students at the designated spots.

Kindergarten students – if your kindergarten student is arriving on a bus, there will be a staff member to meet them at the bus and help them to make their way up the gravel pathway to the Kindergarten enclosure. If your kindergarten student is being driven or walked to school, staff will meet them at the grassy area at the front of the school, and escort them to the kindergarten area.

Spruce Ridge School Day Schedule

8:45 – 8:50	Students enter school yard and head to their designated class line up	
8:50	Entry bell rings – classes enter with their teacher	
8:50 10:50	First Instructional Block	
10:50 – 11:10	Nutrition Break	Split recess that includes eating time and outside time for all students
11:10 – 11:30		
11:30 – 1:30	Second Instructional Block	
1:30 – 1:50	Nutrition Break	Split recess that includes eating time and outside time for all students
1:50 – 2:10		
2:10 – 3:10	Third Instructional Break	
3:10	Dismissal – bus students called down by bus; walkers/bikers and students being picked up dismissed by class	

Safe Arrival: Please always make contact with the school office to let us know if your child will be away from the school. The school office can be reached at 519 369-2217; press 100 for the Safe Arrival mailbox. This mailbox is available 24/7 for you to leave a message. If your child is not at school, we will initiate the Safe Arrival program.

Safe Departure: All bus changes must be communicated to the school office prior to 1:30. You can call into the office or communicate with a note to the teacher. Preparing for bus departure is an exceptionally busy time in a school office, and your child's safety

is our number one priority, so it helps us significantly to have all bus change information communicated prior to 1:30 pm. This is always important, but especially important for day one that bus changes be communicated to the office directly, or with a note to the teacher.

Bikes: Bicycles are not to be ridden on school property. Students should walk bikes, scooters, skateboards, etc, onto and off of the school grounds. There are bike racks available for storage. The school is not responsible for lost or damaged bikes, scooters, etc. Note, at this time, every other section of the bike rack is taped off to support physical distancing.

Electronic Devices (e.g., cell phones)

We understand that many students have electronic devices, such as cell phones, for a number of reasons. Cell phones, if brought to school, should be turned off and stored in a student's locker or backpack during school hours. They are not to be used for phone calls, texting, videoing or photography. These devices can have a negative impact on learning and jeopardize the safety and privacy of other students. The staff cannot be responsible for missing or damaged cell phones. Parents/Guardians can contact their children through the main office if there is an emergency or leave a message for their child at the office for nonemergencies. Personal devices are for texting and calling outside of school hours only. If there is a learning reason and specific purpose for the use of a device, this will be at the discretion of the teacher.

Dropping Off and Picking Up students

This is a very exciting time for our community. The new daycare is being built in the area south of the school, next to the Curling Club. This is a terrific resource to the Durham community. The daycare is under construction, which means that we all need to take extra care, caution and patience when accessing our upper lot. Our drop off and pick up in the upper lot is similar to last school year:

- Parents/Guardians can park their vehicle and walk their child across the parking lot to the sidewalk area. Note that all children must be accompanied by an adult when crossing the parking lot.
- For older students, parents/guardians can drop off in the "hug and go" area. This is the painted area next to the curb/sidewalk next to the school at the front. We ask that vehicles not remain parked in this area, and that students exit the vehicle from the passenger side of the vehicle.
- Due to the construction, there is less space. Please be patient with one another if there is not space in the lot. Conversely, please be timely with your drop off and pick up so that all parents/guardians can meet and pick up their children.
- Please avoid parking near the construction fencing at all times.
- Staff will be outside at drop off and pick up times to support during this busy time of the day.

Out lower parking lot area is another busy area as it is next to the bus loop. Note that no vehicles should be dropping off children in the bus loop area. If you are dropping off students in this area, vehicles can pull up to the sidewalk on Saddler Street east of the bus loop exit, and students can enter through the yard. You can also park in the east lower lot. We ask that if you do this, to please wait until the bus loop is empty of buses before exiting the lot, as it is one way traffic.

For all walkers, please remember to always use the sidewalks. We are also very fortunate to be supported with a crossing guard at the corner of Saddler and Kincardine Streets. A reminder to all students who bike, scooter, skateboard, etc, to please walk when on school property.

We are all looking forward to a wonderful Wolfpack Year! It will be a great first day on the 7th!

Sincerely,

Ms. Love