

NOTRE DAME REGIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL

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Principal: Rog r DesLauriers
Vice Principal: Dennis Pavan
Vice Principal: Jonathan Tagulao

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year!

I hope this correspondence finds you and your loved ones both happy and healthy.

This document serves to outline the “New Year” protocol changes and adjustments we will be making as of Monday, January 10, 2022.

All parents are reminded that, depending on how the current pandemic evolves, other changes may be required throughout the remainder of the current school year.

On December 29, 2021, The Public Health Communicable Disease Guidance, in association with the Ministry of Health and Education requested that all schools:

Reinforce In-Place Prevention Measures Variants of COVID-19 spread the same way as the original COVID-19. That means the prevention measures already in place in schools continue to be effective at reducing the risk of COVID-19 spreading. These include everyone eligible getting fully vaccinated, doing a daily health check and staying home when sick, wearing masks, and cleaning hands regularly. Schools should ensure the prevention measures already in place are consistently implemented.

Implement Additional Prevention Measures.

Schools must implement the additional prevention measures outlined in the table below before January 10th, 2022.

Such measures include:

- Maximizing space between people
- Implementing strategies that prevent or minimize crowding during class transitions and break times
- Reinforcing the requirement of wearing a mask (unless exempted) and wearing it properly. That includes covering both the mouth and nose.

Please click the links below for a more comprehensive look at three important ministry, health and school documents.

Notre Dame Communicable Disease Plan (updated Jan 10, 2022):

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1fG46MnRn1dBQyNIPCPJRpZSx9yvvdSOOdbmH-ZXR-oiA/edit?usp=sharing>

K-12 COVID-19 Health and Safety Guidelines:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/kindergarten-to-grade-12/safe-carin-g-orderly/k-12-covid-19-health-safety-guidelines.pdf>

Addendum Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for k-12:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/kindergarten-to-grade-12/safe-carin-g-orderly/k-12-covid-19-health-safety-guidelines-addendum.pdf>

Safety will always be our top priority. Much of our decision-making process will be based on working within the Ministry of Education and Health mandates. **We are continually seeking a balance between directives from the ministry and other governing bodies and what works best for Notre Dame.**

I am pleased to say that most of the protocols currently in place have and will continue to serve our school community well. The hybrid semester system will remain in place for the second semester. **The timetable prior to Christmas will remain the same with the exception of an additional five minutes added to the end of each school day. Dismissal will now be at 2:50 (four block days) and 2:15 (two block days)**

We will be making a few changes and adjustments which will include the key transition times.

There will now be a staggered start for students:

Doors will be open at 7:50 each morning for grade 8 and 9 students only (along with older siblings in grades 10-12). Students who arrive prior to 7:50 or prior to their entry time will not be permitted in the building, unless they have extra-curricular activities. Classrooms will be open as of 7:55.

For students in grades 10-12, doors will be open at 8:10. Those students, as they did last year, are asked to wait outside until that time.

We ask that grade levels enter the school at designated entrances.

Grade 8, 10 and 12 Venables Street Entrance (near main office)

Grade 9 and 11 Parker Street entrance (near auditorium)

Those with **extra-curricular obligations** in the morning will be required to enter the building at specific, designated entrances. The coaches/moderators will make it clear as to where they may enter the school.

All students (not involved in extra-curricular activities) will be expected to move to their first block class as of 7:55 (or 8:10) AM each morning. They will be permitted to access lockers and some may choose to purchase food prior to that.

Cafeteria service will be available as of 7:50 AM, effective Monday, January 17. **There will be no cafeteria service the first week of school: January 10-14.**

As of January 17, carry out items such as breakfast wraps and hash browns will be sold. Students who choose that option will be required to take their food directly to their first block class.

No food services will be available at break. Morning break is staggered and built into second block. While students are welcome to partake in personal snacks, there will not be cafeteria service at that time.

End of Day Dismissal – To help alleviate mass congestion we will continue to stagger the dismissal procedures. We will rotate every week to be as fair as possible regarding instructional time. Groupings will include grades 8 & 9 and grades 10-12. **The stagger time will be fifteen minutes (changed from ten minutes).**

Example: Week One (January 10-14)

Grades 8 & 9 dismissed at 2:35 (2:00 on 2-Block days)

Grades 10-12 dismissed at 2:50 (2:15 on 2-Block days)

Example Week Two (January 17-21)

Grades 8 & 9 dismissed at 2:50 (2:15 on 2-Block days)

Grades 10-12 dismissed at 2:35 (2:00 on 2-Block days)

For pick-up please note the following exits for each grade:

Grade 8 Venables Street

Grade 9 Parker Street

Grade 10 Venables Street

Grade 11 Parker Street

Grade 12 Renfrew (PE Class) and Venables Street

Lunch break protocols have changed:

1. **All students** who must (grade 8-10) or who choose (grade 11-12) to eat lunch in the school **will be eating in their third block classes**. Only students in grades 11 and 12 will have access to the cafeteria (staggered with one grade at a time) and off-campus privileges.

2. **Grade 8-10 students who choose to order lunch from the cafeteria (effective January 17) must do so through the pre-ordering process.** All other students are encouraged to utilize that option as well. Those who choose to line-up for hot food must be masked.
3. Students will be expected to **wear masks after they finish eating or when they leave their designated areas.** Those who go off-campus must wear their mask prior to re-entering the school. **Students in grades 11 and 12 that purchase food from the cafeteria must be masked.**

In terms of health, it is the expectation that any changes prior to each subsequent day of the week must be reported. If at any time during the week students become sick or show symptoms, they should not be sent to school and the office should be notified.

All students who are deemed healthy will be permitted to attend. Please keep in mind, however, that **attendance has been deemed mandatory by the Ministry of Education.** If students choose to remain at home or simply do not feel comfortable coming into the school they will be supported as best as possible with the understanding that online classes will not be made available to them for the current school year.

School Visitors:

1. All visitors must wear a non-medical mask when they are inside the school.
2. Visitor access will be limited. Priority will be given to specific pre-planned appointments, assigned volunteers, and outside support staff and workers.
3. Parents/caregivers should drop-off/pick-up students outside of the school and should respect others' personal space while on school grounds.

4. At this time, there are no spectators permitted at school events.

The changes and modifications to our existing protocols will hopefully serve to reduce crowding. Certain transitions (e.g. between classes) will remain an ongoing challenge. Students will be required to wear their mask and move directly to their next destination during each transition.

At this time we do not plan on making more significant changes to our daily routines. In order for us to avoid such necessities it will require a team effort that will include all staff and students consistently and intentionally supporting all safety protocols. If we are successful then we can hopefully continue to offer as many activities as possible, minimize exposure, and avoid having to significantly alter the teaching and learning process (e.g. online learning).

I believe we are more than capable of achieving these goals.

Questions can be sent directly to my email at rdeslauriers@ndrs.org.

Sincerely,

Mr. R. DesLauriers
Principal