

NOTRE DAME REGIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL

2880 Venables Street
Vancouver, BC V5K 4Z6
Phone (604) 255-5454
Fax (604) 255-2115
www.ndrs.ca



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

Dear Parents,

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

This detailed document serves to outline the “Return to School” process as of Tuesday, September 7, 2021. All parents are reminded that aspects of the schedule are subject to change prior to September 7 and, for different reasons that may be out of our control, throughout the school year.

On August 24, 2021, The Public Health Communicable Disease Guidance, in association with the Ministry of Health and Education stated:

At the beginning of the school year, all staff, adult volunteers and visitors, and all students 12 years and older in “bricks and mortar” schools should wear a non-medical mask or face covering (a “mask”) at all times while indoors at school, subject to the following exceptions:

- * If a person is unable to wear a mask because they don’t tolerate it (for health or behavioral reasons*);
- * If a person unable to put on or remove a mask without the assistance of another person;
- * If the mask is removed temporarily for the purposes of identifying the person wearing it;
- * If the mask is removed temporarily to engage in an educational activity that cannot be performed while wearing a mask (e.g. actively playing a wind instrument, high-intensity physical activity, etc.);
- * If a person is eating or drinking;
- * If a person is behind a barrier (e.g., a divider, a cubicle, or in a room by themselves);
- * While providing a service to a person with a disability or diverse ability where visual cues, facial expressions and/or lip reading/movements are important.

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

[Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/covid-19-return-to-school)
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/covid-19-return-to-school>

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.**

Parents are reminded to please read this information with a clear understanding that Notre Dame is coming from a safety first approach. If some of the stipulations seem rather excessive they are not intended to be so; however, they are intended to keep all staff and students as safe as possible.

It is important to note that we must all be prepared for adjustments along the way. How schools begin the school year may look different over the course of the year, depending largely on the evolution of the virus.

With that in mind, as we begin the 2021-22 school year, Notre Dame Regional Secondary will adopt a Hybrid Semester schedule with the expectation of a full return to school for all staff and students. This schedule is different from last year. The hybrid semester system involves students taking four classes at a time for two equal terms.

Within the Notre Dame schedule we are looking at a **blended learning model** that includes both four and two block rotations. We will not be offering online days as part of this year's regular schedule. Such days may be used occasionally and if and when necessary. They may be utilized to keep us well prepared or in accordance with required safety measures.

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You will note that many school districts and independent schools are looking at quarterly, semester, or hybrid schedules in order to keep students and staff as safe as possible and make possible an easier transition to online learning if that becomes necessary.

How does a hybrid semester schedule work?

Students will take four courses at a time:

- On two block days, students will take one subject in the morning and the other in the afternoon, each running for two and half hours.
- On four block days each subject will run for one hour twenty minutes.

Why are we introducing a hybrid semester schedule?

This change is being introduced because it will:

- Serve as a safe bridge between the restrictions imposed last year and the new ones implemented for this year;
- Take advantage of the benefits from the quarter system while allowing students to take four courses (as opposed to two) each semester;
- help give high schools and students more flexibility to transition between stages during the school year if the COVID-19 pandemic evolves;
- continue to facilitate stronger relationships between students and teachers that will enhance social-emotional well-being.

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TIMETABLES 2021-22

4 Block (Day A-D & E-H) Schedule	2 Block (Day A&B/C&D or E&F/G&H) Schedule
8:25 Warning Bell	8:25 Warning Bell
8:30-9:50 1 st Period	8:30-11:00 1 st Period
9:55-11:25 2 nd Period	11:00-11:35 Lunch
11:30-12:50 3 rd Period	11:40-2:10 2 nd Period
12:50-1:20 Lunch	
1:25-2:45 4 th Period	

Early Dismissal Day	
8:25	Warning Bell
8:30-9:30	1 st Period
9:35-10:50	2 nd Period
10:55-11:55	3 rd Period
12:00-1:00	4 th Period

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Please note that second block includes a built-in break for all classes. Teachers and grade levels will coordinate when, during that block, students use that time.

The current schedule for the first two weeks will be:

Monday, September 6	Labor Day
Tuesday, September 7	Grade 8 Orientation
Wednesday, September 8	4-Block Schedule for Grades 8-12 Blocks A-D
Thursday, September 9	4-Block Schedule for Grades 8-12 Blocks A-D
Friday, September 10	4-Block Schedule for Grades 8-12 Blocks A-D

On Tuesday, September 7 there are no classes for students in grades 9-12.

Monday, September 13	Blocks A-D (Dismissal at 2:45)
Tuesday, September 14	Blocks A-D (Dismissal at 2:45)
Wednesday, September 15	Blocks A-D (Dismissal at 1:00)
Thursday, September 16	Blocks A & B (Dismissal at 2:10)
Friday, September 17	Blocks C & D (Dismissal at 2:10)

- **Gr. 8 and 9 students must leave the building at designated exits immediately after dismissal unless they are permitted to remain in class by request/permission of the teacher or they are involved in a school-sanctioned activity**
- **Those waiting for siblings must do so outside. Students will not be permitted to remain in the school for that purpose.**

There will NOT be a staggered start for students:

Doors will not be open before 7:50 each morning. 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. Those entering at 7:50 can get a head start in terms of accessing their lockers.

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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 8:00 AM each morning. They will be permitted to access lockers and some may choose to purchase food prior to that (see below).

Cafeteria service will be available as of 8:00 AM, effective Monday, September 13. There will be no cafeteria service the first week of school: September 7-10. 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.

Other important additional information includes:

- **End of Day Dismissal** – To help alleviate mass congestion we will, once again, 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 ten minutes.

Example: Week One (September 8-10)

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

Grades 10-12 dismissed at 2:45 (2:10 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	Renfrew Street (and Venables)
Grade 12	Parker Street

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- **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 in most classes for the current school year.
- All students must have a personal laptop and earpiece. Special requests for school support must be made prior to September 8 and directed to Mr. Tagulao jtagulao@ndrs.org. The school cannot loan out earpieces.
- All students should ensure they have a charging cable for their laptop
- **Wednesday Early Dismissal Day:**
 1. Shortened classes (one hour) on most Wednesdays.
 2. Regular 4-Block or 2-Block rotation if and when we have 3 or 4 day weeks.
 3. Occasional online days for all staff and students. As stated, this option may be used to keep us well prepared or in accordance with required safety measures.
- **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.

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- **Lunch break protocols:**

1. **All students** who must (grade 8-10) or who choose (grade 11-12) to eat lunch in the school **will be assigned designated eating areas** with their respective grade levels.
2. **Grade 8-9 students who choose to order lunch from the cafeteria 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.
4. **Lunch time barbecues will return.** The designated days for this year will be Thursday. On such days, students can purchase an Italian sausage (with bun) and sundry items such as potato chips.

- **School Visitors:**

1. All visitors must wear a non-medical mask when they are inside the school. See the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) section for more information, including exceptions to mask requirements for visitors.
2. Where possible, visitor access should be limited to those areas required for the purpose of the visit (e.g. school office for drop-off/pick-up of items, gymnasium for a sports event, etc.), and parents/caregivers should be encouraged to drop-off/pick-up students outside of the school.
3. Parents/caregivers and other visitors should respect others' personal space while on school grounds, including outside.

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- Miscellaneous Items:
 1. Students will be expected to be in uniform; please refer to our website for more specific details. **A reminder that we do not have a summer option for the fall.** All students must be in formal dress code.
 2. **There will be off-campus privileges for students in grades 11 and 12 only.** Grade 8-10 students must bring a lunch to school or pre-order from our Canuel cafeteria options. Those who pre-order will have their pre-packaged hot lunch delivered to their designated room. More information regarding pre-ordering hot meals will be sent out at a later date. **No outside orders will be permitted.**

I understand that there is a lot of information. Taking the time to read it will help you and your children better prepare for the start of the school year. Questions can be sent directly to my email at rdeslauriers@ndrs.org.

Sincerely,

Mr. R. DesLauriers
Principal