August 21st 2020

Good Day Stinger Families,

We are sure many of you are excited to have your children return to school, and we realize some of you are also feeling anxious. We certainly understand those feelings. We can assure you that the Department of Education, School District and the staff at Centennial are working together to ensure a safe and positive return to school.

We are going to need your support as we work together to navigate the changes required for the 2020-2021 school year. It is the expectation that the rules and guidelines put in place are not there to make your life more difficult, but to ensure your child, along with everyone else’s children and staff, are kept safe.

We will be sending more information in the upcoming weeks. However, here is an update of a few things:

The first week of school will involve a staggered entry to allow your child the opportunity to learn the new rules and safety practices in a small group setting. Teachers can take the time to teach and practice these things, as well as spend more quality time with your child. Homeroom teachers will contact you on Monday August 31st and/or Tuesday September 1st to let you know what day your child will be attending for staggered entry.

* Staggered entry will proceed as follows:
  + 1/3 of the class will attend on Tuesday September 8th
  + 1/3 of the class will attend on Wednesday September 9th
  + 1/3 of the class will attend on Thursday September 10th
  + All students will attend on Friday September 11th
* Your child will require a clean mask at school each day. It is the responsibility of the child or parent and child to arrive with a mask. Use of community masks, or disposable masks are permitted.
* Students will enter in the morning between **8:10-8:25am.** All students enter at the rear of the building and there will be many staff there directing students on what door to use. After the first couple of weeks students will become familiar with the entrance and exit procedures. Parents are not permitted into the school. Students arriving late need to enter through our main door at the front of the building (Constance Street) and the Administrative Assistant will buzz the student in.
* Breakfast will still be available for students in the morning, and this will begin on September 14th. Instead of eating in the Community Kitchen breakfast items will be delivered to the classrooms.
* There will be no students on the school yard in the mornings. All students enter the building and immediately head to their homeroom. The school yard is off limits during this portion of the day as we must ensure that students are not mixing with children from other “bubble” classrooms. Students will be provided with time outside in the school yard, with children in their classroom “bubble”.
* Your child’s homeroom is considered “a bubble”. In their classroom bubble, they are not required to wear a mask and can interact with their classmates. Frequent handwashing will occur throughout the day, as well as sanitizing of materials. However, walking throughout the building (hallways, entering and exiting, etc.) will require a mask as social distancing may not be possible in all cases.
* When you and your child arrive at school in the morning (and at dismissal time), you will **both** be required to wear a mask. It will be very difficult to maintain physical distancing outside while lining up and upon entry and exit.
* Your child will also require a **water bottle labelled with their name** which will be sent home daily to be cleaned. There will be no fountains at the school this year, but water bottle fillers/coolers will be in place.
* Though we would love to continue having families in the building, as we have had in the past, this year families will not be permitted to come inside. This is to ensure the safety of all families, staff and students alike. Families are encouraged to contact teachers via email, phone and/or online meetings. When you are dropping off things or picking up a child, you are to ring the front door and the administrative assistant will meet you at the door. A staff person will take your child to the door when necessary for early pick up and/or appointments. We realize this is different from past years, but we appreciate your support in this matter as we work to keep everyone safe.
* We are making an exception for family access to the building for students entering Kindergarten. Kindergarten families can expect separate communication on what the first day will look like in the coming days.
* It is essential that **all families screen their child(ren) PRIOR to sending them off to school**. If your child(ren) has **2 or more symptoms** (**fever/feverish, sore throat, headache, runny nose, new cough or worsening chronic cough, new onset fatigue or muscle ache, diarrhea, loss of taste or smell; in children, purple markings on the fingers and toes**), **your child must self-isolate and call 811**. This is the responsibility of families. All staff and visitors must also follow the same procedures as outline by Government of NB.
* It is important that all families have emergency contact numbers. If your phone numbers or contact information change, please let the school know immediately. If your child(ren) presents with symptoms throughout the school day, they need to go home immediately for the safety of all.
* Each child is required to come to school with the complete list of school supplies. Students will be using their own materials this year and sharing of class supplies will be limited. Please check our website if you would like to see a copy of the list.

More information to follow.

Thank-you so much for your support!

Mrs. Ashley Dobbin *& Centennial Staff*