

To: Blue Fox Parents and Guardians

Date: 9/16/20

Re: A few things that have come up over the week and a half that we have been back



Hello everyone,

It has been a great first week back. The students have been doing great! We are so happy with the support of parents and the ability for students to listen, walk and adapt to new ways of doing things. We continue to learn and we appreciate your patience.

A few things that I wanted to bring to your attention:

1. **As of September 21**, we will be changing our bell schedule and dismissal times. I have been waiting for the go-ahead from Transportation for this change. Because RVMS is releasing students at 2:45, our 3-5 busses have been sitting and waiting to load until 3:10.

8:00 Duty Bell – students should be dropped off between 8:00 and 8:30.

8:35 O Canada

2:00 Busses load. K-2

2:05 Busses leave

Parent pick up between 2:05-2:15

3:00 Busses already present start loading

Other busses will load and pull out as they arrive from RVMS.

Parent Pick up between 3:05 and 3:15

Due to the heavy volume of students getting dropped off or picked up, we ask that you carefully watch for students who are exiting or entering cars. Adults with safety vests are there and helping and it has been going quite smoothly!

2. A letter went home from the office of the Superintendent last week through the voicemail-email system. Some people might have missed it. It contains all of the frequently asked questions regarding the health of your child. I will put it on the website under the "Return to School" tab and I asked the Home and School to include it on their FB page. Please take a look at this document.
One question that has come to me a few times already and will continue to be asked as cold and flu season hits addressed in that document:
My child had 2 symptoms and stayed home. When can they return to school? If a child has 2 symptoms of COVID-19, families are asked to contact 811 or their primary healthcare provider to determine if COVID-19 testing is required. If COVID-19 testing is required, Public Health will inform you when isolation may be lifted. If testing is not required, they can return once fever (with no medications) and other symptoms have been resolved for 24 hours or if they have been directed to do so by a health care professional.
3. Terry Fox Walk – We do want to try and continue some of the traditions and activities that have always been part of Westfield School but we know that they just may look different. We will honour Terry Fox and donate to cancer research but will take our walks as separate classes. There will be a can in the front hall and kids can still bring their loonie or toonie if they would like. Mrs. Kidney may just travel around to classes and collect. Kindergarten students will walk around the yard but older students may take a walk on a nice day during the week of September 21-25. Please send a note if you DO NOT give permission for your child to take the walk to Brundage Point.
4. There may be other days that we try to get students out for a walk during PE class or for a nature/You and Your World lesson. Again, please let us know if you do not want your child walking off property to Brundage Point area via a note to the teacher. That would be the extent of our off property excursions. We want to take advantage of opportunities for teaching outside as much as possible.
5. Thank you to all parents who sent masks with their child. We currently store masks in plastic bags in shoe organizers. I did not want to burden parents with fanny packs but know that some parents did have these and have their child wearing them to hold their mask. If this is an option and you want to do this, teachers will let this be the routine for the child. It is totally your decision.
6. Transportation issues – I understand custody situations and babysitter situations etc. but unfortunately, this year, the admin. assistant and myself have no ability to change anything in the system. It has to be arranged through the District Transportation Department. They input information into the system.

SafeArrival & Attendance

September, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

In ASD-S one of our greatest priorities is ensuring that all our students arrive safely at school each and every day.

To enhance our existing absence-checking procedure, we recently introduced **a new, more efficient** student absence reporting system called **SafeArrival**. This new system will reduce the time it takes to verify student attendance, make it easy for you to report your child's absence and easy for staff to respond to unexplained student absences.

With **SafeArrival**, you are asked to report your child's absence in advance using any of these 3 convenient methods:

1. Using your mobile device, download and install the **SchoolMessenger app** from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store (or from the links at <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca>). The first time you use the app, select **Sign Up** to create your account (use the email address you have on file with the school). Select **Attendance** then **Report an Absence**.
2. Use the SafeArrival website, <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca>. The first time you use the website, select **Sign Up** to create your account. Select **Attendance** then **Report an Absence**.
3. Call the toll-free number **1-833-219-9065** to report an absence using the automated phone system.

These options are available 24 hours/day, 7 days a week. Future absences can be reported at any time.

In addition, we will use the **SchoolMessenger Communicate** automated notification system to contact parents whose child is absent when the absence was not reported in advance. The automated notification system will attempt to contact parents at multiple contact points until a reason is submitted for the absence. If our system is unable to reach the designated contacts, office staff will follow up.

If you report your child's absence in advance using the **SafeArrival** toll-free number, website or mobile app, you will **NOT** receive these notifications.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation as we implement this new system.

If you have questions, contact Kim Albert, the WES Administrative Assistant.

We have been having some phone difficulties – if you can not reach anyone at 757-2020, try 757-2038. Thank you. We hope this is fixed soon!