

Dear SCDSB Families,

As we continue to plan for the return to school this September, we remain committed to providing updates as they become available. On August 14, the Ministry of Education announced that school boards may adopt a staggered start to the school year. Recognizing that the school year will look different than it has in the past, a staggered start will allow for the gradual return of students, and time for learning and adopting new routines and safety practices.

The SCDSB will be implementing the following plan for our students who will be returning to in-school learning in September:

Elementary (Kindergarten to Grade 8):

- Students with surnames A-G will attend Tuesday, September 8, 2020
- Students with surnames H-O will join students with the surnames A-G in attending Wednesday, September 9, 2020
- All elementary students will attend Thursday, September 10, 2020
- Junior Kindergarten students will begin attendance on Thursday, September 10, 2020 as previously planned and communicated with parents/guardians

Secondary (Grades 9 to 12):

- Grade 9 students will attend Tuesday, September 8, 2020
- Grade 10 students will join Grade 9 students in attending Wednesday, September 9, 2020
- All secondary students will attend Thursday, September 10, 2020

Grade 7 and 8 students attending Elmvale District High School and Stayner Collegiate Institute will stagger entry based on the elementary school framework outlined above.

All students in county class programs (social skills, developmental skills, life skills and autism spectrum disorder) will begin on Tuesday, September 8, and will attend every day.

The staggered entry plan for elementary students ensures that families are able to send all children in their household to school on the same day. Our secondary school plan provides our Grade 9 students with a day for orientation, followed by a gradual increase to the school population.

Please note that all students, Kindergarten to Grade 12, who are participating in the remote learning program, will be contacted by their teacher in the first two weeks of school and classes will begin on Monday, September 21.

A [return to school fact sheet](#) is available on the SCDSB website and will continue to be updated as more information becomes available. As you know, the SCDSB takes our direction from the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) on all matters related to COVID-19. As our local partner in public health, the SMDHU has launched a return to school portal on their website at www.simcoemuskokahealth.org and has shared a letter for families that can be found at the following link: www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/Topics/COVID-19/Return-to-School/Families.

We want you to know that SCDSB staff are working very hard to ensure a positive return to school experience for all students, regardless of whether they return in person or select the remote



learning option. We are looking forward to welcoming back our students and engaging in another successful year of learning together.

To stay connected and informed, visit our website at www.scdsb.on.ca/covid-19 or follow us on social media (Twitter: @SCDSB_Schools or Facebook: www.facebook.com/SCDSB).