



Spring Valley Bulldog Bulletin Friday, September 11th

Happy Friday, Valley families. We are very excited about being able to see you, next week. We have been working diligently to prepare our learning spaces and our plans to safely and calmly welcome your children back to school. In the last Bulldog Bulletin, September 4th, a number of questions related to the return to face to face learning in the school were addressed. The purpose of this letter is to highlight some of the key points from that letter and provide you with some additional information, using a similar Q & A format. Missed the last Bulldog Bulletin? Click here - [Bulldog Bulletin September 4th edition](#). We are looking forward to seeing all of our students' smiling eyes and faces, soon.

PLEASE KEEP IN MIND THAT all of the following procedures require that all students and parents entering the school grounds adhere to the strict COVID protocol guidelines of having completed a self-assessment ([Daily Screening Tool](#)), wear a [face mask](#) and are vigilant about physical/social distancing.

What is happening with the morning drop off?

There will only be one entry point to the schoolyard, the South gate. Busses and other vehicles are to line up and wait to be unloaded, one at a time, by myself and or another staff member. Parents who are driving their children must join the cue and not park to disembark. If your children need assistance to get out of car seats, etc., you may get out to assist but must get back into your vehicle and exit the property. More about bussing, below.

Where will my child go when they first arrive?

All students, maintaining physical distancing, will proceed to the back of the school where their teacher and support staff will be waiting to meet them. Each class will have a clearly marked meet and greet location that they will continue to go to each morning as part of our new COVID routines. Students are not to be crossing over into and or mixing with other classes and this will be clearly explained to them as they arrive.

Can I have access to the school or schoolyard?

School doors will be locked, all day. New COVID protocols require that all "visitors" to the school prearrange an appointment by contacting the office, wear a mask, read the visitor signage, use the door buzzer, sign a visitors log that includes a COVID - 19 screening checklist, maintain physical distancing and remain at the office area until the staff member they are meeting with comes to the office. The *schoolyard is closed* to all save staff and attending students.

What happens if we are running late?

You will need to park your vehicle and escort your child to the front door, buzz the office, and follow the verbal instructions. Students will enter the building, independently, and wait in the foyer for a staff member to escort them to class.

What will happen at the end of the day?

We will be practicing an orderly, staggered exit process that involves each class being walked to the bus loading area, south gate, by their classroom teacher. This will take a little longer than usual dismissal so it will start a few minutes early to allow the busses to leave as close to “on time” as is possible. Parents who are picking up their children will have to wait, in their vehicles, in a line behind the busses until the busses have departed. Children being picked up will remain with their teacher, in the schoolyard, until the busses are gone. Then the remaining children can be dismissed, “car by car” as you pull up to the south gate. Drivers must remain in their vehicle unless their child(ren) require assistance to “buckle up”, safely.

What happens if it is raining?

The drop-off and/or pick-up point will be the front doors.

Can I sign my child out early?

As mentioned above, access to the building is by appointment only and, due to protocols in the building we can only accommodate one child/family at a time.

What is the school schedule going to be?

The entry bell will ring at 9:20 am and the exit bell at 3:40 pm, as per usual. Recess and Nutrition breaks have changed. We have moved to a split school model for these times, to reduce the number of students on the yard in the hallways during the break. Breaks are @ 11:00 to 11:40 and 1:20 to 2:00, as per usual. Primary students, grades K to 3, will eat for the first 20 minutes and be outside for recess for the second 20 minutes of both breaks. Junior and Intermediate students, grades 4 to 8, will be outside for the first 20 minutes and inside to eat for the second 20 minutes.

What will “recess” be like?

For the foreseeable future, each class will have its own, clearly marked section of the schoolyard where they can enjoy the fresh air while maintaining appropriate social distancing. Classes are to remain in their own area and not cross over into another class’ space. The climbing equipment and swings are closed and equipment such as basketballs and other items will not be permitted during recess.

What about facemasks?

Only proper facemasks that loop around the ears can be worn. Student grades 4 and up must wear a facemask indoors unless eating/drinking only at their desk. Students in grade 3 and younger are strongly encouraged to wear a facemask. Face masks can be provided by the school for students who lose, damage or do not have one. We encourage your child to bring a couple of them, just in case, for their own use. Students do not have to wear facemasks while outside but must safely store them in a pocket or pouch so that can put it on as soon as they enter the building. We are working on getting a special pouch for each child. More information to come.

Where will my child store their belongings?

All items will be stored in their classroom and mostly at their desks. Hooks will only be used sparingly, if at all, inside the classroom. For the time being, your child will need to wear the footwear that they come to school in. Please do not send indoor shoes at this time. All personal items must return home, each day.

How will the school be cleaned?

Custodial staff will be disinfecting common touchpoints and student desks during the day. An Electrostatic disinfection process will be used, throughout the school, after hours, on a rotating basis.

What about washrooms and water fountains?

The water fountains are closed but the water bottle filling stations are open. Your child must bring and take home their own water bottle, each day. Washroom and water bottle filling breaks will need to be monitored and recorded for potential contact tracing. Consequently, only one child will be permitted to leave the classroom at any given time to use the washroom or to fill up their water bottle and only one student will be allowed in each of the washrooms at a time. Teachers will be teaching and monitoring these and many more new routines.

What happens if my child is feeling sick at school?

We have a designated "Sickroom" near the main office. If your child shows signs of or indicates that they feel ill, they will be escorted to the "Sickroom" and monitored while we contact you. They must be picked up. It is extremely important that we have current contact information and that you understand that you or a designate, whom we have in our records, comes to the school to take your child home as soon as possible. See page 9 of the "Back to School Protocol" package link, below.

What's going on with bussing?

All bus protocols and procedures are being worked on by STSCO. This is done completely separately from the school. Their website can be found at <http://www.stsco.ca> For bussing routes/times, click on the link and have your child's Ontario Education Number (OEN) handy.

Buses will be:

1. Loading the bus starting with siblings sitting together
2. Followed by classmates sitting together

Students will be officially assigned a seat number and position. Over the course of September and the months to follow these plans should remain in place. Students will be asked to wear masks while on the bus. Other information around STSCO:

First Riders Program for all riders new to taking the bus to school:

<https://www.stsco.ca/first rider.asp>

STSCO Pandemic Guidelines for Parents:

<http://stsco.ca/pandemicguidelines.asp>

To opt-out of bussing for a variety of reasons, please follow this link:

<https://www.stsco.ca/NotUsingBus.asp>

Additional Resources:

1. KPR's "[Back to School Protocol Package](#)" for families
2. KPR's "[Important Information and Resources: COVID - 19](#)" - Frequently updated with timely information from the Board
3. KPR's "[Frequently Asked Questions](#)" for parents and the larger community.
4. KPR's "[Return to School Plan](#)" - last updated September 2, 2020

School Contact:

Principal email: steven_cooper@kprdsb.ca

School staff emails: [Spring Valley Staff Directory](#) (Please note, some teaching assignments and personnel have not been updated, yet.)

School phone: 613-475-2578