

August 23rd, 2020 UPDATE

St. Stephen's Elementary School

3669 Highland Ave., Halifax, NS B3K 4J9

PRINCIPAL: David Madgett **VICE PRINCIPAL:** Roslyn Young

ADMIN. ASSISTANT: Otilie Hayes



Upcoming Events

August 26

9am-3pm Late registration day
(in person at the school)

September 3

Organization Day (No school
for students)

September 4

PD Day (No school for students)

September 8

First Day of School – Welcome
Back!

Principal's Message

Happy Sunday SSES families,

I am writing you to bring you up to speed on our School Return-to-School Plan for September. While there are still many specifics that we are seeking more clarity around, we do have some important information to pass on. Please understand that as we get closer to September some of this information may change based on the recommendations of Public Health. During the week of September 1st, we will send out our SSES Return-to-School Plan. This will contain a more detailed account of how we will start the year. On another note, I'd like to thank you for the warm welcome emails I have received over the past month. I appreciate your patience, support, understanding, and above all else, your trust that we are doing everything within our means to safely welcome back our students for the 2020-21 school year. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with me should you have any questions or concerns.

What we know so far...

Masks, Sanitizer and Signage

All students in grades 4 to 12 will be required to wear a mask inside school except if they are seated at their desks while two metres apart and facing in the same direction. Masks must be worn in hallways and other common areas if a two-metre distance cannot be maintained. Students & staff members will each receive two cloth masks upon return to school.

Sanitizer and signs/posters/floor decals will be distributed to schools next week. There will be an installation team that will be in the school over the next two weeks to complete this work.

Assigned Entry/Exits for Class Cohorts

Class cohorts (individual homeroom classes) will be assigned an entry door and an exit. This will be the door they use to enter the building in the morning and throughout the day and the one they use to exit at the end of the day.



SSES News continued...

Staggered Recess and Lunch

Both recess and lunch will be staggered so that less students are outside on the playground. Lunch will be spread over two hours so that we have less students going outside to play at once. Classes will begin their lunch period at 11:30am, 12:00pm, or 12:30pm.

Ventilation Inspection

School-by-school ventilation maintenance will take place to ensure equipment is operating properly and in good condition. In our case, operations will be inspecting our windows to make sure they all work.

PrePrimary News

Families with students in PrePrimary will be contacted by one of our Early Childhood Educators the week of Sept. 1st. Please note, the supply list on the website is for Primary-Grade 6 only.

Primary Orientation

Unfortunately, due to the ongoing operational work being done in the school to prepare for our September 8th opening, there will not be a primary orientation this year for our new students prior to the first day of school.

First Day of School

During the week of September 1st, you will receive our detailed Return-to-School plan. It will outline our procedures in more detail.

Some Final Thoughts

There is no question that this is an exciting time, but also an anxious time for students and their families. A familiar refrain that we have been hearing for the past two months is the need for being patient and flexible. These are easier said than done. Please know that we will continue to update you as we get closer to the beginning of school. In the meantime here are a few things you might consider on getting ready to return to school:

1. Help your child get used to wearing a mask.
2. Start re-establishing bedtime, wake-up, and meal-time routines this week.
3. Reinforce the positive while being understanding of the anxieties. Remember they are being welcomed back to school by a group of professionals who cannot wait to see their students. Our teachers know what is at stake and will vigilantly work to uphold all Public Health orders and ensure a safe return to school.

Important Information and Updates

Please check the HRCE and EECD websites for up-to-date information regarding the back-to-school plan. I have included the links below:



Halifax

Regional Centre for Education

[Halifax Regional Centre for Education](#)



[Education and Early Childhood Education Nova Scotia](#)

