



# York Catholic District School Board

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## *Office of the Director of Education Ab Falconi*

July 29, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As you know, the Ministry of Education has directed school boards in Ontario to prepare reopening plans for three possible scenarios in September:

1. **Full-time return to in-person learning** – In this model, students attend every day with enhanced safety measures as outlined by Public Health.
2. **Adaptive model that combines in-person and distance learning** — Classes divided into two cohorts of up to 15 students that would alternate between in-person and distance learning.
3. **Distance learning for all**, with schools remaining closed.

The York Catholic District School Board (YCDSB) is working on plans for all three of these scenarios. Last week, Minister of Education, Stephen Lecce, stated that he will announce the Province's plans for a safe return to school later this week. Once that announcement is made and we receive clear direction on which scenario we must implement, we will share details on our plans.

YCDSB will follow direction from the Ministry of Education regarding safe school reopening which includes provisions for class sizes, physical distancing measures and required use of PPE (personal protective equipment), among others. The information shared in this letter is reflective of what has been communicated to school boards so far. YCDSB's final plan is subject to direction from the Ministry of Education.

In the meantime, here are a few updates.

### **Where can I find the 2020-21 School Year Calendar?**

YCDSB received approval of its 2020-2021 School Year Calendar from the Ministry of Education on Thursday, July 23, 2020. It has been posted to the YCDSB website on the [School Year Calendar](#) page.

- Elementary students will start school on Tuesday, September 8, 2020.
- Grade 9 students will start school for an orientation day on Tuesday, September 8, 2020.
- All other secondary students will start school on Wednesday, September 9, 2020.
- Three Professional Learning (PA) Days for staff will be held September 1-3 to focus on enhanced public health protocols, and professional training and development as outlined by the Ministry of Education, as we prepare for school reopening.

### **Can we still register students for school?**

The YCDSB Admissions Department is accepting [online registrations for Kindergarten to Grade 12 students](#) during the summer. If your family is new to Canada, your child may need an assessment/orientation interview before starting school. As a result of COVID-19, [assessments will take place virtually throughout July and August](#) instead of in person at the YCDSB Catholic Education

Centre, pending further notice from York Region Public Health. Any other registration questions should be directed to your child's school principal. Links to principal emails are available on school websites.

### **What will be included in YCDSB's reopening plans?**

York Catholic staff are carefully working through all of the complex considerations to plan for everyone's safe return. Once finalized these plans will be shared with parents/guardians and students, and will be posted on the YCDSB website. Approved reopening plans will include information on:

- enhanced health and safety measures, including enhanced cleaning protocols, screening and self-assessment, hand hygiene, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), physical distancing, etc.
- schedules/timetables
- in-class and distance learning expectations
- supports for students with special education needs and the impact on programming, including the use of equipment, Plans of Care and working with community partners
- mental health supports and resources
- arrival/departure, entry/exit and Main Office protocols
- lunch and breaks
- technology supports
- transportation, including loading/unloading protocols, vehicle cleaning and route planning
- child care and before-and-after-school programs
- adult and continuing education, including, but not limited to, impacts on credit/pre-credit programs, Night School, International Languages, alternative programs, Co-Operative Education, Dual Credit and Specialist High Skills Major programs

### **When can students/families expect to receive schedules/timetables?**

Elementary class assignments and Secondary timetables will be provided for the first day of school. If we are implementing an adapted model, schedule/timetable information will include cohort details and clearly outline the dates your children will attend in person. Given the ever-evolving nature of this pandemic, timelines for distributing this information may change.

### **Will school-based child care programs run?**

Full-day child care programs will continue to operate. Wherever possible, designated space will be prioritized and identified for before-and-after-school programs. More information will be available from your child's before-and-after-school provider closer to the start of the school year.

### **How will reopening plans be communicated?**

Once the Ministry of Education announces which return to school scenario will be implemented across Ontario, and approves the York Catholic District School Board's reopening plan, we will share details with you as soon as possible so that you can begin your planning. Families will receive an email with a link to information about our reopening plans that will be posted on our website. A Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) resource will also be developed.

Thank you for your ongoing patience and understanding as we carefully plan for a safe reopening of our schools, working within Ministry of Education and public health directives.

Yours in Catholic Education,



Ab Falconi  
Direction of Education