



Good morning, Gator Family!

We are SO excited to welcome our in-person learners back to Applewood, next week! And, while we will miss our on-line learners, we know that they will be in great hands and look forward to welcoming them back when the time is right for their families!

For the last few weeks, we have been busily preparing the school for our students' safe return based on the most current recommendations from Public Health Ontario and the Ministry of Education, and we are confident that we are ready to make your children feel safe and cared for in these unusual times. Aligned with all of the DSBN, we have three main priorities for our return to Applewood - Safety, Well-being and Learning. We look forward to working together with you to provide our Gators with the safest possible return to school and the opportunity for a successful and healthy school year!

Return to School Plan PLEASE READ

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Our staggered start to the school year is as follows:

Tuesday, September 8th - Kindergarten & Grade 1

Wednesday, September 9th - Kindergarten - Grade 3

Thursday, September 10th - Kindergarten - Grade 6

And, don't forget our FIRST GATOR SPIRIT WEAR DAY is on Friday, September 11th! Students are welcome to wear their Gator Spirit Wear or a red shirt to show their GATOR SPIRIT!

DAILY HEALTH ASSESSMENT:

PLEASE COMPLETE THE DAILY HEALTH ASSESSMENT BEFORE SENDING YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL, EVERY DAY. You will receive the *DSBN Parental Agreement to Daily Screening of Children to support daily screening*, by email. Students who are not feeling well are asked to stay home. If your child develops symptoms during the course of the day they will be isolated (with supervision) in the Designated Health Room (across from the office) and you will be called to pick them up and seek medical attention to clear them to return to school. Please ensure that the office has your CURRENT CONTACT INFORMATION.

Masks:

Students in Kindergarten to grade 3 are encouraged to wear masks but they are not mandatory. *Students in grades 4-6* will be required to wear labelled, medical or non-medical face masks at school. We recommend sending students with two masks, if possible (the back-up mask should be kept in a ziplock bag in their backpack). Students will have 'mask breaks' throughout the day.

Kindergarten Drop-off & Pick-up, etc:

Kindergarten students can be dropped off at the Outdoor Kindergarten Playspace gate between 8:30 am and 8:45 am. Please observe 6 feet social distancing in the line to drop off your child. There will be pylons every 6 feet leading up to the gate to mark a safe distance. Please give your child's name to the staff member who is greeting them and make sure their backpack is on them. Teachers will not be able to handle students' belongings at entry. *As hard as it may be, please leave quickly after drop-off to minimize congregation, for safety reasons.* Students will require a change of labelled clothes in a labelled ziplock bag, indoor shoes, and enough lunch, snacks, and a refillable water bottle to get them through the day. Please try to send food in packaging your child can open independently if possible, to minimize contact. As well, please provide your child with any cutlery they will need. Water fountains are closed, however, water bottle filling stations are available for students to refill water bottles throughout the day. Any other supplies Kindergarten students will require will be supplied by the school. Students can be picked up starting at 2:55 pm in the same place, following the same procedure. *Please be patient - we'll ALL be doing our best to make entry into school positive and efficient for everyone!*

Kindergarten Parent Guide PLEASE READ

Grade 1 - 6 Drop-off & Pick-up:

Students can be dropped off to a staff member at the end of the parking lot beside the gym between 8:30 am and 8:45 am. All staff members will be wearing red Applewood shirts. They will escort children to their designated outdoor location behind the school. **Parents will not be permitted on the tarmac or behind the school at any time to limit contact.** Please line up alongside the pylons lining the walkway leading up to the tarmac. They will be placed every 6 feet to mark a safe distance. Kiss and Ride will not be available during the first week of school. Please consider parking on a side street and walking up to the school for drop off during the first week. Student pick-up will follow the same procedure at 3:05 pm. *Please be patient with everyone as we do our best to make entry into school as positive and efficient, as possible!*

Students that walk to school:

If your child walks to school, please have them come to the tarmac by the gym for directions from a staff member to get to their designated outdoor space. There will be signs posted, as well.

Busing:

Busing / transportation information will be emailed to you directly by NSTS. If you have any questions, please email them directly through www.nsts.ca.

Elementary School Parent Guide PLEASE READ!

Attendance:

Please report your child's absence to the school through the Safe Arrival App before . Please go to: [Safe Arrival](#) for directions. All arrangements for pick-up must be made prior to school. We will not be able to relay messages to students throughout the day unless it is an emergency.

Food and Drinks:

Applewood is a PEANUT AND TREE-NUT FREE SCHOOL due to life-threatening, anaphylactic allergies. Please do not send foods to school that contain peanuts and/or tree-nuts. Students will require enough lunch, snacks, and drinks to get them through the day. **Food and drinks will not be permitted to be dropped off at the school throughout the day.**

Please try to send food and drinks in packaging they can open independently if possible, to minimize contact. As well, our water fountains are closed, however, water bottle filling stations are available for students to refill their water bottles throughout the day. Please provide cutlery for your child.

THERE IS NO BREAKFAST CLUB DURING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER.

There is no pizza or milk, at this time.

School Supplies:

Students will require their own materials at school, this year (eg. crayons, markers, pencil crayons, calculators, pencils, pencil sharpener, glue stick, scissors, etc.). These materials will be kept at school in a clear bin that will be provided to each student. If necessary, students will be provided with a list of more specific materials, during the first week of school. If you require financial assistance to purchase these materials (or other back-to-school supplies), PLEASE let your child's teacher or the office know and we will be happy to support you in any way we can.

Borrowed Chromebooks:

If you borrowed a Chromebook from the school in the spring, please return it to school on MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14th. We will not be equipped to accept it prior to that date. The Chromebook (and power cord) must be returned in a plastic bag labelled with your child's name on it. Please return all Chromebooks even if they are not working properly. We must account for all technology that we distributed to students.

Parent / Guardian entry into the school:

Entry to the school is by appointment only, at this time. Please call 905-684-4359 to make an appointment with the office. Lunches, clothing, etc. will not be permitted to be dropped off throughout the day. Please ensure that students bring everything they need to school, every day.

Communication between school and home:

All communication between school and home will be electronic and/or by phone, this year. Agendas will not be used. Your child's teacher will communicate how to access your child's class website with you during the first week of school and how to contact them

throughout the school year. Please, regularly check our website <https://applewood.dsbm.org>, Facebook page and Twitter feed (Applewood Public School) for news and updates, important dates, and information, and **ensure that the office has your most current email address on file. As well, please register for Cash Online to receive forms and pay for any purchases throughout the school year.** A credit card is not required and the link to register is on our website.

Phew...that was a lot!

We know that this may be a stressful time for your family. Please know, we have been working very seriously on returning to school for weeks and we're *READY TO GREET YOUR CHILDREN AND MAKE THEM FEEL SAFE AND WELCOME*. We miss them and can't wait to get back to in-person learning. Our classrooms are ready, our plans are written, our safety protocols are in place...we are READY! For well-being support, please read: [*Preparing for a Mentally Healthy Return to School.*](#)

Once again, we would like to let you know that we greatly appreciate all that you have done in the past six months to support and encourage our staff and your children. They motivate and inspire us every day to make this work to the best of our ability, and together, we all make an amazing school community that we are proud to be a part of. Thank you.

As always, please feel free to contact me directly at kate.fish@dsbn.org or call the school at 905-684-4359 if you have any questions.

Take good care,

Kate Fish, Principal