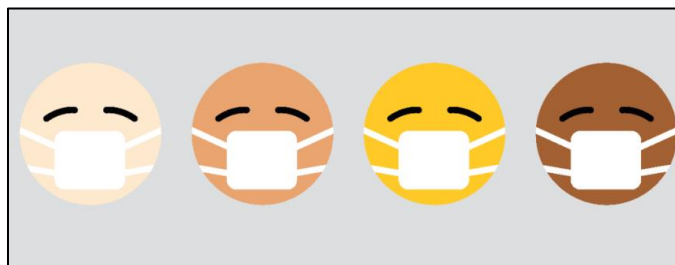




Dear Hawks!

The entire staff of Monsignor Haller is looking forward to beginning the new school year together with our amazing students and families! Just two weeks to go! Our WCDSB senior administration staff have been collaborating with Waterloo Region Public Health to plan around specific safety measures for our September start up and this work will continue in the coming days as we finalize plans. Stay tuned to Newswire for further details. In the interim, some parents are wondering about what they can do now to help prepare their child(ren) for September. Going back to school this year will look a little different, but here are some things we feel may help with the transition back to class.

Mask Wearing



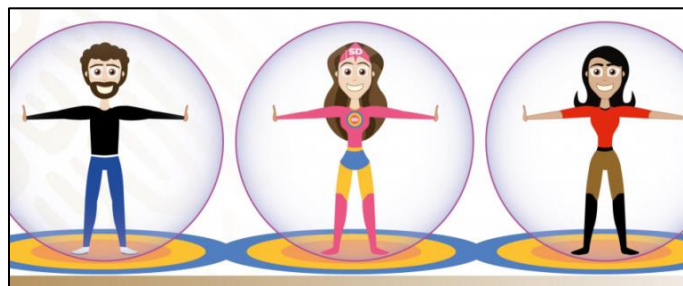
- In elementary schools across Ontario, masks are mandatory for students in Grades 4 to 8. For students in JK to Grade 3 in our WCDSB schools, masks are encouraged.
- It can take time for children to get used to wearing a mask, but these final weeks of summer could be used to help make it more comfortable to wear a mask indoors.
- Support at home getting your child(ren) into a routine with wearing a mask for extended periods of time is important. Consider the following ideas:
 - Have your child practice putting a mask on a toy/stuffed animal (point out how the toy's **nose and mouth** needs to be covered and wear them together!)
 - Pair mask wearing with tv/technology time or another preferred activity
- The following video has some great tips to begin developing some mask-wearing habits/strategies/understandings with younger children:
 - [Wearing a Mask](#)
- Pediatric Infectious Disease Specialist, Dr. Jacqueline Wong, shares her tips for finding the best face mask for kids, and demonstrates how to properly wear one in this Global News interview: [Dr. Wong Mask Wearing](#)
- Here is a young Kindergartner showing us how it is done!
 - [Steps to putting on a mask for kids](#)
- Please also remind your child(ren) that all staff at our school will be wearing masks and shields too!

Hand Washing/Sanitizer



- Students will be provided with opportunities to wash their hands throughout the day.
- As with mask wearing, there are several instructional videos out now that share songs ("Baby Shark – do, do, do, do!") and illustrate how to effectively reach all areas of your hands.
- In addition to hand washing, hand sanitizer will be provided for staff and students in classrooms, common areas, main office and at all entrance doors.
- Families may choose to provide their child(ren) with their own small individual use (travel size) sanitizer as long as there is no added perfume. Kindly remind your child(ren) that personal supplies of hand sanitizer should not be shared with others.

Physical Distancing/Classroom Setup



- As per Ministry direction, all students will be set up so that there is 1 metre of distance between each of them in the classroom setting.
- With the need to space furniture and desks as such, there will be little room for other items typical of our classrooms (e.g., gathering carpet, reading area, etc.). These items will be removed to ensure that cleaning routines are manageable.
- To help your child visualize his/her space with physical distancing, consider using a hoola hoop to represent their personal bubble.

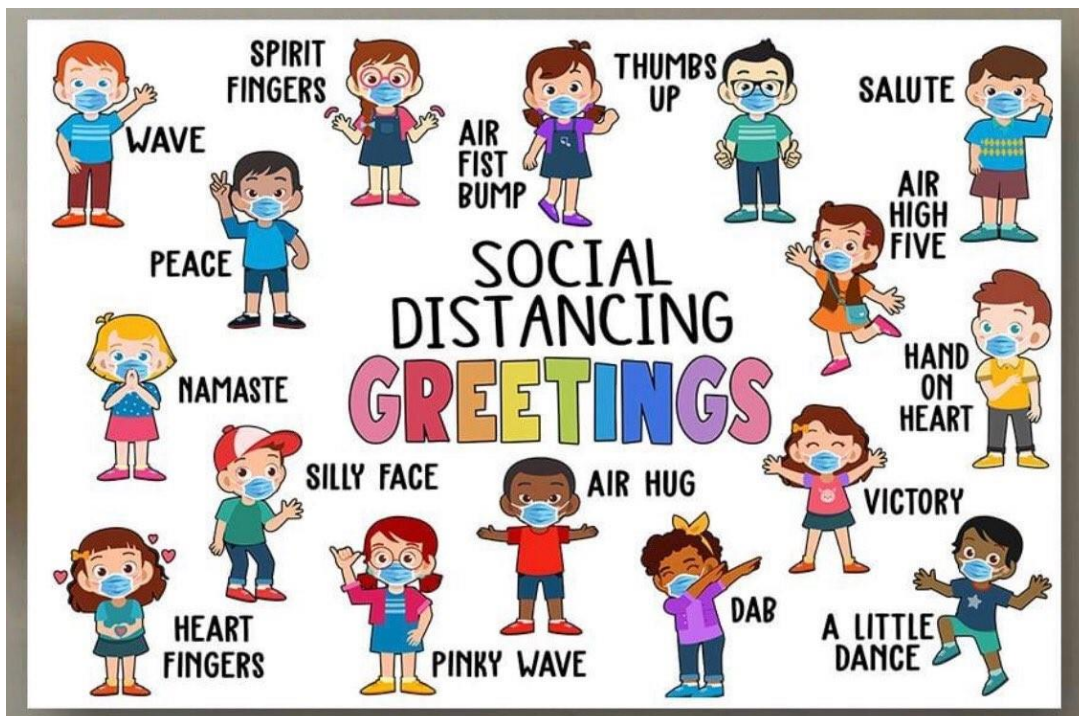
School Supplies



- Students will be provided with an individual learning kit that includes basic grade appropriate school supplies **for their individual use** as follows:
 - Primary (pencil crayons, washable markers, glue stick, pencil sharpener, ruler, blunt scissors, pencils, eraser, playdoh, and counters)
 - Junior (pencil crayons, markers, scissors, glue stick, pencil sharpener, pencils, eraser, ruler, calculator, and math set)
 - Intermediate (pencil crayons, fine point markers, highlighter, scissors, glue stick, pencil sharpener, pencils, pens, eraser, ruler, and math set)
- Students are welcome to bring their own items that will be kept at their desk/table. There will be no sharing of any of these supplies.

Social Distance Greetings

- When we come back together, children will want to say hi and give their friends a hug, fist bump or high five. Staff will want very much to do the same. However, we cannot.
- What is exciting, however, is that we can learn a whole new “language” for social greetings together!
- Over the next couple of weeks, families can practice what a “hello” in our safe September will look like!



Supporting Your Child's Mental Health & Well-Being



- During these uncertain times, you may be worried about your child(ren)'s mental health and well-being.
- Children may be confused, anxious or unsettled about what school will look like having been away all this time. These feelings are very natural.
- Validate your child(ren)'s feelings by acknowledging that, like any new activity, starting school may seem hard at first, but soon it will become easy and fun.
- School Mental Health Ontario is a wonderful website with resources and supports for parents. Please find the website here: [SMHO](#)
- Also, our WCDSB is offering summer mental health support to any student/family in our system. For non-emergency inquiries, please email socialwork@wcdsb.ca with any questions you may have.

WCDSB Plan for Re-Opening Schools

You may have heard reports in the media about a staggered start to the school year. This is being discussed at tomorrow (Monday) night's WCDSB Board Meeting with further details communicated this coming week.

Stay up to date by checking for our school newswire messages regularly as well as referring to our WCDSB's site for re-opening schools: <https://www.wcdsb.ca/plan-for-re-opening-schools/>

If your child rides the school bus, they will be greeted upon arrival and staff will ensure they are matched with the teacher they will be reporting to in the first weeks of September (remember that masks must be worn on the bus).

If you drive or your child walks, parents may say goodbye at the pathway before children continue to the backyard. Parents/guardians will not be allowed on the playground this year in respect to limiting the number of people.

Parking is available on the side streets, as you will note the parking lot is closed in the mornings and after school.

Going back to school this year will look a little different, but we are in this together!

Have a wonderful closing to your summers & see you soon!
Monsignor Haller Staff

