

September 3, 2021



Dear Northridge Families

We hope that everyone had a very happy and safe summer! As a staff we are so excited to be returning to in-person learning this September! We would like to welcome back our returning students and families, as well as extend a very warm welcome to our new Northridge families! We are thrilled that most of our students will be joining us in person this year! As such our classes are full therefore class moves will not be possible. Our staff have placed each student with care to create the best possible placement for all students. Together with our school community, we approach this school year with our hearts filled with optimism and hope. Together we look forward to a wonderful year! The first day of classes is Tuesday September 7, 2021. All staff will be working to support a very smooth and welcoming first day for all. We can't wait to see you!

Communication and partnership with our families and the Northridge community is very important to us. Maintaining and continuing to build strong, trusting and authentic relationships and partnerships with all of students and families is of paramount importance to us. We are committed to ensuring our communication with our school community is two-way, increases knowledge, awareness and develops a sense of community through student, family and community engagement. Our main method of communication is through school messenger. Emergency alerts, newsletters and messages will be sent directly to the emails that guardians have provided the school. You can also find more information on the Northridge Website and Twitter Page! We encourage you to follow us on Twitter @Northridge PS if you have not already done so, so we can share the amazing student learning happening within our halls each and every day! As always, if you need to contact the school for any reason, you can call or email the main office at 519 - 452 – 8440 ex. 2.

Covid-19 Health and Safety Protocol Updates

Many protocols have remained the same but there have been a few changes. This information was shared by TVDSB to the community in the [Thames Valley District School Board - Return to Learn September 2021 TVDSB Community Guide](#). If you have not already done so, families are strongly encouraged to review this guide for up today information regarding our return to learn. A few highlights are shared below.

Masks

Everyone must wear a face mask inside TVDSB schools and other TVDSB sites to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. In Thames Valley, Kindergarten students are required to wear a mask following a Board of Trustee motion passed in August 2020. As such, all students (Kindergarten-Grade 8) will be required to wear a mask indoors in school, including in hallways and during classes.

Masks may be temporarily removed indoors for the following activities:

- Consuming food or beverages
- Singing
- The use of wind instruments

During these activities a minimum distance of two metres must be maintained between cohorts. Masks are encouraged for indoor sports where they can be worn safely based on the activity. Masks must be worn during indoor sports while waiting to participate (e.g., on a bench, on the sidelines, etc.) Students are not required to wear masks outdoors, but distancing will be encouraged.

Students are expected to bring their own masks to wear on student transportation and at school. Masks will be available at school for students who require them.

Hand Hygiene

All staff and students will be expected to practice proper hand hygiene, washing hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer, at the following times:

- Upon entering the school
- At regular time intervals throughout day
- Before/after eating food
- After using the restroom
- Before/after outdoor play
- After sneezing or coughing
- Before/after use of shared materials
- Before putting on and after removing PPE and/or non-medical masks/face coverings

Hand sanitizer is provided at the school. If students do wish to bring their own, we request that this be unscented for those with allergies and sensitivities.

Nutrition Breaks

All TVDSB schools will continue to follow the nutrition break schedule. We will continue with the staggered lunch schedule, with half of our students on the yard for half of the break while the other students are eating and then will switch. Students are no longer required to remain in cohorts in the yard.

Extra-Curricular Activities

TVDSB is taking a cautious approach to resuming extra-curricular activities as they begin to resume this school year. Parent/guardian permission to participate in any extra-curricular activity or club will be obtained for each student prior to participation as students will be mixing with students in other classes in these activities. Attendance will be taken each day at each activity and kept for contact tracing purposes. Please see the [Thames Valley District School Board - Return to Learn September 2021 TVDSB Community Guide](#) for additional information.

Water Bottles

Our water fountains will remain turned off to prevent the spread of Covid-19. Students are asked to bring water bottles to school daily. Students are encouraged to bring two water bottles daily if possible. Each class will have a time assigned so students are able to refill their water bottle at the refilling station.

Visitors

At this time visitors are not permitted into the school building. If you are picking up or dropping off your child(ren) for an appointment, please indicate the absence using school messenger.



When you arrive at the school, call the office or use our communication buzzer at the front door, to reach our office staff. They would be happy to assist you.

Covid-19 Daily Screening

The Ministry of Education will continue to provide families, students and staff with the COVID-19 School and Child Care Screening Tool as a protective strategy. All staff and students must self-screen every day before attending school. The Screening Tool has been updated (August 27, 2021) and the latest version is found at <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/> Students must not come to school if they have symptoms/feel sick or are unwell and need to follow the direction of the screener above. TVDSB has directed staff to include age-appropriate morning “check ins” with their students based on the contents of the screener to support this new routine.

Picking Up Students at school that are displaying Covid-19 symptoms

As part of the TVDSB process is to ensure the health and safety of students and staff, it is important to monitor signs and symptoms of students and staff during the school day. As such, if a student exhibits COVID-19 symptoms while at school, they will be relocated to a supervised designated location in the school. Staff will immediately contact the parent or guardian to pick up their child from school. TVDSB requests that parents and guardians establish a process for the retrieval of their child if they are notified during the school day. Students will not be able to take school transportation if they have been isolated with symptoms.

Parent Portal

The parent portal is a user friendly and efficient way to share and receive information from the school. From the parent portal you can print and verify school forms, view attendance, report cards and student information sheets and access Cash Online. A valid email address is required to access the parent portal. If you have not signed up to access the parent portal, you are strongly encouraged to do so. For more information regarding the parent portal please visit [Parent Portal](#). If you have difficulties with the portal, please call the main office and we will gladly assist.

Attendance

Attendance is taken three times daily (arrival and following both nutrition breaks). If your child(ren) is marked absent, and a reason is not reported by a parent or guardian, you will receive an automated phone call. Please follow the prompts and choose the appropriate reason. Unfortunately, if you hang up without choosing a reason, the system will continue to call you. To avoid these calls, please make sure to complete your students' attendance by phone or app.

There are 3 ways to report your student's absence or lateness:

1. By phone

1-844-305-3756

2. On-Line

Tvdsb.ca/schoolmessenger

3. By App

Google Play: SchoolMessenger

AppleS tore: SchoolMessenger

Communication

Our main method of communication to the community is through school messenger. Emergency alerts, newsletters and messages will be sent directly to the emails that guardians have provided the school. You can also find more information on the Northridge Website and Twitter Page!

As always, if you need to contact the school for any reason, you can call or email the main office.



Individual Plan of Care (IPOC)

To assist children with **potentially life-threatening medical conditions** to remain safe while attending school, TVDSB requests parents/guardians update the necessary medical information on the **Parent Portal** so that an individual plan of care (IPOC) for the student can be reviewed by the school's administration. Medical conditions considered potentially life-threatening may include:

- Asthma
- Anaphylaxis
- Epilepsy
- Type 1 Diabetes
- Any other potentially life-threatening condition that could result in medical incident (please discuss with our school administrators).

Parents/guardians can provide important information about their child's life threatening or prevalent medical condition by logging into the TVDSB Parent Portal and clicking on the **Student Medical Information** tab. Please continue through all of the questions and click "submit to school" when complete. Once an IPOC is submitted, an administrator will then review the information and share with the necessary staff.

Be sure to include or submit the Authorization for Prescription Medication form (signed by physician) so we are able to administer the necessary medication if needed at school. If you find you are having technical issues, accessing the portal using Internet Explorer may be helpful. If

you have any questions or need further clarification, please call the office (519) 452-8440 and our office staff is happy to assist you.

Additional Health / Safety Information

No Peanut/Nut Products: We have children in our school with severe food allergies. Ingesting, smelling or touching peanuts or peanut products may cause extreme illness or death. It is our collective responsibility to ensure the safety of these children. Please do not send peanut or peanut products to school, this also includes 'WowButter'. We appreciate your assistance in keeping these children safe.

Medication: TVDSB has a Medication policy. If it becomes necessary for your child to take prescription medication at school, please call the school in advance. The office will provide a form requiring you to outline the details of the administration of the medication. This form must be completed and signed by a doctor **before** we can administer any medication. **The use of inhalers and EPI PENS also fall into this policy guideline.** Please advise the school if your child requires the use of an inhaler or EPI PEN while at school. We would be glad to support your child by keeping inhalers in the office and present to assist your child as the need arises. Students with asthma or that require EPI PENS should also have their puffer and EPI PEN on them at all times.

Allergies: If your child is allergic to a substance, please contact the school with this information. This form asks for: a description of symptoms and an outline of emergency procedures for severe allergies.

Accidents, Illness and Emergencies: PLEASE REPORT ALL CHANGES OF ADDRESS OR TELEPHONE NUMBERS (business or home) TO THE OFFICE IMMEDIATELY. Your cooperation is appreciated in making sure we have up-to-date emergency contact numbers for your child.

Our School Day

In accordance with TVDSB direction, Northridge will continue to run on a balanced day schedule this school year. Our schedule remains unchanged from last year. Yard /Bus supervision begins at 8:45 – 9:00 am and dismissal supervision (yard/bus) runs from 3:30 – 3:40.

Time:	Period:
9:00 - 9:20	Period 1
9:20 – 10:00	Period 2
10:00 – 10:40	Period 3
10:40 – 11:00	Nutrition Break – Students will rotate between indoor lunch and outdoor recess
11:00 – 11:20	
11:20 – 12:00	Period 4
12:00 – 12:40	Period 5
12:40 – 1:00	Period 6

1:00 – 1:25	Nutrition Break – Students will rotate between indoor lunch and outdoor recess
1:25 – 1:50	
1:50– 2:30	Period 7
2:30 – 3:10	Period 8
3:10 – 3:30	Period 9

Bus and Parking Lot Reminders

Our priority is student safety. Prior to school parents may enter the parking lot and turn right into the loop to drop their child(ren) off for school. We ask that you pull through the loop as far as possible before pulling over to drop of your child(ren). This can be a busy time. Please remember to signal and watch for ongoing traffic when leaving. Students will walk along the sidewalk to the school yard. If you need to stop for an extended period of time please park in the parking lot, additional parking at Ridge View Community Church (beside the school) or street parking. No parking is permitted in the spaces inside the drop-off loop during this time to ensure student safety. This area is supervised from 8:45 – 9:00.

Our parking lot closes at 3:20 for dismissal and remains closed until the buses are loaded and leave the property. A significant portion of our students must walk through the parking lot to board the buses or walk home at the end of the day. To ensure the safety of our students in the parking is closed during this time. We appreciate that families may be picking up their child(ren) at the end of the day. Additional parking is available at Ridge View Community Church (beside the school) or street parking. We wish to extend our sincerest thank you to Ridge View Community Church for allowing us to use their parking space to accommodate our school community during the school day.

Student Accident Insurance

For the 2021-22 school year TVDSB is pleased to offer families the option of two student accident insurance providers to choose from if they wish to purchase insurance for their children. Additional information is provided in the links below.

<https://www.studyinsuredstudentaccident.com/>

<https://insuremykids.com>

Welcome to Our New Staff Members

Mrs. Stefina– Grade ¾

Mrs. Yan - Grade 4

Ms. McKenzie – Grade 4

Mr. De Gryp – Grade 7
Ms. Barker – Early Childhood Educator
Ms. Ball - Kindergarten
Ms. Stone– ESL
Ms. Stewart – Grade 1
Ms. Simpson – Junior French LTO
Mr. Lopez – Educational Assistant
Ms. Edwards – Educational Assistant

Welcome Back

Ms. Watson-Leyshon – Gr. 2 Virtual
Mr. Tate – Grade 7
Ms. Leparskas– Intermediate French & Prep

The Terry Fox Run

Participation in the Terry Fox Run has a long-standing tradition at Northridge. As a school community we are very proud of the commitment and dedication of our staff, students and community to such a worthy cause. This year's school Terry Fox Run is September 29, 2021. Please stay tuned for more information regarding this day.

We are very excited to see all of our students next week and look forward to a fantastic year. We wish everyone a wonderful long weekend and Shanah Tovah to those in our Northridge families celebrating Rosh Hashanah and YomKippur!

Sincerely,

Ms. Tudhope and Ms. Gee