



August 11, 2020

Dear Wellington Catholic District School Board (WCDSB) families,

I understand that this has been a challenging time for our families, especially as we look towards reopening our schools. Families have been asked to complete a survey in order to pre-register their children indicating whether it is your intention to return to in person learning at school or participate in online/remote learning. Our staff will be following up with families that do not complete the survey by the August 14 timeline.

Our WCDSB team has been working diligently to respond to the many questions we have been receiving and the information you need. We are collecting and theming your questions into an [FAQ](#) and will be updating this document often as we connect your important questions to new and changing information from the Ministry of Education and public health. We want to ensure your confidence in our plan for the health, safety, and well-being of our students. We will communicate any change in information as soon as possible.

On July 30, 2020, the Ministry of Education announced its decision for the reopening of schools in September. The WCDSB was directed to reopen all our elementary and secondary schools under a conventional model with enhanced health and safety protocols. This means that all WCDSB schools will open to students for in person learning, five days a week.

Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health (WDGPH) has been an important resource in the development and review of our board plan. We will continue to consult with WDGPH during the days leading up to reopening and throughout the school year ahead.

There is a lot of new information for families to consider in making your decision. In order to have sufficient time to plan for in person and remote class organization, school health and safety routines, and other preparation details, it is important for us to know how many students will be attending in person or remotely. This will help us to ensure a smooth transition back to school. If you haven't replied to the [survey](#) to share your back to school intentions, please do so before this Friday, August 14th at 5 pm. We hope to hear from every family by then.

There are two common questions/themes emerging, "What will remote learning look like?" and "Will students be allowed to switch between remote and in-person learning?"

What will remote learning look like?

- Remote learning will mirror a regular school day of 300 minutes (5 hours) of instruction/learning activities (e.g. 9:00 am to 3:30 pm.). Online classes will be taught by centrally assigned teaching staff to support students for whom parents have opted for online/remote learning. Please be advised that it may not be a teacher from your child(ren)'s

school. The learning may involve a combination of scheduled synchronous (live, in real time) lessons with staff as well as asynchronous learning sessions.

- We are anticipating further guidance from the Ministry of Education outlining the expectations for on-line/remote learning.
- We will continue to offer ongoing professional development opportunities and supports to build capacity for teachers and educators so that we can improve the experience of remote learning for students.
- Teachers will use the Ministry supported D2L (Desire to Learn) as their remote learning platform. Some teachers use Google Classroom. This will be available on the D2L platform for those who choose to use it.
- Students will continue to have access to Microsoft tools and Google Apps for Education.
- We will also continue the use of Microsoft Teams for synchronous instruction.

Will students be allowed to switch between remote and in-person learning?

- Consistent with the Upper Grand District School Board, making this switch will be possible, however parents should know that the period of time that students must remain in their chosen delivery format will be an extended period of time, for example at the end of a reporting period in elementary or “quadrimester” (e.g. 10 weeks) in secondary. The reason for this is that we need to be able to plan, manage and potentially reorganize our class sizes and structure if the numbers of students attending in person change significantly.
- More information on how to request a change, if needed, will be communicated to families at a future date.

For those who attend school for in person learning, the daily routines and practices will be different than what we are accustomed to. We are preparing our school sites based on the directions of the Ministry of Education and public health officials. Preparations include protocols for physical distancing, hygiene, health and safety, COVID-19 symptoms and outbreaks, and enhanced cleaning and disinfecting. All of these are outlined in our [Return to School Plan](#).

We will continue to share school news at wellingtoncdsb.ca/SchoolOpening/ and post information on Twitter at [@WellingtonCath](https://twitter.com/WellingtonCath).

We are looking forward to our students’ return to school in September. As we continue to work through this experience together, you can count on our commitment to open communication and supporting you and your children.



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Director of Education