



Brenda Blancher
Director of Education

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July 30, 2020

Good Afternoon Grand Erie Families,

Today, Ontario Premier Doug Ford and Education Minister Stephen Lecce announced that all publicly funded schools in the province will reopen this fall for students to return to the classroom. This decision will be paired with enhanced cleaning and health and safety protocols due to COVID-19.

For Grand Erie elementary and secondary students, this means that when the 2020-21 school year begins on Tuesday, September 8th, they will be taking part in full-time, in-class learning, Monday through Friday.

Grand Erie's enhanced cleaning protocols will include an emphasis on touch points, common areas and common objects. Health and safety protocols will focus on making time for regular handwashing. Where handwashing is not available, hand sanitizer will be used. Directional signage will be placed to assist with physical distancing requirements, and schools will consider staggering nutrition, lunch and recess breaks.

The Province is mandating non-medical cloth masks for all students in Grades 4-12, while encouraging the use of non-medical cloth masks for students in Kindergarten through Grade 3. The Province will provide medical masks for teachers and school staff.

Grand Erie families will be required to keep students at home when sick, or when exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms. School visitors will also be extremely limited. The board is working on a protocol with both the Brant County Health Unit and the Haldimand-Norfolk Health Unit should there be a COVID-19 outbreak in any school or board site.

The safety and well-being of our students and staff remains the Board's highest priority. Recognizing that it's now been nearly six months since we've been in the classroom together, Grand Erie will have social and emotional supports available for students in September as we know this will be a challenging time for all.

Parents who wish to keep their children at home in September are required to contact the board at info@granderie.ca by no later than August 23.

Thank you.
Sincerely,

Director of Education