



## *Holy Spirit Catholic Elementary School*

*315 Stone Road, Aurora, ON L4G 6Y7  
Telephone: (905) 713-6813 • Fax: (905) 713-6744*

September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year. Thank you for your patience as we prepare information for the new school year. Below are details of our back to school re-entry plan that is consistent with the directives set out by the York Region Public Health Department and our York Catholic District School Board Re-entry Plan. As we did last year, risk mitigation will involve a three-tiered approach that includes **physical distancing, hand and respiratory hygiene, and, non-medical mask-wearing**. This plan will help us to transition smoothly to a new academic year. Our school's success is only made possible thanks to the collaborative efforts of our students, parents, and staff.

Please continue to check your email for school updates and visit our school website. You can also visit the [YCDSB Re-Entry Plan Link](#) for further information.

Yours in Catholic Education,

Mr. A. Modica

Principal

## Holy Spirit CES Re-Entry Plan 2021-2022

### Elementary Start Dates

All students will begin on Wednesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021. There are no staggered entry dates this year. Supervision begins at 8:10 a.m. and school starts at 8:25 a.m.

### Before Arriving at School

All parents/guardians are asked to complete the [York Region Public Health Child Care Assessment](#) with their child before departing for school. This tool may be updated so please check the York Region Public Health website regularly for updated information. There is also a video of [Covid-19 Hygiene For Kids](#) should you wish to view and discuss Covid-19 hygiene with your child.

Any student experiencing Covid-19 symptoms **must** remain home.

### Kiss and Ride

Please remember that the Kiss and Ride is not a parking lot. Should you wish to park and drop off your students, there are a limited number of parking spaces available at the front of the school. If there are no parking spots available, please park on the street (by-law permitting) and safely walk your child to school.

If you have a low profile car, please stop a safe distance away from the curb to ensure your door opens safely. Lastly, please do not block the bus loop as buses will need to exit as part of their scheduled day.

### Masks

- Students in Grades 1 to 8 **are required** to wear properly fitted non-medical or cloth masks indoors at school, including in hallways and during classes, as well as on school vehicles (i.e. buses)
- It is **strongly recommended** that students in Kindergarten wear non-medical or cloth masks in indoors while at school, as well as on school vehicles (i.e. buses), as tolerated
- Students will be required to safely store their mask while outdoors (i.e. in a pocket or cloth bag/fanny pack brought from home)
- Masks will be temporarily removed indoors to consume food or drink

### Kindergarten Entry

- Students can be dropped off at the doors of the Kindergarten and their teacher as well as support staff will welcome them and walk them to their classroom
- Classroom ECE's will be in the room to welcome our students
- Once parents and caregivers drop off their children, we ask kindly that you immediately leave the area to avoid congestion
- All parents/caregivers coming to the school are asked to wear masks while on school property

## **Grades 1 to 8 Entry**

- Please arrive as close to 8:25 a.m. (bell time) as possible.
- Parents can walk their children to the school yard where staff will be there to greet the students
- We kindly ask that parents and caregivers immediately leave the area after dropping off their child/children to avoid large crowds and congestion
- All parents/caregivers coming to the school are asked to wear masks on school property; parents are not to congregate at the doors, yard, or gate
- On the first day of school, teachers will show their students where and how to line up in the morning and for recesses, as well as provide instructions on physical distancing measures

**All parents must follow the instructions provided for drop off in accordance with our Board and school Re-Entry Plan.** While we acknowledge the first day of school is both a special and memorable day, for everyone's safety and security we must maintain physical distancing protocols to the best of our ability.

### **Recess**

There will no longer be staggered recesses. All students will have the same recesses. Students will **not** be wearing their masks while outdoors as directed by YRPH. Recess will continue to occur under teacher and support staff supervision. Students will be encouraged to stay in their cohorts whenever possible and must stay in their designated divisional area. Students will be encouraged to maintain social distancing.

Upon returning to the classroom, students will wash/sanitize their hands and put their mask back on. Teachers will be reviewing yard areas as well as proper mask etiquette with all students upon their return to school.

### **Lunch**

Students will eat their lunch at their own desk and all food/drinks/snacks must be brought from home, respecting our safe school allergy policy as we are an allergy-safe school. Students are not to share food, utensils, or drinks and must sanitize their hands before eating as well as when entering and exiting the building.

Students who go home for lunch can return in the afternoon. Parents are **not** to drop off lunches for their children as per the YCDSB re-entry plan policy.

### **Staggered Dismissal**

- FDK and Grades 1, 2, 3 will begin their dismissal 15 minutes early at 2:40 p.m.
  - Kindergartens will be dismissed from the Kindergarten Yard
  - Grades 1 to 3 will exit from the Primary doors
- Grades 4, 5, 6 – will begin their dismissal at 2:50 p.m.
  - Our Grades 4 and 5 classes will exit from the Before and After Care doors
  - Grade 6 students will exit from the Intermediate doors
- Grades 7 and 8 – will be dismissed at bell time - 2:55 p.m.
  - Intermediate students will exit from the Intermediate doors

## **Suggested September Materials**

- A refillable water bottle to be used at our water filling stations (fountains are only available to refill bottles)
- Students are asked to bring a lunch and 2 snacks from home with them in the morning
- Personal school supplies such as pencils, pens, markers, erasers, scissors, pencil sharpener, glue, pencil case, pencil crayons, ruler, etc...
- Students in Grade 1 to 8 are asked to bring **3-4 non-medical grade masks** together with a paper or cloth bag to store it in
- Extra masks are available at school should the mask become damaged or soiled
- Teachers will communicate to their classes should there be other items needed in a class letter

## **Visitors**

Visitors are not to enter the school during hours of operation unless identified through a prearranged meeting. It is expected that parents/guardians **contact the school by telephone first at (905) 713-6813 if assistance is required**. Visitors may only be allowed to enter upon invitation after they have reviewed the self-assessment notification posted at the front door.

Visitors are expected to sanitize their hands upon entry and wear a mask at all times. If visitors are invited to enter the office, they are kindly reminded to respect two-metres of physical distance at all times. As usual, all permitted visitors must confirm their arrival by signing in/out. If a parent/guardian needs to meet with the Principal or teacher, **the meeting must be scheduled in advance**.

## **Programs and Volunteers**

Our hot lunch program continues to be on hold until further notice.

## **Indoor Shoes**

Students are encouraged to bring indoor and outdoor shoes as our hooks and cubbies can be used.

## **Medical Forms**

If your child/children have medical needs such as an anaphylactic allergy or require the use of prescription or non-prescription medication, please visit our school website to download and fill out the forms prior to the start of school: <https://hst.ycdsb.ca/>

## **Safe Arrival**

Please continue to use our Safe Arrival System to report absences and late arrivals before 8:25 a.m. of the school day. Please call **1-855-865-7862** or access the system online at <https://go.schoolmessenger.com>

Secondly, please ensure that you have a pick-up plan in place in the event that your child is not feeling well and needs to be picked up.

## **Class Placements**

Parents can expect to receive their child(ren)'s class placement via email on the evening of Tuesday, September 7th, 2021

**Thank you for your cooperation and support  
as we work together to keep our children safe.**