



HARRIET TUBMAN PUBLIC SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER 2021

Welcome Back

Our staff extends a warm welcome back to our school community. We hope that everyone enjoyed a healthy and relaxing summer! Thank you to Mrs. Smith, Ms. Whitaker and their caretaking team for making our school spic and span for our first day back! Thank you to Mrs. Vanzalen, Ms. Moreau and Mrs. Corfield for all of their efforts helping staff and students get ready for our new school year!

We know that the school year is again going to be different this year but our goal for this year is to create a return to school that is welcoming, inviting, safer and a more inclusive space for our students. We will focus on safety and well being as well as establishing routines in the classroom, procedures to maintain safety and expectations of student behaviour.



**** RETURN TO SCHOOL PROTOCOLS ****

This year the return to school will look very different for our students and staff. We are excited to be welcoming back so many North Stars who were in the virtual school last year. Many of the changes that have been made are based on advice and protocols that have been communicated to us by the Niagara Regional Public Health Department as well as the Ministry of Education. Please take some time to read through this newsletter so you and your child(ren) will know what to expect when you return to school.



WHO WILL MY CHILD'S TEACHER BE THIS YEAR?

We have been working on class lists this week and they are just about done! We are so excited to have 96% of our students returning to in person learning. We are equally excited to have new North Stars registering at our school. Please expect an introductory email from your child's teacher by the end of the day Thursday, September 7. If you don't get an email please call the school on Friday, September 3 and our admin assistants will be happy to tell you who your child's teacher is.



MASKS

All students in grades 1-8 will be expected to wear a mask while they are in the classroom as well as in the hallways and washrooms. Students may take off their masks to eat as well as when they are outdoors for fitness/nutritional breaks. Students are encouraged to have two masks, one to leave at school and one for "to and from" school. A labelled ziplock bag or tupperware container can be used for mask storage at school. While lanyards have been considered by many schools for temporary mask relief, they are not suggested as an option for mask storage while outside.

Students in Kindergarten are not required to wear a mask but we encourage parents to consider having their children wear a mask at school. Students are expected to provide their own mask.

MORNING ENTRY PROCEDURES

VERY IMPORTANT: *In order for all of our students to arrive in a safe and distanced manner we ask that you carefully read the plans below as they pertain to your child.*

Our parking lot can become very congested at both the beginning of the day as well as at the end of the day. We STRONGLY encourage our families to walk to school whenever possible to reduce congestions as well as promote social distancing.

KINDERGARTEN:

Our kindergarten students can arrive at school anytime AFTER 8:25 am. As students arrive a staff member will greet you and your child at the courtyard gate. The staff member will walk your child to their class community area where they will wait on a designated spot until the 8:40 am bell for student entry. If there are many students being dropped off at one time please line up on a “dot” on the sidewalk to maintain distancing and wait for a staff member to greet your child. Parents/Guardians will not be permitted to enter the courtyard area. We will have many staff supporting the morning drop off to make the transition for you and your child a smooth one. Please prepare your child in advance that they will have to say “goodbye” at the courtyard. * Please note: Students in K6 will be dropped off and dismissed at the gate on Pleasant Ave between the kindergarten courtyard and the tarmac area.



DO NOT ARRIVE TO SCHOOL TOO EARLY!

We will need time to set up zones and markings to be ready to greet your children. Due to the need to prevent crowding, and taking up space in the yard, parents will not be permitted on the school yard. There will be designated drop off areas. Our top priority is the health and safety of our students, staff and school community. It is essential we plan for spacing and minimize direct and indirect contacts with staff and other students. Thank you for doing your part to model physical distancing and your help to keep our school community safe.

Grades 1-8 Walking/Biking Students:

All students who walk or bike to school will arrive at the entrance on Dufferin Street. Students will be greeted by a staff member who will direct them to their classroom community circle on the field. Students will remain with their classroom community until the bell rings. Classroom teachers will walk their students into the school.

Students Who are Bussed:

All students who take the bus to school will arrive at the entrance on Pleasant Avenue. Students will be greeted by a staff member who will direct them to their classroom community circle on the field. Students will remain with their classroom community until the bell rings. Classroom teachers will walk their classes into the school.

***PLEASE NOTE: Parents/guardians will not be permitted onto the school property at entry or dismissal. We thank you in advance for your understanding, patience and cooperation.*

END OF DAY PROCEDURES

Kindergarten:

Kindergarten students will be escorted to the kindergarten courtyard one class at a time where students will be released into the care of their parent/guardian. Adults who are picking students up are asked to wait on a designated spot on the sidewalk until their child is brought to the courtyard gates. Please be patient as this process will take some time. K6 students will be dismissed at the gate on Pleasant Avenue.

Grades 1-8 Walking/Biking Students:

We have allocated different gates for various grade levels as exit points. This will eliminate the congregation of parents/guardians who are picking up students. Please see the map below which shows where parents/guardians can meet their children.

Students who are bussed:

Bussed students will line up at the tarmac at a designated spot and will be escorted to their assigned bus as it arrives.



ATTENDANCE

Please note that due to starting our days outside, attendance calls will start a bit later.



ENTRY

Enhanced health and safety protocols will be in place.

From the class waiting zones, there will be a staggered entry.

Students will be reminded to physically distance and put on masks.

Students will go directly to the homeroom classroom where they will wash their hands and/or use hand sanitizer provided.



TIMETABLES

Each homeroom teacher will provide a 10-day timetable for every student. Please note, our lunches will be staggered this year

CLASSROOM SETUP

Classroom sizes vary across the DSBN, but schools have already removed unnecessary furniture and will be setting up desks with as much distancing as possible, and to allow teachers as much instruction space as possible. Desks will be faced forward rather than in circles or groupings and staggered.



WASHROOM BREAKS

Students will have access to washrooms as needed and during nutrition and fitness breaks. All washrooms have age specific signage to coach students on handwashing expectations. The DSBN is committed to ensuring a clean and healthy washroom environment with enhanced cleaning.





BREAKFAST CLUB / LUNCH PROGRAM

We will begin to offer our Breakfast and Lunch program on September 20. It will be a grab and go service where prepackaged healthy snacks will be provided to our students in the morning when they arrive at school as well as at our second nutritional break for lunch.



LATE ARRIVAL PROCESS

We know that there are some mornings that despite best efforts being made, students occasionally arrive late. In the past parents would walk students into the office to get an admit class slip. To ensure the health and safety of students, staff and parents, ALL students who arrive late will buzz the office and wait for an admin assistant to let the student into the building. Parents/guardians will not be permitted to enter the building with the student(s). Please be aware that entry may take some time depending on the number of students who require entry. We appreciate your patience as we work through this new process.



PARENTS / VISITORS ENTERING THE BUILDING

At this time the Public Health Department has mandated that parents and visitors not enter the school building. If you need to meet with a staff member please call our office to make an appointment.



LUNCH DROP OFF

We know that some parents like to drop student lunches off at the office before our nutritional breaks. We request that students arrive at school with their lunch and snacks. To limit contact with our staff we ask that parents/guardians not drop off lunches throughout the day.



CELL PHONES

Students will not be using lockers this year. Therefore, cell phones will be kept in student backpacks during instructional and break times. Students may bring a cell phone to school knowing it cannot be locked in a locker. The school will not be responsible for damages, misplaced or stolen cell phones.



SCHOOL SUPPLIES

All learning supplies needed for school will be provided.

For school, students will need:

- nut free snack / nut free lunch
- headphones
- refillable water bottle
- indoor shoes

We know students like to buy special school supplies. They are still welcome to do so! Please send them in a labelled pencil case or ziplock bag. They will not be shared with other students. Suggested items include:

- crayons (K-3), Pencil crayons (Gr 4-8)
- pencil
- eraser
- scissors
- glue stick
- ruler (Gr 3-8)
- calculator (Gr 3-8)



COMMUNICATION

Student agendas will be provided to all students this year. The agenda is a great communication tool between home and school. Please make a habit of checking your child's agenda on a regular basis.



TECHNOLOGY RETURNS

A number of our students (in person and virtual) borrowed ChromeBooks and library books last year. If you borrowed a device from either Harriet Tubman or the Virtual School please return the device as soon as possible. There will be bins in the front foyer for the return of the ChromeBooks. If a parent is returning the items please come to the front door and let our admin assistants know you are returning borrowed items. They will direct you to the correct bin.



WATER FOUNTAINS

For the health and safety of our students, all water fountains in our school will be closed. The water bottle filling part of the fountain will be available to our students. Please send a refillable water bottle with your child to school so they have water to drink throughout the day. This is especially important as we will be encouraging our staff to take their classes outdoors several times a day while we have great weather.



LOST AND FOUND

For Health and Safety reasons we are not permitted to have a lost and found for the time being. Please ensure that you label clothing and materials with your child's name to ensure we can return found items to students.



SAFE & QUICK ZONE PROGRAM

The Safe & Quick Zone allows parents to drop off children for school in a safe and efficient manner. It is a "Safe & Quick" way to drop off your children at school without parking and getting out of your car! To do so we need the cooperation of staff, students and most of all parents, grandparents or guardians who are dropping off their children for school each morning.

HOURS: School Staff will be in place, wearing orange traffic safety vests, between 8:25 and 8:40 am. AND 3:05 and 3:10 pm

LOCATION: Corner where George and Dufferin Streets meet. Please enter the "Staging Zone" from George Street heading north on to Dufferin.



A FEW IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

- September 7th ~ First Day of School
- September 17th ~ All first week forms returned to office
- September 20th ~ Breakfast and Lunch Program begins
- September 30th - Orange Shirt Day

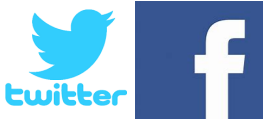




BELL TIMES

8:25	Supervision begins	
8:40	Entry bell	
9:00	Period 1	
9:40	Period 2	Group One Nutritional/Fitness Break (Gr 1, & 2 /3)
10:20	Period 3	Group Two Nutritional/Fitness Break (Gr 3-5)
11:00	Period 4	Group Three Nutritional/Fitness Break (Gr 6-8)
11:40	Period 5	Group One Nutritional/Fitness Break
12:20	Period 6	Group Two Nutritional/Fitness Break
1:00	Period 7	Group Three Nutritional/Fitness Break
1:40	Period 8	
2:20	Period 9	
3:00	Dismissal	

Our nutritional and fitness breaks will be staggered this year to ensure physical distancing.



WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Our school website, harriettubman.dsbm.org, will answer most of your frequently asked questions.

- Here you will also find our TWITTER feed, if you don't have a smartphone.
- You can also "like" or "follow" us on our Facebook page.
- Go to Twitter and check out the amazing things happening DAILY at our school via @htubman2015. Many of our staff also have accounts so you can get a glimpse into our classes each day



COLLECTION OF FUNDS & PERMISSION FORMS

School Cash Online enables you to use your debit or credit card to make quick and easy payments. We also use School Cash Online to obtain permission for school events. To access the system, click on the "School Cash" button on our school website. Parents that do not bank online are always welcome to come into the office to pay for items. PLEASE NOTE: The usual Welcome Back to School package that contains important forms to complete including a Student Verification Form along with Board forms that must be completed by all families will be completed through School Cash Online this year. We will email you when the forms will be sent to you through School Cash Online.



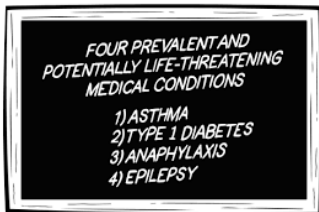
DSBN DRESS CODE

Everyone has their own unique style and aesthetic. We celebrate students' individuality and respect their ability to express themselves.

Our only expectation is that all students come to school dressed appropriately for a learning environment.

When deciding on what clothes your child will wear, we ask that all members of our school community are mindful of:

- ~Health and safety considerations
- ~The dignity and well-being of all students and staff (i.e. clothing that is free of inappropriate or discriminatory imagery or wording)



PREVALENT MEDICAL CONDITIONS

If you have a child with a prevalent medical condition (Anaphylaxis, Asthma, Diabetes, and/or Epilepsy or others) we want to make sure we have a current Plan of Care to support your child.

All parents of children with prevalent medical conditions are asked to fill out the new Plan of Care and submit to the school. You can download the forms at dsbn.org/prevalent-medical-conditions For more information, please contact the school



CONCUSSIONS

The DSBN has a concussion policy and procedures to support proper prevention, identification, management, and return to learn strategies. The DSBN engages in concussion education in a variety of ways, including recognizing Rowan’s Law Day commemorated on the last Wednesday in September to raise awareness about concussions. If your child has sustained a suspected or actual concussion while not at school, please contact the school.



MENTAL HEALTH & WELL-BEING

Mental health and well-being is an important factor in student success. Learning to form healthy relationships, maintain physical health, academic engagement, and educational achievement are all impacted by mental health and well-being. Students mental health and well-being is supported in a variety of ways:

- Helping students feel safe and included
- Instilling a sense of belonging and connectedness
- Working with them to feel confident in their identity



SPECIAL EDUCATION

Special education supports and programs are responsive to the strengths and needs of each student ensuring a successful learning environment for all. Working together and collaborating with parents as a team to support our students is essential to achieving success. For more information please contact your child’s homeroom teacher.



USE OF TECHNOLOGY FOR LEARNING

To enhance the learning and empowerment of our students and maintain an effective and safe electronic learning environment, the DSBN requires that all students follow the rules and responsible use of technology as stated in the Digital Citizenship Agreement signed by both parents and students at the beginning of the school year. Students who choose to bring a device to school do so at their own risk and must accept responsibility for its care. We will not be held responsible for damage, loss or theft. **Devices are to be placed in backpacks upon arrival on school property. If parents need to contact their child throughout the day, please contact the office.*



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER AND CALENDAR

Our monthly newsletter and calendar will be published monthly and posted on our website. Many classroom teachers also provide a monthly newsletter at the beginning of each month to share classroom news.



HAVE YOU SIGNED UP TO RECEIVE SMS TEXTS AND EMAILS FROM US?

Last year we started sending SMS messages to parents/guardians sharing important school information and reminders. If you are not receiving texts from our school & would like to please send a text message to 978338 with “Yes” or “Y” to opt-in, so you can start receiving text messages. Another way we communicate with our families is through email. When you receive the Student Verification Form to review please ensure we have your email address so that you can stay up to date with our communication to families.

We look forward to working with students, families and the community to ensure the success of all of our students. Together, we can accomplish great things! Looking forward to a great 2021-2022 school year!

Your 2021-22 North Star Staff

Below is a staff list of our North Star team!

	FIRST	LAST	GRADE
Ms.	Maureen	Rackal	K1
Ms	Allyson	Slee	K2
Mr.	Michael	Clark	K3
Ms.	Karen	Koop	K4
Ms.	Joanna	Nikkel	K5
Ms.	Liana	Vitaterna	K6
Ms.	Nelli	Isaak	1-1
Ms.	Sherry	Coens	1-2
Ms.	Jennifer	DiPietro	1-3
Ms.	Chrisanne	Costantino	1/ 2
Ms.	Kristen	Bombay	2-1
Ms.	Kathryn	Pyper	2-2
Ms.	Ashley	Keir	2-3
Ms.	Deanna	L'Ecuyer	3-1
Ms.	Brittany	Harding	3-2
Ms.	Rachel	Herridge	3-4
Ms.	Daniela	Maiuri	4-1
Ms.	Sarah	Morrison	4-2
Mr.	Bonnie	Campbell	4 /5
Ms	Laura	Boles	5-1
Ms.	Nikki	Haight	5-2
Mr.	Kyle	Fraser	6-1
Ms.	Kaitlyn	Paddock	6-2
Ms.	Terrin	Covello	6 /7
Mr.	Rob	Mead	7-1
Mr.	Ahmad	Khan	7-2
Mr.	Adolfo	Diiorio	8-1
Mr.	Matt	Rocca	8-2
Ms.	Brittany	Eckhardt	Library
Ms.	Michelle	Watters	FSL
Mr.	Kevon	Strachon	FSL/Prep
Mr.	Mike	Hendsbee	Kindergarten Prep
Mr.	John	Stavina	Primary Prep

Ms.	Deb	McLean	LRT
Ms.	Andrea	Payne	LRT
Mr.	Zac	Reimer	Bridge
Ms	Debbie	Roper	K1
Ms.	Shirley	Delaney	K2
Ms.	Charmaine	Clark	K3
Ms.	Erin	Bryans	K6
Ms.	Jillian	Camilleri	K5
Ms.	Jennifer	Furlong	K4
Ms.	Kara	Fidley	EA
Ms.	Haley	Wall	EA
Ms.	Peggy	Denee	EA
Ms.	Amina	Shekhali	EA
Ms.	Rachel	Sorley	EA
Ms.	Yoko	Hurst	EA
Ms.	Nazifa	Sadozai	EA
Ms.	Karen	Weihs	EA
Ms.	Debra	Brown	EA
Ms,	Leah	Kershaw	EA
Ms	Kathy	Moreau	Admin Assistant
Ms.	Michelle	Vanzalen	Admin Assistant
Ms.	Donna	Corfield	Admin Assistant
Mr	Tom	Reynolds	Vice Principal
Ms.	Erin	Mendonca	Vice Principal
Ms	Charlene	Hadfield	Principal
Ms.	Karen	Cuttriss	Coach
Ms.	Joanne	Mestek	Youth Counsellor
Ms.	Cheryl	Bechard-Howe	Social Worker
Ms.	Aubrie	Smith	Caretaker
Ms.	Doris	Whittaker	Caretaker
Ms.	Kenady	Mulder	Caretaker
Ms.	Shelby	Klodnicki	Caretaker

Ms.	Judy	Ingram	Lunch Supervisor
Ms.	Tammy	Goodman	Lunch Supervisor
Ms.	Brandie	Lovrencic	Lunch Supervisor
Ms.	Gerry	Tan	Lunch Supervisor
Ms.	Bobbi	Pretty	Lunch Supervisor