



30 Appleseed Drive  
Antigonish, N. S.  
B2G 3B6  
[www.aec.srce.ca](http://www.aec.srce.ca)

# Antigonish Education Centre

"Growing and Learning Together"

April Weaver, Principal  
Sean Barker, Vice Principal  
902-867-8800(P)  
902-867-8804 (Fax)

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August 27, 2020

Dear Families:

The staff of Antigonish Education Centre staff hope you and your family are enjoying a safe summer. School is back in session on Tuesday, September 8, 2020, and our pre-primary children return on Thursday, September 3, 2020. After almost six (6) months apart, we are so very excited to welcome you back.

With COVID-19 rates at low levels, we will return to school following the full opening model outlined in Nova Scotia's Back to School Plan. If you have not yet had a chance to review the Plan, you can find it along with additional information and resources for families and a list of back to school frequently asked questions at [www.novascotia.ca/backtoschool](http://www.novascotia.ca/backtoschool).

We know you have a lot of questions. We do not have all the answers at this time, and the answers we give now may change depending on the health of Nova Scotians. If conditions change, our approach will change, including a possible move to either a blended learning model or an at-home learning model. The direction to move to a different learning model will be given by Public Health as they assess COVID-19. Should this happen, we will let you know as soon as possible.

As you may have already heard, there are some key changes coming to school in September. These include but are not limited to:

- Non-medical mask use for all children, students and staff who ride a school bus.
- Non-medical mask use for all students in Grades 4 to 12 and all staff, when they are unable to physically distance.
- Frequent and enhanced cleaning in our schools including high-touch surfaces and common areas.
- Increased handwashing and sanitizing as students enter and exit school and throughout the day.

While these measures will become commonplace in schools across our province, I want to provide you with more details about what your child's day will look like in our school this year. Please review the attached document called, **Back to School Parent Information for 2020-2021**. This resource highlights some of the specific changes you and your family need to be aware of for the upcoming school year.

The staff of AEC will share more information before classes resume related to:

Your child's teacher(s) for the upcoming year

Use of technology – devices and login information

Chartwells food service options

New routines for essential visitors to the school

Two videos posted on the AEC Twitter feed to highlight new school routines

An AEC COVID-19 Handbook for Families

We realize there is a lot of information about new routines and changes and the upcoming school opening will look a bit different than we have experienced in the past. Although school routines will be different, students will continue to receive the same quality education, services and supports. Our staff will meet students where they are in their learning and support them in the transition to their new grade level.

Our school will continue to be a welcoming, safe and inclusive learning environment where we focus on building community, student well-being and overall student success. When you are speaking with your child about coming back to school, please let them know we are excited to see them again.

Working together, we can all help children and students feel safe and supported when they return to school. Let's keep the lines of communication open to make this a positive and successful year. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have specific questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

April Weaver