



Antigonish Education Centre

"Growing and Learning Together"

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Principal Message to Families/School Advisory Council Members

September 2, 2020

Dear Families:

Further to the detailed information I provided last week, I wanted to share some further details with you before we officially welcome you back and return to school.

First, I would like to acknowledge the great work of our staff who have been busy preparing classrooms, learning spaces and common areas to comply with public health protocols as outlined in the Nova Scotia Back to School Plan. I would also like to thank Strait Regional Centre for Education regional office staff for their ongoing support in helping us implement the Plan.



To give you a glimpse into some of the changes in our school, I have included a few photos.

I would also like to highlight the following additional details:

With a focus on health and safety, equity for all learners, well-being, mental health and academic progress, our staff will meet children and students where they are in their learning and support them in the transition to their new grade level. I want to assure you our staff will take the necessary time to help children and students become familiar with our new school routines and expectations.

We know the last several months have not been easy. As we continue to adjust and learn to do things differently, I want to remind you that our teachers, school administrators, school counsellors, school psychologists and SchoolsPlus staff are available to help and support all learners as they return to school.

As we included in last week's message, please take a few minutes to help us prepare by reminding your children about the new procedures, key changes and public health protocols that are in effect this year as part of your getting ready to return to school routine including:

✓ **Daily At-Home Monitoring and Self-Screening for COVID-19 Symptoms**

- It is very important children/students stay home when they are ill, even if their symptoms are mild. **Families must monitor and self-screen children for COVID-19 symptoms daily, before sending them to school and/or on the school bus using the COVID-19 Daily Checklist** that I provided to you last week.
- No student will be penalized for attendance if they miss school because they are unwell and need to stay home.

✓ **Hand hygiene practices and proper handwashing procedures**

- A reminder that children/students will wash/sanitize hands when entering/exiting the school; before/after eating, and regularly throughout the day.

✓ **Cough/sneeze etiquette**

- Practice cough etiquette by coughing and sneezing into your sleeve or a tissue and discard immediately and wash/sanitize your hands.

✓ **Mask wearing**

- Please review how to wear a non-medical mask properly and the importance of wearing it with your children.
- Following Public Health direction, **pre-primary children and students in Grades Primary to 3 are not required to wear a mask while in school.** They may do so if they wish. Staff working with pre-primary to Grade 3 students must wear a mask when interacting with students when they cannot physically distance.
- **All students in Grades 4 to 12 and school staff are required to wear a mask if they cannot physically distance from others, even when they are in a classroom with their cohort.** That is, students in Grades 4 to 12 will wear a mask unless they are:
 - seated in the classroom at a distance of 2 metres/6 feet from others facing in the same direction
 - eating or drinking
 - participating in indoor physical activity where a mask cannot be worn.
- **All children and students who travel by bus, regardless of age, and staff are required to wear non-medical masks while riding the bus.** Children and students must wear the mask until they get off the bus and can clean their hands.
- Masks are not required for any children/students during outdoor activities.
- We know it may take time for some children/students to get used to wearing a mask, and some children/students with sensory or health issues may not be able to tolerate wearing a mask.
- **All children, students and staff will be provided with two reusable masks on their first day back to school.** It is recommended that you bring your own

masks, whenever possible, however, we will ensure additional masks are available to those who need one or who may forget theirs.

✓ **Physical distancing**

- Please maintain physical distancing of two metres/six feet when and where required.



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.

We will continue to share information with you through school-based alerts, our school newsletters, website www.aec.srce.ca and through our social media accounts on our Twitter account, @AntEdCentre.

Please do not hesitate to call me at 902-867-8800 or email me at april.weaver@srce.ca if you have specific questions or concerns.

We can't wait to welcome our students and children back!

Sincerely,

April Weaver

