

## **General Information for Parents:**

**First Day of School-** September 8th.

### **School Supplies/Fees:**

Grades **5** and **6** students were given a **school supply list** in September (list is posted on our school website as well). Parents are required to purchase supplies from the list provided and pay **\$7** to the school for an agenda which has already been purchased by the school.

Grade **K** and **1-** Teachers have purchased school supplies for each child in their class. Parents are asked to pay a fee of **\$40 per child**. No agendas were purchased for these grades.

Grades **2, 3** and **4-** Teachers have purchased supplies and agendas for students in their class. Parents are asked to pay **\$47 per child**.

School supply fees can be paid through our online lunch program once classes are set up (first week of school), send payment to school with their child, or parents can call/email the office to set up an appointment to come into the school to pay. Once payment is received, a receipt will be sent home.

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**Kindergarten Students-** Kindergarten students will not travel on the bus the first day of school and will have a staggered drop off time according to their class assignment. This will allow for parents to drop off their child in the bus parking area. The students will be greeted by a staff member and escorted to their classroom. Times are as follows:

KA- Mrs. MacLean- 9:00 am

KB- Mr. Dowling- 9:15 am

KC- Mrs. Conohan- 9:30 am

KD- Mrs. Hancock- 9:45 am

Note: K students will follow regular/scheduled end-of-day procedures re: bus or pick up.

**Grades 1-6-** Parents will be notified of their child's teacher, cohort, and the school entrance their child will need to use prior to the first day of school. This may be via phone call or email.

**New Students: Grade 1-6** students new to LM can be dropped off between 8:15 - 8:30 or come to school via regular bus. These students will be directed to the front entrance of the school where they will be greeted by a staff member and escorted directly to their classroom. Parents will be asked to remain in their vehicles.

**Buses vs Driving:**

**1) Parents may be able to drive their child to school in the am but may require bus in the afternoon, is this okay?**

Yes, students are able to take the bus to/ from school, and be picked up/dropped off. We only ask that you keep to your regular schedule as we are unable to accept daily changes to established routines.

**2) Situation where some days child goes to after school care, and other days goes home via bus, is the same notification required to be sent as in previous years?**

No, unfortunately we cannot accept 50-60 bus/notes, schedule changes per day like we have done in previous years. We are asking parents to provide the school with their schedule in September and adhere to that schedule. Daily changes can only be made for emergency purposes. For example: students that move between two households, the parents would provide the school with a weekly/biweekly schedule and bus/pick up plan for the year. For parents that work shift work that may change bi-weekly/monthly. A schedule would be provided to the school for that time period. If a change is required after a schedule is set, it will be the parents responsibility to arrange for pick up/drop off as per indicated in the schedule given to the school (ie. parents would arrange to meet the bus at the child's scheduled bus stop for that day or arrange for a family member to pick up).

**3) Carpooling situation - what happens with drop off / pick up times if one child is the 1st drop off time and another child the last time slot, can arrangements be made for different times to accommodate? Or with pick up, what takes place with kids from different cohorts needing to be picked up?**

Our suggested times for morning drop off will be as follows:

Child's last name beginning with A- Mac- 8:00 am - 8:15 am  
M-Z - 8:15 am- 8:30 am

After school pick up schedule will be the same for all students being picked up: buses will depart first, then students will be walked to their assigned pick up area at approximately 3pm.

A - Mac - Front Door Entrance Lane

M-Z - Bus Parking Lot

We realize, due to work schedules and carpooling, these times may not work for everyone depending on the day. To alleviate congestion, however, we ask parent/guardians, when possible, to adhere to these times as much as possible.

**4) Shift worker may be able to drive some days, but not others, is it best to say child will be bussed, then when possible, they will drive the child to school?**

Yes, it is best to keep the child assigned to a bus. All students that typically would ride a bus, will be provided a seat on a bus unless a parent indicates that *for an extended period of time* (ie: until Christmas, remainder of the school year) their child(ren) will be dropped off and picked up.

**5) Same shift worker may have a late drop off time based on the schedule, but would need an earlier time, is this okay or would the school prefer the child to be on the bus?**

**Essentially is the bus vs drive decision flexible and can it be changed if needed, or is it best to just keep bus spot?**

See above

**6) If a parent states in Sept they will drive their child to school as they are currently working from home, but in November this set up is no longer possible, will there be a bus option available?**

Yes, see above. However, as we anticipate our buses to be at or close to capacity, as much notice as possible that the child will require a seat on the bus would be appreciated.

**7) If there are set times for after school pick up, what happens during an emergency closure or early dismissal due to a storm? Or delayed start, are parents expected to use the same staggered drop offs which may be difficult as businesses and schools often open at the same time?**

As in previous years, we will ask parents to fill out an *Early Closure Plan* in September indicating where their child is to go in the event of an early school closure. Unlike in previous years, we will not be accepting changes to these plans once they are set (phone call to the school when early closure is announced, texts/calls to teacher). It will be the parents' responsibility to make arrangements to have their child met at the indicated point of drop off (bus stop/school). Please plan accordingly.

**7) Will the school be taking temperatures, or trusting that parents did not send a child to school with a fever or symptoms?**

Parents, students and staff will be asked to screen for symptoms every morning. All staff, students and visitors will be asked to stay home if they are feeling unwell. The school will **not** be doing whole school temperature checks. If a child/staff member becomes ill during the day temperatures *may* be taken as part of our symptom screening check.

**8) Recognizing the challenge of classroom dynamics, when placing kids in certain classes ( ie Grade 3-A, 3-B, 3-C ) has consideration been given to trying to keep some friends / family members together (to some degree), as they will not be able to play with the other classes ( friends ) necessarily on the playground. While it is recognized this will be a difficult year, the social connections with friends may be more important than ever and would be comforting to know a best buddy or cousin (who would be together outside of school hours) would have each other at school.**

Where possible, we have considered these requests. With 455+ students, it becomes extremely difficult to honor all requests and still follow CPHO guidelines. Teachers have provided their input in class assignments and have made an effort to have students in classes with those that they have built friendships with. Classes were also set up considering educational needs of students, EA /resource support required, etc. As always, school encourages social development in all students - friendships are made when children are given the chance to branch out and work with a variety of people! This year will be no different in this regard.

**9) Is there a suggestion on how to best store face masks? Will the school allow them to be clipped on the students clothes, use a lanyard or should they be placed in the desk, book bag, baggie? Will the masks really be effective if they are off and on and placed on surfaces numerous times a day, or is there a higher risk of contracting an illness with masks sitting on various surfaces during the day?**

Please refer to the following website for specific details:

<https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/health-and-wellness/wearing-non-medical-masks-community>

We strongly suggest that masks be kept in a ziplock baggie when not in use as per the guidelines stated in the previous website. Some parents have suggested that they may provide their child with a "fanny pack" to store their ziplock mask when not in use (similar to epi-pen storage). We encourage parents to practice the safe procedures for putting on/taking off masks with their child prior to the start of school. ***Don't forget to label your child's mask!***

**10) Is there a number of masks the school feels a child should have? Expect many lost masks, will they be discarded if lost? Sent to lost and found? Will the school have a supply if a child loses their only mask?**

Families are asked to provide each child with at least one non-medical mask that is clearly labelled with the child's name. Parents are welcome to provide an additional mask for their child. They will not be discarded if lost as long as they are labelled. They will be returned to the child and sent home for cleaning. If a child loses their mask, one will be provided only if they become ill.

**11) If cases are present / positive in a school, and affecting one area of the province, would just that area close ( ie. Summerside) yet other schools remain open? What will the protocol be for closing schools, 1 case, community spread in a school, etc?**

The Chief Public Health Office will investigate the case and work with school authorities to identify close contacts, create isolation measures and provide follow-up recommendations. Public Health Nursing will contact the parents of each child who has been identified as a close contact.

Staff, students and parents will be notified when there has been a positive case linked to their school community and this will be publicly announced as soon as the individual has been notified of their test result.

If a student is required to self-isolate, Department of Education will work with teachers to support the student to continue learning at home.

Only individuals who have been identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive will have to self-isolate and monitor for symptoms for 14 days.

Each school will be grouping or "cohorting" students to reduce the number of close prolonged contacts a student will have during the course of the school day. This will reduce the risk of transmission in a school community and prevent the shutdown of the entire school for weeks at a time if there is a positive case confirmed at the school.

**12) In the event schools are shut down, will there be a consistent approach to online curriculum, rather than each teacher completing their own online options? Found the content and practices this spring varied not only by school, but even within the school with teachers of the same grade level.**

The Department of Education will work with teachers to provide online learning options for students if necessary. We are waiting on more specific information from the Dept. of Education on how this.

**13) Will microwaves still be available in the classrooms?**

Yes microwaves will be available in classrooms, for heating purposes only (approx. 1 minute or less). Students will not be permitted to use microwaves housed outside their classroom as they may have done in previous years. Although hot meal options will be available, parents will be encouraged, as much as possible to pack healthy snack and lunch options for children that do not require microwave heating (Note: no frozen food, please!).

**14) School supply fees - is the school open to pay, or do we send cash with our child to cover costs as they were not paid yet?**

Please see information above regarding school supply fees.

**15) Will staggered times for drop off be announced soon, can't commit to driving if the time can't be flexible or changed if I am at a later time?**

Please see above.

**16) Will the school be contacting parents to confirm if they can drive or take the bus?**

Schools will not be contacting individual parents prior to the first day of school. As in the past, paperwork will be sent home with each child which contains information to be updated by parents. This includes pick-up/ drop off information. Parents can contact the PSB Transportation department or login to the Busplanner to find out bus # and times.  
(<https://psbbusing.princeedwardisland.ca/>)

**17) Will teachers be calling parents / students to let them know what class they are in, and what cohort so they know what doors to use and have a bit of knowledge before entering the school?**

Yes, parents will be notified via email or phone call prior to school starting.

**18) Can parents accompany new students ( kindergarten, new to the school) on the first day?**

On the first day, parents of kindergarten students will be asked to drop off their children in the bus parking lot at their designated time (see above). They will not be permitted to enter the school but can walk their child to the bottom of the K kindergarten stairs to be greeted by a staff member. Physical distancing will be required.

**New students-** see above note regarding drop off or bus arrival for students new to LM from grades 1-6.

**Symptoms:**

**1) What, if any, consideration will be given to chronic conditions that have the same symptoms of Covid? For example, asthma related cough will be more active with gym classes outside or with the crisp fall air; allergies can start at any time, outside with the falling leaves, scents, dust, etc. Children do experience headaches.**

**Is there a common sense approach to such symptoms, or will each runny nose or cough require testing?**

**And if testing is required each time, has consideration been given to the fear and trauma the testing may cause.**

Parents will be asked to share with the school any underlying conditions that their child may have that would cause them to present with similar symptoms to COVID-19. That being said, it is going

to be a judgement call on the school's part as to whether or not to call a parent for pick up. The school will not be arranging testing - it will be parents' responsibility to contact 811 or their health care provider to see if testing is required.

Symptoms of COVID-19 include:

- new or worsening cough
- shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- fever
- chills
- sore throat
- runny nose, sneezing, congestion
- headache
- muscle aches
- unusual fatigue
- acute loss of sense of smell or taste

**2) If a child tests negative, yet still has the symptoms, do they return to school?**

No, they would stay home if they remain ill and/or symptomatic as per CPHO Guidelines.

**3) Will there be a health questionnaire completed to identify those with asthma, migraines, allergies, etc who may present with symptoms on a regular basis?**

There is an area on the registration form that will be sent home on the first day of school for parents to identify any medical issues. If additional space is required, you are encouraged to attach a note to the form. *Please complete all areas required.* You may also contact your child's home room teacher via email.

**4) If a child is required to leave school and await testing, then self isolate until results are back, are there online supports and an expectation to "home school" during such times?**

Yes, online lessons will be provided.

**5) If a student has a parent who travels outside the Atlantic Bubble, and returns home to self isolate for 14 days, will online options be available to the child to keep up with work?**

Yes, online options will be available to students who are required to self isolate.

**6) Even though the child may not travel, is it expected they would remain in self isolation for the full two weeks (even in cases where the parent claims they can isolate away from other members of their household)?**

If the parent who has travelled outside the Atlantic bubble self isolates away from the child and other members of the household that are in contact with the child, then the child would not have to self isolate.

**7) Is the use of face shields permitted for those children who may be claustrophobic or have a health condition that is non conducive to a mask at all times?**

We would strongly encourage the use of masks where physical distancing may not be possible. Practicing the safe use of masks prior to students coming to school will support them in getting used to wearing the masks. In some circumstances, due to health reasons a face shield may be an option.

**8) How are asthmatics/children with respiratory issues being treated? They may present with symptoms similar to COVID-19. Will they be required to be tested?**

See above.

**9) If a parent decides to pull their child during the school because of concerns, are online supports available or would the parent be responsible for their own homeschooling curriculum?**

If a parent chooses to Home School for the remainder of the school year, they are required to contact the Department Of Education for curriculum materials and would be responsible to teach their own child(ren). If a child is required to stay home due to illness or self isolation then online lessons will be provided. In whatever approach a parent decides to take this year, in terms of schooling, it should be noted that consistency for the child is very important.

**10) How would a parent go about this? Should the parent inform the school in September of their intentions to homeschool in the event they feel it is no longer safe for their child to be at the school?**

Parents would be required to contact the Department of Education and should also contact the school so we are aware that their child will not be attending school.

**11) Are substitute teachers assigned to one school; if not, what precautions are in place to limit potential spread of illness to new cohorts?**

As of now, substitutes are not assigned to only one school. They are required to sign in upon arrival, which includes identifying that they have not traveled outside the Atlantic Bubble or are exhibiting any COVID-19 related symptoms. They are required to follow all CPHO guidelines while in the school.

**12) Will the buses have sanitizer available to students getting on / off the bus?**



Yes the buses will have hand sanitizers but students should wash their hands prior to boarding the bus in the morning and it is highly recommended that they wear a non-medical face mask while traveling on the bus and until they reach their classroom. Students will wash/sanitize their hands prior to boarding the buses at the end of the day.