



WELCOME BACK PANTHERS

Dear Parents/Guardians and Panthers:

As we all recall the 2019-2020 school year was definitely a year of change and challenges. Whether you were a parent, guardian, a student at JMSS, or a student at one of our grade 8 feeder schools, everyone made exceptional strides to get through a difficult second half of the year. The 2020-2021 school also promises to bring with it some new challenges and learning. Together, with patience and understanding, we are committed to working with all of our school community members to make this school year one to remember. We are hopeful that this year brings different outcomes and are excited to get back at it! Below I have outlined some key information for students and parents as we prepare for September.

For the full LKDSB COVID Return to School Plan please check the link at the top of the LKDSB website www.lkdsb.net or JMSS website [www.lkdsb.net/school/jmss/Pages/default.aspx#/="](http://www.lkdsb.net/school/jmss/Pages/default.aspx#/=). The information in this newsletter is current up until the time of posting. Please check the websites above regularly for any updates.

Here are some quick information snapshots:

- Please check your email (@lkdsb.com) and your parent's email for timetable information. We will be running in a Quadmester format, alternating weeks for individual classes. Greater detail can be found on pages 30 to 33 of the Return to School Plan (August 27 update).
- The LKDSB will be staggering the start of classes. Grade 9 students will begin at 8:05 am on Monday, September 14th. All other grades will begin on Tuesday September 15th.
- As per the Return to School Plan on a typical day:
 - Screening for COVID must occur each day prior to leaving for school. (more info below).
 - Upon arrival students will be asked to enter the building and report to their classroom. While in the building students will be required to wear non-medical masks. (Exemption info below)
 - Students will not be permitted to access their lockers so will then need to bring their belongings, including lunch, to their classroom.
 - All students are to remain at school for lunch (please be mindful of those that have food allergies). The cafeteria and vending machines will not be available.
 - Students will spend the entire day in their classroom, however teachers will be encouraged to make use of the outdoors as breaks or learning areas outside of the classroom.
 - Students will need to supply their own personal water bottles which can be filled at one of three water bottle filling stations in the school
- Registration: Currently, there will not be a face to face registration taking place. As well, school activity fees have been temporarily waived due to COVID. In the event that we return to normal school activities, the fees will be prorated at that time. For those that have already paid through school cash online, you have or will have received a refund.
- Phys. Ed Uniforms can be purchased for grade 9 students during the first week of classes. Your teacher will have more details. The cost of the uniform is \$30 for shorts and t shirt. (Cash, debit, or School Cash Online- info below)

- On the first day of school your child will receive:
 - Registration Verification forms: Please return these with any corrections by Friday September 18th.
 - CASL Consent Form and on the back the Permission Form for Personal Information. Please also return by September 18th.
 - If your child has a Prevalent Medical Condition, such as Asthma, Diabetes, Seizure Disorders or Anaphylaxis These forms may also be distributed. Please update the medical forms if changes have occurred, otherwise please sign and return. As well, if you did not receive forms and your child has one of these conditions, please contact the school so we can provide you with the proper documentation.

COVID-19 SCREENING (Must be done each day prior to leaving for school)

Parents may use the Ministry of Health's Ministry of Health's Ontario [COVID-19 self-assessment tool](#) for this purpose. If your child has any symptoms of COVID-19 or if they are ill, they should not attend school. You should report your child's absence from school by contacting us at 519-354-1740 ext. 11601 or via email at JMSS.Attendance@lkdsb.net. Students who become ill during the day will be isolated and must be picked up from school as soon as possible. Symptomatic students will not be able to use student transportation.

The most [common symptoms of COVID-19](#) (PDF) include:

- Fever (temperature of 37.8°C or greater)
- New or worsening cough
- Shortness of breath (dyspnea)

Other symptoms of COVID-19 can include:

- Sore throat
- Difficulty swallowing
- New olfactory or taste disorder(s)
- Nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain
- Runny nose, or nasal congestion (in absence of underlying reasons for these symptoms such as seasonal allergies, post nasal drip, etc.)

The Ontario Ministry of Health advises everyone to take an active role in protecting themselves from COVID-19. Here are a few things that you and your family can do:

- wash your hands often with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- sneeze and cough into your sleeve
- avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth
- avoid contact with people who are sick
- stay home and [isolate](#) if you or anyone in your household is sick

MASKING EXEMPTIONS

For students with pre-existing or underlying medical conditions or risk factors which prevent them from wearing a face covering, parents/guardians must contact the principal to discuss the process by which and exemption may be granted.

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

Parents should note that The Lambton Kent District School Board does **not** provide accident insurance for students. Application forms for student accident insurance covering accidental dental claims, out-of-province hospital coverage, private tuition, disability and rehabilitation benefits will be distributed to students in early September. Parents may use these as they see fit. www.insuremykids.com

SCHOOL CASH ONLINE is available

School Cash Online is a convenient, web-based solution that gives parents/guardians the ability to pay for student items online. Parents/guardians can make payments, print or view their receipts and their current account history all in real-time. Currently, School Cash Online has been implemented by 48 school boards across Ontario. Parents/guardians are encouraged to click on the link provided to create an account: <https://lkdsb.schoolcashionline.com/>

You can connect multiple students to your account; as well, multiple parents/guardians can be connected to an individual student. School staff will add items for your child for payment and indicate whether the item is optional or required. Parents will receive a notification when a new item has been added. School Cash Online provides multiple payment options, including eCheck (direct withdrawal from your bank account) or “MyWallet” (virtually add funds and reload like a gift card).

SCHOOL MESSENGER (formerly known as Synervoice)

This service can deliver a wide variety of messages by phone to enhance communication within our school community and improve our emergency preparedness. We believe that good attendance is an important factor contributing to the academic success of students. To keep you informed, whenever your child is marked absent from class a phone call will be made to your home phone. Upon receiving an absence notice, please call the school office or send in a written note to let us know the reason for the absence. We also use this system to inform you of Parent’s Night, interim reports and other important information that we believe you would be interested in hearing about to enhance communication and improve the quality of education for your child.

We look forward to seeing you in September. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact JMSS at 519-354-1740.

Sincerely

Don Zondag
Principal