



BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK
CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Message for Families – July 30, 2020

Dear Parents, Families, and Staff,

I am pleased to share with all of you today; that the Ministry of Education has announced their decision on which scenario they are mandating school boards across the province to follow when re-opening in September.

Boards have been directed to reopen schools under the 'normal school day routine' (everyday attendance) with enhanced public health protocols. **All students will return to school beginning September 8, 2020.**

Other important re-opening information from the Ministry:

- Students Grades JK – 3 are encouraged, but not required to wear cloth masks.
- All students, Grades 4 – 12 are required to wear cloth mask*.
- Medical masks and face shields will be provided to all educators.
- Medical masks will be provided to all other school and board staff.
- Physical distancing (one metre between students) will be practiced where possible.

The Ministry also announced that funding will be provided to boards for cleaning, screening and other health and safety measures.

As a parent, I am pleased that a decision has been made, and with this clarity provided by the Ministry of Education, we can finalize the implementation of our opening plan to include the new guidelines set out by the Ministry.

Although some may feel uncertainty around some of the elements of the Provincial government's direction, please know that Public Health Ontario has established protocols that that will be part of the plan that the Board will follow and implement.

Our Board continues to meet regularly with our local public health officials to ensure that the concerns of our students, staff, and parent are raised, and that our schools are as safe as possible for everyone.

Our final "*Return to School Plan*" that includes items such as bussing, suspected Covid-19 cases, outbreak protocols, and other critical items will be brought forward to the Board of Trustees at a Special Meeting of the Board on Monday, August 10, 2020 for final approval. Once that part of the process is complete, the Board will release all details to families and the community shortly thereafter.

I want to thank you again for your patience and understanding during these challenging times.

God bless,

Rick Petrella, Chair of the Board