



## MVEC “A Safe Return to School” Support Plan

During the Covid-19 Pandemic:

Helpful Tips for Families- Edition 2

### OUR CLASSROOMS AND WASHROOMS

- **Pre-Primary** will remain where it has been and will use the ‘boys school washrooms’ as their own
- **Grade P/1** will remain where it has always been as it has a sink and a self-contained washroom
- **Grade 1/2** will also remain where it has always been as it has a sink and a self-contained washroom
- **Grade 3/4** will remain where it has been and use the room next to it as needed, as it has its own sink and the ‘girls school washrooms’ will be used as their own, one at a time for toilet use, and two at a time for handwashing
- **Grade 4/5** will enjoy the music room as it has its own sink, and will use the ‘boys’ community wing washrooms’ as their own, one at a time for toilet use, and two at a time for handwashing
- **Grade 6** will enjoy the use of our cafeteria as their classroom, and it has its own sink, and will use the ‘girls community wing’ washrooms as their own, one at a time for toilet use, and two at a time for handwashing

## OUR EXITS AND ENTRANCES

\***P/1 and 1/2** will report to the '**main doors**' upon arrival and departure from school

\***4/5 and 6** will report to the '**community wing doors**' upon arrival and departure from school

\***Pre-Primary and 3/4** will report to the '**DNR doors**' upon arrival and departure from school

They will be greeted by their teachers, asked to stand an arms' length apart and will proceed to sanitize hands and get settled in class.

## OUTBREAK CONSIDERATIONS

- An essential part of the Back to School plan is to maximize time spent outdoors. More classes (including Physical Education) will be held outdoors, when possible, to encourage physical movement, support our students' well-being, breathe fresh air and have fun. This, along with taking care of ourselves in other way, will be important to our continued wellness. Dressing for the weather is **strongly recommended**, as we will all go out regularly without exception.
- We understand a detailed 'outbreak management protocol' is being developed by the province for use by all schools.
- In the meantime, a staff member who is concerned that a student is exhibiting signs of illness will report this to the school administrator for follow-up.
- The administrator will then contact parents/guardians and asked to pick up their child **immediately**. It is very important to ensure that your **contact information and other emergency contacts** for your child are kept **up to date with the school** during the school year.

- Please use the doors nearest the staff parking lot for picks up, as we are for drop offs, rather than the main ones; **avoid the bus loop please**. Families will be required to follow public health protocols at all times.
- Students will be removed from class to a 'sick room' within the main office, where they will be supervised until they are picked up. The student will be provided with a disposable mask to wear while waiting, as well as assistance as necessary. The space will be disinfected once the child has departed.

If your child exhibits COVID symptoms, contact 811 to receive advice from Public Health on what to do next, including if/when the child can return to school. If a COVID-19 case is identified, Public Health will provide direction to the school and HRCE on communicating with families.

### HRCE CALENDAR

The school calendars have been posted to the HRCE website and can therefore be viewed through the following link:

[https://www.hrce.ca/sites/default/files/hrsb/hrce\\_school\\_calendar\\_2020-21.pdf](https://www.hrce.ca/sites/default/files/hrsb/hrce_school_calendar_2020-21.pdf)

### NEW PRIMARY STUDENTS

- We understand the start of the school year is different for families of primary students having had no family meeting, school tour or orientation session; we, like you, wish this were different. Please be assured there will be many staff on hand to welcome your child off the bus (**please do not visit the schoolyard**), support them in getting to their classroom and helping them to feel safe, secure and settled.
- We ask that you please provide them a **name tag to wear on their shirt for the first day**, as well as **one on their backpack with their bus number or driver on it**. If you are not sure about their transportation information, we can always fill it in for you once they arrive.

- In the meantime, do not hesitate to forward questions to me (rlegge@hrce.ca) or Mrs. Keddy, or Primary teacher (keddys@hrce.ca). The HRCE Primary Kit may also be helpful in the days ahead:  
<https://www.hrce.ca/sites/default/files/hrsb/Departments/SchoolAdmin/PrimaryKit/20/20/index.html?page=1>

### SCHOOL SUPPLY DROP OFF

- In the event it is helpful, families are welcome to drop off their child's school supplies off in a **WELL-MARKED BAG, indicating the child's FIRST and LAST name, their GRADE and TEACHER, on Tuesday, September 1 from 10-2.**
- We ask that you **wear a mask, apply social distancing, enter through the main doors and exit through the 'staff parking lot' doors.** Please leave supply bags outside your child's classroom, which will be marked for your ease.

### LIBRARY BOOKS

- A note from our Librarian, Ms. Erskine: If you have an unreturned library book from last year, we are happy to accept them 😊

### MEDICAL FORMS

Please remember to complete and sign the necessary medical forms if your child has a **life-threatening allergy or other medical condition.** These forms, along with epi-pens and necessary medication, need to be completed the best you can and returned with your child **on the first day of school.** The forms will also soon be available on our school website, and can also be mailed to you with a call to our main office 902-384-2555.

- ***Administration of Medication***  
([https://ple.hrce.ca/sites/default/files/websites/ple.hrce.ca/basic-page/2019/10/form\\_a\\_-\\_administration\\_of\\_prescribed\\_medication\\_to\\_students\\_2.pdf](https://ple.hrce.ca/sites/default/files/websites/ple.hrce.ca/basic-page/2019/10/form_a_-_administration_of_prescribed_medication_to_students_2.pdf))
- ***Anaphylaxis Emergency Plan***  
([https://ple.hrce.ca/sites/default/files/websites/ple.hrce.ca/basic-page/2019/10/anaphylaxis\\_emergency\\_plan.pdf](https://ple.hrce.ca/sites/default/files/websites/ple.hrce.ca/basic-page/2019/10/anaphylaxis_emergency_plan.pdf))
- ***Epi-Pen Waiver (attached to email)***

- **HRCE Life-Threatening Allergies Policy**  
(<https://ple.hrce.ca/sites/default/files/websites/ple.hrce.ca/basic-page/2019/10/hrce-life-threatening-allergies.pdf>)

## TRANSPORTATION

If your child normally rides the bus, you are encouraged to sign up to receive notifications at <https://hrcetransportation.mybusplanner.ca/> and to contact STUDENT TRANSPORTATION at 902-464-2000 to arrange for service if you are new to the school and have not yet done so. There is also much info available about this on the HRCE site.

Also, a wise parent asked about pick up for those transporting students. You will meet your child at 2:50pm in the same place you dropped them off, near the DNR/Staff Parking lot doors, bearing in mind it may take a few minutes for them to get to you 😊

## CELEBRATION OF DIVERISTY AND ANTI-RACISM: A Commitment from MVEC

We believe that one of the strongest tools that we have to combat racism is education, both for our students and ourselves. Something that recent situations has brought to the surface is that, although we do try to weave anti-racism into our daily experiences, we can, and need to, do more. In the coming months and years, we commit to the values of social justice and anti-racism, and to be active in defending those values.

In response to the difficult and sad events that have happened in the U.S., here are some further resources that may be supportive:

- [Parent Toolkit: How to Talk to Kids about Race and Racism](#)
- [Resources for parents](#)
- [National Geographic: Talking to kids about race](#)
- [How to Talk to your kids about Race](#)
- [Parents: Anti-Racism for Kids: An Age-by-Age Guide to Fighting Hate](#)

## FAMILY DECISION

We know, understand and do not take personally (😊) the fact some families are considering whether to send their children to school or to home-school (<https://www.ednet.ns.ca/homeschooling/>). The next deadline appears to be September 20.

We recognize the challenges of making this decision. It is for this reason I have written ALL I CAN, here, in this lengthy document, to help allay your concerns. Please contact any member of your MVEC family who may help if you have unanswered questions (our email addresses are on our school website), or to discuss a specific situation related to your child's education. *We are here to help!*

### A PARTING MESSAGE

We understand the contents of this letter represents many changes, but none of them are insurmountable; there are just many of them 😊 We will learn as we go, support each other toward improved hygiene practices and provide the best learning environments we can, as always.

Together in Teamwork- Robin Legge, Principal



Grades 3/4 and 1/2 respectively, in the pics above. The Grade 3/4 class also has a class immediately next door, with an adjoining door and an EPA, to it to promote social distancing.