

SAFE RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN

Welcome back to Hatzic Middle School

We are thrilled to have you all back with us! The Health and Safety of our students and staff will be our number one priority as we head into the 2020-2021 school year. This document is intended to provide families with an overview of the measures that we will be taking at H.M.S. to ensure that students and staff will be safe.

The school board office and our local health and safety committees will continually review these guidelines and they will be adjusted as more information becomes available. Thank you for your understanding.

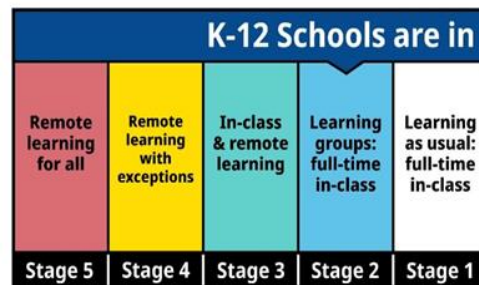


Learning Groups

A **Learning Group** is a group of students and staff who remain together throughout the year. Within the learning group, physical contact is discouraged, but a two-meter physical distance does not need to be maintained. For the most part, learning groups consist of 2 classes (aka platoons) of students. Each learning group will be a maximum of 60 students.

Interactions with those outside of the learning group will be limited and will require the two-meter physical distancing and the wearing of masks.

Any staff not included in the learning group (LST, SLP, Indigenous Liaison Workers, Counsellors, Youth Care Workers, Teacher Librarian, TTOCs, etc.) will distance themselves from students when working with them, whether in the Classroom or in an alternate learning space.



→ B.C. K-12 Restart Plan

→ COVID-19 Guidance for K-12 School Settings

Attendance

HMS students will have the opportunity to be in school full-time, 4.5 days per week. Wednesday will be a half day (am only). However, we know parents are considering many options. HMS will hold seats for students that enroll in Summit Learning Centre for 2020. Please be aware that whenever students transfer schools or programs, there is inevitable loss of learning and delays in returning to class. Further, in order to honour the seat holding plan, it is expected students enrolled in Summit DL fully engage in that program if they wish to return to their regular school in the future.

EDUCATION OPTIONS FOR FAMILIES IN MISSION

Please see below for a variety of options parents in Mission may consider as alternatives to their regular school placement.

Summit Learning Centre	Distributed Learning. Students work from home under the direction of a certified teacher. Can transition to regular school at specified times during the year.
Home Schooling	Parent directed program. Can transition to regular school at specified times during the year. In school seat may not be guaranteed.
Hospital Homebound Program	Certified Teacher provides support for students at home with significant health impairment issue. Can return to school as deemed medically safe to do so.
Other District DL Programs	Distributed Learning via another School District. Students work from home under the direction of a certified teacher. Seat at regular school is not guaranteed.

First Week of School

Monday, September 7th
Labour Day

Tuesday, September 8th
No school for students

Wednesday, September 9th
No school for students

Thursday, September 10th
Grade 7 full day orientation
Only Grade 7s attend

Friday, September 11th
Grade 8 & 9 orientation
Only Grade 8 & 9s attend

Monday, September 14th
Classes commence for all grades

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Before Coming to School



Parents are reminded they are required to do a daily health check to assess their child for symptoms of illness before sending them to school. If your child has any symptoms of illness, it is important that they do not attend school.

Reinforce physical distancing and minimize physical contact. Some talking points:

- Don't forget to wash or sanitize your hands when entering and before exiting the classroom.
- Don't forget to give other people space when we are waiting to get into the classroom.
- Don't forget to keep your hands to yourself.
- Don't forget to spread out while enjoying your lunch break

Lunch Procedures

Important Change

Students will be given 20 minutes at the conclusion of the first block of the day to have lunch in their respective classroom. At 11:43 am students will be dismissed for lunch hour and will be required to wear masks while in common areas.

The following guidelines will be followed:

- All students and staff will wash their hands before and after eating
- Cafeteria services will not be operating until later in the month. As such, students are required to bring their lunch to school (and a full water bottle).
- Sharing of food and drinks is not permitted



Washrooms

All washrooms will be cleaned at least twice a day. There will be maximum occupancy limits for each washroom with signage posted. Students **MUST** wear masks in the washrooms. Students are to wash their hands in the washroom, but also to re-sanitize as they re-enter their class. Students are encouraged to use paper towels to open doors and use sink taps as well.

Quadmester System "Quads"

The academic year will be a quarterly rotation model in which students take two classes at a time for a 10-week period. There will be four quarters for the year and students will complete eight courses for the year. Classes will be approximately 2.5 hours long with in-class breaks.

HMS Bell Schedule

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

8:58	Warning Bell
9:03-11:43	First Block Class
11:43-12:28	Lunch Break
12:28-3:06	Second Block Class
3:06	Dismissal

Wednesdays

8:58	Warning Bell
9:03-11:08	First Block Class
11:08	Dismissal



School Supplies

Basic school supplies should be brought to school on Orientation Day. The teachers will communicate what supplies are needed to be brought in for the following week.

Water Fountains

At this time, water fountains will not be accessible, but our bottle fill stations are available. Students are encouraged to bring personal water bottles to school.



Lockers

Lockers will not be accessible for the year.

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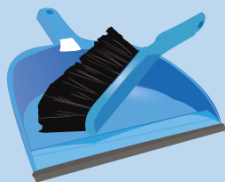
Revised as of February 4, 2021

Cleaning and Disinfecting

HMS will be cleaned and disinfected in accordance with the BCCDC's Cleaning and Disinfectants for Public Settings document.

At HMS, this looks like:

- Enforcing 'no sharing' policy for food, technology, art supplies, etc.
- Disabled drinking fountains
- Protocols for cleaning common devices like photocopiers and technology
- Custodians on dayshift for daytime disinfecting requirements and afternoon shift for remaining cleaning duties and disinfecting
- Frequently touched classroom surfaces cleaned (including doorknobs, light switches, faucets, hand dryers etc.)



Hand Hygiene

All HMS students will wash or sanitize their hands regularly.

- When they arrive at school
- Whenever they enter or exit the classroom
- Before and after any breaks
- Before and after eating and drinking (excluding their personal water bottle kept at their desk)
- Before and after using an indoor learning, space used by multiple cohorts (gym, library etc.)
- After using the washrooms
- After sneezing or coughing
- Whenever hands are visibly dirty



Traffic Flow within the Building

HMS will use a variety of visual cues to help indicate traffic patterns. There will be arrows and distancing stickers to help students maintain space and understand traffic patterns in the school.

Other measures will include:

- Limiting the number of students allowed in certain areas at certain times
- Requiring students to walk in a straight line, single-file so they don't crowd together in groups
- Supervision in high-traffic areas to remind students to adhere to physical distancing protocols
- Taking students outside more often
- Minimizing group activities to minimize physical contact and eliminate shared items
- Possible one-way hallways and designated entry and exit doors

Classroom Layout

Each classroom is set up to allow as much physical distancing and efficient cleaning as possible.

To enable additional cleaning and maximum space, unnecessary items have been removed such as:

- Extraneous furniture
- Extra supplies, books, resource materials, etc.

Each classroom will have adequate soap for appropriate hand washing if it has a sink, or hand sanitizer for student use.

Personal Protective Equipment

The Mission Public School District has ordered 2 reusable masks for each student and staff member. The district is also sourcing face shields and dividers to help with staff who interact with students with multiple cohorts.

Students are required to wear a mask or face shield while in their classroom, unless they are sitting/standing at their seat/desk, there is a barrier in place, eating and drinking and outdoors.

Please see revised PPE requirements listed in the "Feb 4 COVID Health and Safety Guidelines PDF" for further details.

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Subject-specific Information



Electives/Explorations

Elective and exploration classes will run in the timetable and students have been assigned to these classes. There was very little flexibility in assigning elective/exploration blocks this year, but we are pleased to be able to offer some to all students.

Physical Education

HMS will continue to provide physical education instruction. Activities that support physical distancing and limited physical contact will be encouraged. Students must wash or sanitize their hands before and after physical education classes. For Changerooms, student access will be staggered when necessary, and masks will be worn.



Family and School Communication

Families can stay in contact with HMS through the school website, email, app, and phone. *Families who need to enter HMS must book an appointment in advance.* Family members with a scheduled appointment will need to determine if it is safe for them to attend. All visitors will be required to wear a non-medical face mask.

Families who are contacted to pick up a sick child can and should come to the school immediately.

Assemblies and Special Events

Gatherings that bring multiple cohorts of students together are not permitted at this time. This includes things like performances, book fairs, guest speakers, in-person meet-the-teacher events and group fundraisers.

Other opportunities for virtual assemblies etc. will be investigated.

Vulnerable Learners

As much as possible, vulnerable learners will be included in classroom activities with their usual teacher, peer group, and EA as part of a learning group.

- Extended gradual entry is available upon request
- Speech Language Pathologists, Counsellors, Youth Care Workers, Indigenous Liaison Workers, and other specialist Teachers and staff will be available and will follow the district Health and Safety guidelines
- School-based Teams will collaborate with families and outside agencies as appropriate

Assessment & Communicating Student Learning

Teachers will continue to assess students throughout the school year. We will continue to support the implementation of assessment for learning strategies.

We are committed to communicating student learning to students and families. This will be done in formal and informal ways throughout the year.

The MyEd portal will be available later in September. You will be able to access the portal to see how your child is doing in their classes.

Because of the nature of the quadmester system, it will be important to be regularly checking and connecting with your child's teacher.

Extracurricular Activities

Inter-school competitions are not permitted at this time. Other options for extracurricular activities that follow COVID-19 protocols may be available later in the year.

Important Updates to Safe Return to School Plan

Entrance to school

- The school doors will not open until 8:55am. Students will be directed to classrooms upon entering the building.
- Students will be allocated entrance and exit access points according to the classroom number of their Learning Group.
- Parents/Guardians will receive an email with their child's Learning Group number and entrance/exit details.

Lunch Period

- Students will be given 20 minutes at the conclusion of morning class to have lunch in their respective classrooms.
- Students will be dismissed at 11:43am where they will be required to exit the building for the duration of the lunch period, weather permitting. During inclement weather, designated spaces will be provided.
- The following guidelines will be followed:
 - All students and staff will wash and or sanitize their hands before and after eating as well as prior to returning to class.
 - Cafeteria services will not be operating until a later date which is yet to be determined. Students will need to bring their own lunch to school as well as a water bottle.
 - Sharing of food and drinks is not permitted.