

CLAUDE WATSON SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

SEPTEMBER 10, 2021

Welcome

Welcome back to all our returning families and welcome to all of you who are new to Claude Watson. We trust that your children had a wonderful summer and super school opening. Parent engagement and a strong relationship between the home and school maximizes the educational experience for each student. We look forward to collaborating in support of our students. We are anticipating with excitement the learning for this academic year. Our best wishes to the Claude Watson Community.

Safe Reopening of Schools

Health and Safety is a priority in our schools and the TDSB is taking action to slow the spread of COVID-19 and keep schools safe for staff and students.

The TDSB takes its direction from the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and Toronto Public Health to implement health and safety practices in our schools and workplaces. This year, our approach has been cautious, and we are hopeful that we will be able to ease up on practices and protocols with the support of Toronto Public Health, as the year progresses.

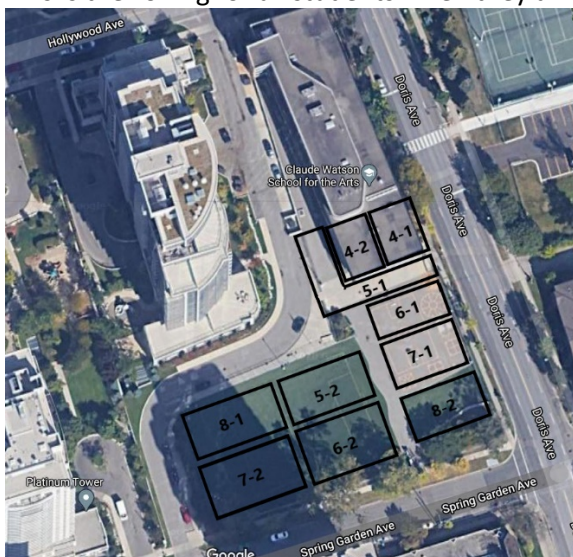
Some of the health and safety measures in place for 2021-22 include:

- Encouraging vaccinations (a TDSB Mandatory Vaccine Procedure is also in development)
- Screening for COVID-19 symptoms daily
- Wearing masks
- Improving ventilation
- Practicing physical distancing, proper hygiene and respiratory etiquette
- Enhancing cleaning

Learn more about these health and safety measures, as well as about practices and protocols in schools, at www.tdsb.on.ca/returntoschool.

School Yard Zones

This is the zoning for all students when they arrive at school in the morning. The students are In cohorts by class.



Entry & Dismissal

Like last year, the playground will be closed during entry in the morning and dismissal at the end of the day. Students from the different cohorts do not mix and to minimize large group gatherings. Students should arrive be ready to enter at 8:50 a.m. and line up at their designated class line (more info to follow). We also ask that once students are dismissed to parent(s) / guardian(s) at the end of the day that you exit the grounds.

Mask Wearing

Wearing a mask is an important strategy in slowing the spread of COVID-19. In TDSB schools, all students, Junior Kindergarten to Grade 12, are required to wear a mask indoors at school. During recess, if they are unable to maintain physical distance from others outdoors, it is advised that they keep their mask on. If this is not possible, then masks breaks can be taken outside while students are with members of their cohort.

Parents/guardians and other visitors are also required to wear a mask on school property, including during pick-up and drop-off. For more information, read the TDSB Mask Procedure. (link to:

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/0/docs/COVID-19MaskProcedure-PR730-completeset.pdf>)

Anaphylaxis - Taking the Necessary Precautions

Anaphylaxis is a serious allergic reaction that can be life threatening. This medical condition can cause a severe reaction to specific foods or other materials and can result in death within minutes. Although foods such as peanuts, milk, eggs, and sesame seeds are the most common cause of anaphylaxis, insect stings, medicine, or latex can also cause a reaction. In recent years, anaphylaxis has increased dramatically among students. The TDSB, in partnership with Toronto Public Health, is committed to maintaining a safe and healthy learning environment for all students and staff.

As required by Sabrina's Law, the TDSB has established policies and procedures to prevent and manage anaphylactic reactions and to reduce the risk of exposure to anaphylactic causative agents in classrooms and common school areas.

Although this may or may not affect your child's class directly, we want to raise awareness about this life-threatening condition. Students who have severe allergies to such food substances are exposed to a severe health risk when such products are consumed in their environment or shared with them. As prevention is the best approach, we ask that you speak with your child about not sharing their snacks or lunches with other students and please do not send any snacks or lunches with your child that contain peanuts.

If your child has health problems of any kind, please inform your child's teacher or office staff immediately so that the necessary health protection steps may be taken and to ensure everyone's co-operation for a safe learning environment.

Whether you are living with the allergy yourself, caring for someone who is, or concerned about people in your community, more information about life threatening allergies is available at <http://foodallergycanada.ca>.

Safe Arrival Program

Student well-being and safety are top priorities at our school. One important measure we take is our Safe Arrival Program, which helps to ensure students have arrived at school safely and when expected.

If your child is going to be late or absent for any reason, it is important that you contact the office immediately and report the reason for the absence.

At the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) we have an automated call-out system. If your child is late or absent, without informing the school ahead of time, the call-out system will attempt to contact you.

The system call-out will work as follows:

Parents/guardians identified in TDSB's Student Information Systems, who have access to student records, and emergency contact with priority 1 or 2 will receive a call.

When you receive the call, you are required to listen to the entire message and follow the prompts accordingly.

You will be asked if you are aware or unaware of your child's absence.
If unaware, you will be asked to call the school immediately.

If you are aware of the absence, you will be asked to enter the reason for your child's absence. The following options will be provided for you:

- o Illness
- o Doctor Appointment
- o Dentist Appointment
- o Family Matter
- o Weather
- o Other

At the end of the message, you will have to press 2 to confirm you received the message. If you do not confirm receipt, you will receive a call on your mobile phone.

If there is no response from a Priority 1 contact, this same process will be followed for Priority 2 contacts. If there is no contact with either Priority 1 or Priority 2, this entire process will be repeated 3 times in 10 minute intervals.

In the evening, all parents/ guardians of students who were late that day will receive a call informing them of their child's tardiness.

With this in mind, it is important that your contact information on file at the office is current and up to date. Please let the office know immediately if your contact information changes at any time throughout the school year.

We recognize that regular attendance is essential to the safety, academic success, and well-being of all students. Thank you for your continued cooperation to keep your child safe and accounted for.

For more information please visit <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Elementary-School/Caring-Safe-Schools/Safe-Arrival-Program>.