

**SUDBURY CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
REOPENING PLAN  
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS  
September 2020**

Below are frequently asked questions (FAQs). We will revise this document as more information becomes available. For more information you are encouraged to also review the Ministry link at [https://www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-reopening-schools?\\_ga=2.116680518.1542951447.1597272109-1064716213.1597272109](https://www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-reopening-schools?_ga=2.116680518.1542951447.1597272109-1064716213.1597272109) and review our re-entry plan at [www.sudburycatholicschools.ca](http://www.sudburycatholicschools.ca).

**Q: What will the first day of school look like for my child?**

**A:** The first day of school for students is September 8. Your school principal will be communicating processes and procedures for the first day of school, the week before school starts. Elementary students will be advised of their teacher and room number, and all secondary students will be given their timetables the week before school. Students will be provided with age appropriate training on the proper use of a mask, hand sanitizing and coughing/sneezing etiquette. Students will be required to remain with their class (cohort) throughout the school day.

**Q: What will the school day look like for my child(ren)?**

**A:** The Ministry of Education has directed that all SCDSB schools will be adopting the *Conventional Mode*. This means all students will attend school all day, every day, with no change to class sizes. However, it is possible that at some point during the school year, we may be directed by the Ministry of Education or local Public Health Officials to move to either an *Adapted Delivery Mode* (students attending on alternate days) or *Online Delivery Mode* (all students receiving education through distance, online learning).

In elementary schools, students will have two 15-minute recesses and a lunch period. Some grade 7 & 8 classes have only one recess in the morning. Recess and lunch breaks will be staggered throughout the day to limit interaction between classes of students within the school building and the outdoor space. As no food delivery will be permitted, students are expected to bring their own snacks and lunch. Enhanced health and safety protocols will be implemented to proactively support student and staff safety.

A quadmester model will be implemented for grades 9 to 12 students.

A traditional high school semester includes students taking four courses each day in 75-minute periods from the beginning of September to the end of January. A school day consists of 5 hours of instruction/classwork each day for students.

To address the issue of student cohort mixing during the day, **we are changing the first semester from a traditional semester system to a quadmester system.** This means that students will have two courses a day (period one and period two) instead of the traditional four courses each day. These periods will occur in double blocks (150 minutes) so students still have 5 hours of instruction/classwork each day. Students will complete these two courses between

September to mid-November. From mid-November to the end of January, the students will complete their period three and period four courses.

- September 8 to November 10 - period one and two classes
- November 11 & 12 Exams
- November 13 to Feb. 2 - period three and four classes
- February 3 & 4 exams
- Second semester will begin on February 8, 2021 – Please note that a decision will be made to remain in the quadmester system or return to the traditional 4 course semester

### Sample Daily Timetable - Quadmester

First Semester Period 1 and 2 will end on November 12, 2020; Period 3 and 4 will end on February 2, 2021.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:30 – 11:00	Period 1	Period 1	Period 1	Period 1	Period 1
11:00 – 11:40	lunch	lunch	lunch	lunch	lunch
11:40 – 2:10	Period 2	Period 2	Period 2	Period 2	Period 2

*Note: To ensure limiting student contact outside of their cohorts, some schools may have multiple lunch periods. Start times may vary from school to school. Please refer to the school website for the specific bell times for your school.*

### Q: What if I do not want to send my child back to face-to-face learning? What are my options?

**A:** All students, elementary and secondary, will have the option to return fully for online/virtual learning. Parents/guardians choosing online learning for their child(ren) will be assigned to a virtual learning class and will receive daily, synchronous or “live” virtual instruction from a teacher. Note that the assigned teacher may not necessarily be from the student’s home school. Students will receive instruction in all areas of the curriculum.

As per Ministry of Education direction, if you choose the online delivery option of learning for your elementary child(ren) they will not be able to return to in class learning until natural transition times. At the elementary level, the date is November 16. At the secondary level students will have the option to return to in class learning November 13 or February 2 (at the start of each quadmester). **Parents of elementary and secondary students will be able to switch their children between learning modes by contacting their school principal up to September 8.**

### Q: Can exceptions be made to the timeline for switching from online learning to in-class learning or vice-versa?

**A:** Yes. On an individual basis, a parent may request via the school Principal that they be allowed to change learning models at a different time of the year. The Principal will review the request with the Superintendent on a case by case basis.

**Q: Why not just allow students to freely move from online learning to in-school learning and vice-versa if they are part of the same class?**

**A:** While the students remain part of the classroom, staff from across the Board are being scheduled to support the students who have selected distance learning. This allows each student to be supported during the day by an educator when their classroom teacher is not available for direct instruction at the same time that they teach and supervise their in-school students. Changes in numbers will impact staff assignments.

**Q: What about my child's safety?**

**A:** Student and staff safety is our number one priority. We have taken direction from the Ministry of Education and from local Public Health Authorities with regard to enhanced health and safety protocols. Physical distancing signage, hand sanitization stations, disinfectant wipes, review and reminders of hand washing and cough etiquette, and touchpoint cleaning of common surfaces are all part of these protocols. Individual classes of students (cohorts) will be kept apart to the extent that this is practicable. Staggered entry, dismissal and recess/outdoor/lunch times will ensure students are not congregating or mixing with students from different classes or cohorts.

**Q: Will the classroom look different?**

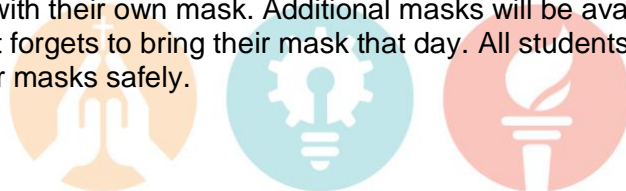
**A:** You will notice that any additional furniture has been removed from the classroom to allow for distancing. Desks/tables have been placed one meter apart. Students will be assigned seats and will remain in the assigned seats until further notice. The kindergarten program will still offer a play-based inquiry model with modified health and safety protocols such as the removal of any materials that cannot be cleaned and disinfected.

**Q: Will students still have access to resource/student success and other supports?**

**A:** Yes, students will be able to leave their classrooms to receive additional supports but direct and indirect contacts in schools for anyone student should be limited to approximately 50 in the elementary panel and 100 at the secondary level (excluding adults, bus, before and after school programs).

**Q: Will my child be required to wear a mask?**

**A:** Students from Grades 4 to 12 will be provided with one (1) cloth mask at the beginning of the year and will be required to wear the face covering every day inside the school. Grade 3 students in a grade 3/4 class will also be required to wear a face covering. Time spent outdoors provides an opportunity for students to take a break from wearing the mask. Students in FDK to Grade 3 are encouraged to wear a mask, but this is not mandatory. We will provide cloth masks for all students in JK to Grade 3 whose parents wish them to wear a mask. Parents/guardians can provide their child with their own mask. Additional masks will be available at the school in the event that a student forgets to bring their mask that day. All students will be taught how to put on and remove their masks safely.



As per the Public Health Guidelines, a person can be exempt from wearing a Face Covering on the premises if:

- a. The Person is a child under the age of two years; or a child under the age of 5 years either chronologically or developmentally and he or she refuses to wear a face covering and cannot be persuaded to do so by their caregiver;
- b. The Person is incapacitated and unable to remove their mask without assistance;
- c. Wearing a Face Covering would inhibit the Person's ability to breathe in any way;
- d. For any other medical reason, the Person cannot safely wear a Face Covering such as, but not limited to, respiratory disease, cognitive difficulties or difficulties in hearing or processing information;
- e. For any religious reason, the Person cannot wear a face covering, or cannot cover the face in a manner that would properly control source.

Parents requiring exemptions are to contact their principal as soon as possible.

**Q: What if someone in my child's class becomes sick? What if there is an outbreak?**

**A:** A new school health monitoring system will be established through a partnership between the Ministries of Health and Education and school boards. Local public health authorities will monitor and respond to symptoms of COVID-19.

Students and staff who exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 will be immediately separated from their classmates. The parent/guardian will be required to come to the school to pick up the child. Information regarding how parents can access COVID-19 testing conducted by Public Health will be communicated as appropriate.

Persons who have been confirmed to have tested positive through the public health process will be prohibited from attending school until they are cleared by Public Health. Persons who test negative will be able to return to school once they are symptom free for 24 hours.

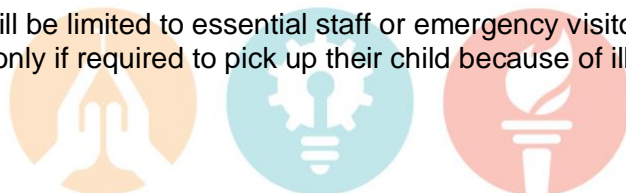
With respect to processes and procedures regarding a potential outbreak, local Public Health will direct school boards relative to class or school closures, and the requirement for students/staff to isolate. Please visit <https://www.phsd.ca/>

**Q: Will there be an orientation session for students going into grade 7 and grade 9?**

**A:** Orientation this year will take place virtually and or in small groups. Your school principal will be in touch prior to the start of school.

**Q: Will there be visitors in the school?**

**A:** Access to schools will be limited to essential staff or emergency visitors. Parents/guardians can access the school only if required to pick up their child because of illness.



**Q. What about arrival and dismissal? How will that take place?**

**A.** Arrival and dismissal will be staggered depending on the bus transportation schedule. A schedule of start and end times will be shared through your school.

**Q: What about assemblies?**

**A:** All large gatherings are postponed at this time.

**Q. Will students have gym class? What will they do in gym?**

**A.** Physical activity will still be provided albeit limited to sports that don't compromise physical distancing requirements. Classes will be provided physical education equipment on a rotation basis.

**Q. What about field trips?**

**A.** Most education excursions have been suspended at this time. Some outdoor excursions can be approved on a case by case basis, ensuring that all H&S protocols can be met.

**Q: What about lunch time?**

**A:** Your child will need to bring a full lunch, personal water bottle and snacks every day. Parents will not be permitted to drop off a student's lunch. Food delivery services such as *Skip the Dishes* will not be permitted. Students will not be permitted to use the water fountains; however, all schools have been outfitted with water bottle fill stations. If your child forgets his/her lunch, school staff will contact you to provide information regarding next steps.

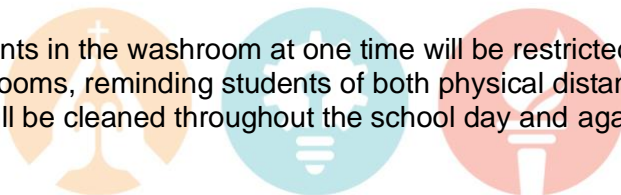
Student lunch time will take place in the classroom. At the secondary level, principals can opt to use the cafeteria for small groups of students provided that social distancing and cohorting can be maintained. Students should not be sharing food or money. Microwaves will be closed until further notice.

**Q: Will there be screening at the school before teachers and students enter the building?**

**A:** All parents/guardians are required to ensure that students are self-screened **before leaving their home** for the bus or school. Staff will undergo the same self-screening process. A self-screening checklist will be provided to guide parents/guardians to support this process. Please refer to: <https://www.phsd.ca/health-topics-programs/diseases-infections/coronavirus>

**Q: What if my child needs to use the washroom while at school?**

**A:** The number of students in the washroom at one time will be restricted. Signage will be placed inside the washrooms, reminding students of both physical distancing and proper hygiene. Washrooms will be cleaned throughout the school day and again each evening.



Principals will implement a shared tracking system for staff to record the time and location of student access to washrooms. This process will assist with contact tracing if needed. Signage will be placed outside the washrooms identifying the maximum number of occupants permitted at any given time.

**Q: Will after school sports and activities continue?**

**A:** Sports where physical distancing cannot be maintained (i.e., football, rugby, soccer, basketball, etc.) will not take place as we start the school year. Information on other sports and activities will be provided as required.

**Q: Will my child have access to a locker?**

**A:** To ensure that there is limited traffic in hallways, students will not have access to a locker. They will be required to bring everything they need with them during the day in a bag/backpack which will be with them in the classroom. It is good practice to bring only what is essential to school.

**Q: What school supplies will be provided for my child?**

**A:** To the greatest extent possible, school supplies, required for learning will not be shared between students in the classroom. Parents are encouraged to provide school supplies for their child to bring with them to school, however, supplies for students will be provided as required. The teacher will send home a list at the beginning of the year identifying suggested supplies.

**Q: How will safety be maintained on the school bus?**

**A:** The school bus driver will wear a face mask at all times. Students will be required to wear face masks and will be assigned a seat. Your child will be required to sit in the assigned seat every day.

**Q: Will my child still go outside for recess?**

**A:** Students will be going outside for recess and lunch; however, these breaks will be staggered throughout the day and students will only interact with their own classmates (cohorts). Each class will have access to their own materials for outdoor play, which will not be shared with other classes.

**Q. Who is teaching online learning?**

**A.** We will centrally assign teaching staff to support students for whom parents have opted for the online learning mode. Please be advised that it may not be a teacher from your child(ren)'s school.



**Q. What will be the format for online learning?**

**A.** Unlike the experience during the school closure period, the online learning mode will mirror the conventional day for students. That is to say, students will be supported for five hours each day, taking the full required curriculum. This includes the teaching of French for students in Grades 4-8. Teachers will teach live and staff will be available to support student learning throughout the day.

**Q: Will Kindergarten students have a different format for online learning?**

Synchronous time for Kindergarten students is 180 minutes per day. However, this is going to be done in small blocks of time. This time will ebb and flow during the day from live learning to asynchronous independent work. The teacher will provide the parents/students a timetable for the week which will show the synchronous and asynchronous time. Students who are not able to be live online at a specific time can be accommodated by the teacher because her/his lessons will be recorded for future viewing. The teacher will be available to students/parents all day if there are any questions or concerns.

**Q: How will my child with an individualized education plan (IEP) be supported when they are not taking part in face to face instruction?**

**A:** Your child's accommodations will be respected, just like they would if your child was in class. Your child will continue to receive help from a resource teacher and/or educational assistant if that is what would have occurred in a school setting.

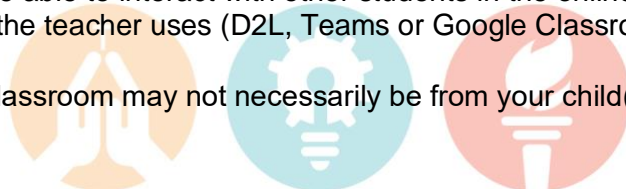
The school collaborative team will work with parents to support distance learning for students with special needs. Differentiated expectations will be addressed in the programming offered to each student.

**Q. For on-line learning will my child be able to interact with her teacher? What does this interaction look like? Zoom or Google Classrooms? Telephone? Emails?**

**A.** Your child will be able to interact with the teacher. Teachers have access to Microsoft Teams, Google Classroom and D2L to support live, interactive teaching. Teachers will be required to use these platforms and to engage in live, synchronous learning throughout the day. Traditional modes of connecting with teachers will also continue (telephone and email).

**Q. For on-line learning will my child be able to interact with other students? What does this interaction look like? Zoom or Google Classrooms? Telephone? Emails?**

**A.** Yes, your child will be able to interact with other students in the online environment through the use of the platform the teacher uses (D2L, Teams or Google Classroom). Please note, the students in the online classroom may not necessarily be from your child(ren)'s home school.



**Q. Will students be in the same classes with other students from their homeschools who opt for online learning?**

**A.** Where it is possible to group students opting for online learning with students from the same school, staff will endeavour to do so.

**Q. Will students enrolled in online learning still be affiliated with their home schools?**

**A.** Students for whom parents have opted for online learning will still remain affiliated with their home school in the event parents decide to transition their child(ren) to the conventional mode. However, while in the online mode, students may be taught by a teacher who is not from their home school and supported by a principal who is not the principal of the home school.

**Q: How will online learning affect her graduation? Will my child be attending convocation/graduation ceremonies with her homeschool?**

**A:** Students for whom parents opted for online learning will attend convocation/graduation ceremonies with their home school.

**Q: How will you ensure that students working online still feel part of the school community?**

**A:** As we prepare our staff to welcome our students and families back, we will ensure that, where possible, keeping a connection to the home school community, including faith experiences, is emphasized.

**Q: What equipment or learning materials will be required for on-line learning?**

**A:** Students learning from home will require access to an electronic device (iPad/computer, laptop) and internet. They should also have a designated space in the home where they can work. Other materials required would be regular school supplies such as pencils, pens, rulers, markers etc. Please note that if a child does not have access to the learning materials required that we will work with you to ensure that all children have what they need to be successful.

