

FAQ's for September 2021

(updated: June 15, 2021)

Will there be an option to change learning modes during the school year?

We are asking families to make a decision for the entire 2021-2022 school year. We recognize that this is a difficult decision for parents to make, especially when they have no way of knowing what September will look like.

We are asking for the decision to be made for the entire school year to ensure we can staff our classes accordingly at the start of the school year. Also, feedback from parents, staff, and teachers was that the providing options for families to switch through the school year was very disruptive and had a negative impact on student and staff well-being and learning. Requests for changes often resulted in a teacher change for students, or in some cases, a change of classroom for students.

What will happen if I don't complete a survey?

If we do not receive a survey response for your child(ren), we will assume that your child(ren) will be learning in-person in September **AND** that your mode of transportation to school has not changed from the 2020-2021 school year. Please contact the school if this is not the case or if you have any questions.

What kind of safety measures, if any, will be in place in September (i.e. mask wearing, plexiglass, etc.)?

In its May 4 Memorandum to school boards, the Ministry of Education advised that full guidance on 2021-22 health and safety measures will be communicated to school boards in Summer 2021. This will include guidance on requirements such as masking, hand hygiene, cohorting for clubs and other extracurriculars and screening.

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Will there be cohorts in September?

In its May 4 Memorandum to school boards, the Ministry of Education advised that Elementary students should continue to be cohorted with their classmates and their homeroom teacher, and that secondary timetabling methods should emphasize cohorting of students as much as possible. Schools and school boards continue to follow the guidelines provided by the Ministry of Education and Public Health. Teachers will be able to rotate into classrooms to support students.

Do students need to be vaccinated before they can return to school for in-person learning?

In consultation with the North Bay Parry Sound Health Unit, at this time we do not know whether the Canadian or Ontario Governments will require proof of vaccination for some activities, nor whether proof of vaccination against COVID-19 will eventually become mandatory for school-aged children. For more information on vaccines and vaccinations, please see the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit's [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

As per the Ontario Government website, youth ages 12-17 have the option to receive the vaccine, since it is the most effective way to protect yourself from getting COVID-19 and is an important part of stopping the spread of the virus to our families and communities, in addition to wearing masks, washing hands and staying at least 2 metres away from others.

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Will start and end times of school be affected by the staggered pickup and dropoff times, like they were in 2020-2021?

As we plan for reopening in September and move through the summer, we will revisit the need for any staggered drop off / pick up times in accordance with public health guidance, and communicate to our parents.

Will there be extracurriculars in 2021-2022?

As always, we will follow the Ministry's guidelines when it comes to sports, which have not yet been released, and therefore are unsure if there will be sports next year. We are hopeful that student extracurriculars will resume in the fall. This will be confirmed by any updated guidelines provided by the Ministry of Education informed by our public health partners. In its May 4 Memorandum to school boards, the Ministry of Education advised that full guidance on 2021-22 health and safety measures will be communicated to school boards in Summer 2021. This will include guidance on requirements such as masking, hand hygiene, cohorting for clubs and other extracurriculars and screening.