



WELLINGTON

SECONDARY SCHOOL

Hello Wellington Wildcat Families,

It has been far too long since we've had the collective energy of our student population brightening our halls and classrooms. We are really looking forward to welcoming everyone next week.

While this year will look very different from previous years, we are ready to welcome our students into an environment that is structured to be safe and supportive according to the Provincial Health and Ministry of Education's Stage 2 COVID Operational Guidelines for Schools. This letter contains important information about start-of-the-year dates and times, what school will look like when we get going, and some of the health and safety precautions that are in place.

WELCOME BACK HOMEROOMS AND STUDENT ORIENTATIONS

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| Grade 8s | Thursday, September 10th | 9:00 - 12:00 |
| Grade 9s | Thursday, September 10th | 1:00 - 2:30 |
| Grade 10s | Friday, September 11th | 9:00 - 10:30 |
| Grade 11/12s | Friday, September 11th | 12:00 - 1:30 |

On orientation days, ALL students are expected to enter through the main entrance of the school. We will have folks on hand to provide guidance about where to go for homeroom orientation if you aren't familiar with the school. **Before next Wednesday, you will receive an email that will give you specific instructions as to where to report for your orientation homeroom.** This year, homerooms will be assigned based on student schedules so that your homeroom is also within your learning group. *Unfortunately parents are not allowed to enter the school so please call or email the school if you have any questions or you need to share important information about your child prior to the orientation day.*

WELLINGTON SECONDARY - WHAT'S NEW THIS YEAR AND WHAT REMAINS THE SAME?

Let's start with some of what's the same.

Wellington Secondary School prides itself on being an inclusive, caring and engaging learning environment which provides a comprehensive educational program for students in Grades 8 through 12. Wellington is a wonderful community of learners where students develop a strong sense of belonging and staff care deeply about the well-being and success of all of our students.

Counsellor and Administration Information

- Students with the last name A-Go see Ms. Crystal Linn
- Students with the last name Gr-Pa see Ms. Heather Arnold
- Students with the last name Pe-Z see Ms. Shannon McRae

- Ms. Nicol Suhr is your administrator for students in Grades 8 & 10
- Mr. Stacy Marusic is your administrator for students in Grades 9 & 11
- Ms. Andrea Davidson is your administrator for students in Grade 12

What's different or new?

Quarter System

A key change in our school structure this year is scheduling in a quarter system. All students will take two courses in each quarter: one course in the morning and one course in the afternoon. A quarter lasts approximately 10 weeks. Students will then complete 8 courses by the end of the school year. This new system will allow us to maintain smaller learning groups and allow for easier movement around the school building. As well, it offers more opportunities for students to be able to socialize and work within their learning groups throughout the day. Please see below for the term dates and bell schedule.

Term Dates

| | |
|---------------|---------------------------------|
| Quarter One | September 10th to November 13th |
| Quarter Two | November 16th to January 29th |
| Quarter Three | February 1st to April 23rd |
| Quarter Four | April 26th to June 23rd |

Lockers

There will be no assigned lockers this year as locker access creates hallway congestion. This is a good reminder to bring to school only what you need for your classes and avoid bringing expensive items that you aren't able to lock up.

Learning Groups and Student Schedules

We have organized our grade 8s, 9s and 10s such that they will be scheduled with the same learning group of students over the course of the year. These learning groups will, for the most part, include no more than 30 students which is well below the provincial guideline of 120 students. Unless under exceptional circumstances, students will remain within their learning group from September to June.

At the senior level (Grades 11&12), we have built learning groups of a maximum of 120 students and associated staff who will learn together in a selection of required courses and electives throughout the year. Some multi-grade elective courses will operate as a “non-learning group” class, where students from multiple learning groups are enrolled. For these classes, students will maintain physical distance from students who are not in their cohort or the course will be offered as a combination of in-class and remote learning in order to allow for physical distancing. This way we can do our best to honour student choice. Unfortunately, there will be situations where students may not get all the courses they requested. We are still working through scheduling students into our new timetable and students and parents will not be able to access their MyEd accounts to view timetables until this work has been completed.

Bell Schedule

| Monday | | Tuesday through Thursday | | | | Friday | |
|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|---|---|---|----------------------------|---|
| 8:30 AM to 10:55 AM | A Block | 8:30 AM to 11:20 AM | A Block | A Block | A Block | 8:30 AM to 10:55 AM | A Block |
| 10:55 AM to 11:45 AM | Lunch with staggered dismissal times | 11:20 AM to 12:10 PM | Lunch with staggered dismissal times | Lunch with staggered dismissal times | Lunch with staggered dismissal times | 10:55 AM to 11:30 AM | Lunch with staggered dismissal times |
| 11:45 AM to 2:05 PM | Block | 12:10 PM to 3:00 PM | B Block | B Block | B Block | 11:30 AM to 1:50 PM | B Block |

- In-classroom breaks will be at the teacher’s discretion.
- Lunch times and afternoon dismissal will be staggered slightly to allow for manageable traffic flow.
- Students are expected to wear a mask and maintain physical distance when socializing with friends outside of their usual learning group.

Daily COVID Protocols

Students must stay home when sick

Use the [BC COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool](#) and check your child **each day** for symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other infectious respiratory disease. Please stay home until symptoms subside and consult your healthcare provider. If unsure, parents need to phone 8-1-1

Students who have symptoms of COVID-19 or have travelled outside of Canada in the past 14 days or were identified as a close contact of a confirmed case or outbreak must stay home and self-isolate, including children of essential service workers who are ill. This would have been directed to you by a healthcare official.

Drop off and Pick up

Only staff and students are permitted in the building

- Students in Grade 8 will enter through the main entrance doors.
- Students in Grade 9 will enter through the doors that face the Band Room/Subway
- Students in Grades 10 through 12 will enter through a choice of B wing doors, C wing doors or the entrance/exit off the back parking lot

Come Prepared

- Send your child with a full water bottle—*water fountains have been disabled, refill stations remain open*
- Send snacks and a lunch each day—*no food sharing or preparation onsite. Microwaves will not be available for student use.*
- All school items will need to go home each day as lockers will not be available—*no sharing permitted*

Wearing a mask is required in all common areas. Also, students, teachers and support staff who are working outside of their learning group must wear a mask unless physical distancing can be maintained at all times.

Personal Protective Equipment

- The school district will provide two reusable masks for each staff member and student.
- Staff and students are not required to wear masks or other PPE within their own learning groupings. Individuals who choose to wear them will be permitted to do so.
- All staff and students are required to wear masks in common areas, and when interacting outside of their learning group.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

- Frequently touched surfaces like doorknobs, chairs, desks and washrooms will be disinfected twice a day.
- General cleaning and disinfecting of the premises happens once a day.
- Disinfectant spray cleaner is provided for staff use in every classroom.

If a child becomes sick

- Sick children will be supervised in an isolated area.
- Parents will be notified and are expected to pick up their child as soon as possible.
- Any areas used by the student will be cleaned/disinfected.

Under normal circumstances, we would be sending a one-page letter that expresses how much we are looking forward to seeing our students on the first day. In these unprecedented times, we've had to include a lot of rules and regulations that are in place to keep everyone safe. We are still very excited to welcome our student population back into the school and we acknowledge that there are a lot of unknowns for students and families, especially our incoming Grade 8s who haven't yet experienced the wonderful Wellington community. I can assure you that Wellington's staff are here to support our students through the unknowns and we will work within the provincial health and safety guidelines that are in place to keep everyone as safe and healthy as possible. With student and family cooperation in following the COVID protocols, we can have a school year that feels relatively normal under the circumstances. As always, we are available by phone and email. We look forward to seeing our students in just over a week's time.

Huy ch q'u Thank you Merci



Andrea Davidson - Principal