

BACK TO SCHOOL GUIDE 2020



August 2020

FOR MOUNTAINVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARENTS

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Everything you need to know about Mountainview's Back to School 2020

The school team has been hard at work preparing for this very unusual and out of the ordinary **"Back-to-School"**.

It is an understatement to say that this year will be a very unusual one. Although we wished things were back to normal we understand that we have to adapt and make the necessary adjustments in order to comply with the directives of public health to ensure everyone's safety at Mountainview Elementary School. We therefore count on your collaboration and understanding to make this year a safe and successful one for your children.

The directives stipulated in this document are to facilitate the reopening of Mountainview safely for the 2020-2021 school year. As such, as directed by our ministry, family groups have been formed (homeroom classes) where students will remain together during class time, recess, and lunch. If a COVID-19 case were to be declared, having students in clustered groups will make it easier for public health to trace back all individuals who have been in contact with the declared person and prevent the whole school from closing if a case would be confirmed.

Although we obviously cannot address every issue in detail, we hope this guide will answer most of your questions. For any remaining questions and or concerns, your child's teacher will be able to address them on curriculum night via zoom or you can send an email to the principal. We are also here for you, just a phone call or an email away, in the event you still have questions and/or concerns.

Please keep in mind that as this situation evolves, directives might change on a weekly basis and sometimes even on a daily basis. Therefore, we may have to adapt or readjust some of the measures stated in this document as the year progresses. We are all navigating through these uncharted waters together, therefore it is important that we all remain vigilant, understanding, kind and flexible as we adapt to these new changes both now and throughout the school year.

Now more than ever it will be important to respect the sanitary measures put in place by public health in our schools and in our daily lives in order to collectively and positively contribute to our health. Proper hygiene is what will keep us all safe. Let us remember to respect physical distancing, regular handwashing, and wearing of face coverings/masks if required (for cycle 3 students and staff members).

We wish you an excellent school year and we cannot wait to see your child/ren in person.

Miss Agosto
Principal

1. Distance Learning vs Homeschooling

Student with a Medical Condition Related to COVID-19

Whether a parent is seeking a “student medical exemption” or a “family medical exemption” form, they are to contact Ms. Tracey at **450-621-5600 ext.6315**. Parents must send the appropriate form to their physician. Once completed, the form must be returned to Ms. Tracey. Forms may be accepted via email or in person (electronic forms are preferred. The forms will be sent to the school board to be processed. If the exemption is accepted, the child will receive distance learning.

If a parent wishes to homeschool their child/ren, you are invited to contact the homeschooling department team at 450-621-5600 ext.1415 or by email homeschooling@swlauriersb.qc.ca

2. Mountainview COVID-19 Procedures

2.1 Symptoms Prior to Attending School

It will be very important that you stay alert for any COVID-19 symptoms your child may exhibit before coming to school. If your child shows any COVID-19 symptoms prior to leaving for school:

- a) The student showing symptoms must remain in isolation at home.
- b) Parents must notify the student’s absence and mention that it is COVID related and include a list of symptoms. **Ms. Tracey** can be reached at **450-621-5600 ext.6315**.
- c) The Direction Régionale de la Santé Publique (DRSP) will contact you within 24 hours and provide you with the necessary guidelines to follow. However, if you wish, you may contact **1-877-644-4545** while waiting to hear from the DRSP.
- d) Schools will be following ministry guidelines and will not be taking the temperature of students before they enter the school. Parents are asked to take the temperatures of their children before they come to school every day.

2.2 Symptoms Arising During School Hours

If a child shows COVID-19 symptoms while in class:

- a) The student is automatically isolated.
- b) Parents will be contacted to pick up their child in a reasonable timeframe. If you cannot pick up your child, designate someone to pick them up.
- c) A single staff member will care for the student while waiting for the parent.
- d) An emergency kit containing the necessary materials (masks, glasses, gloves etc.) will be used.

- e) The Direction Régionale de la Santé Publique (DRSP) will contact you within 24 hours and provide you with the necessary guidelines to follow.
- f) The student showing COVID-19 symptoms must remain in isolation at home until public health guidelines have been received.
- g) The parent may contact **1-877-644-4545** while waiting to hear from DRSP.
- h) The room is well ventilated, cleaned, and disinfected once the student has left.

2.3 Confirmed COVID-19 Cases at Mountainview

If a student tests positive for COVID-19:

- a) Parents must notify the student's absence and mention that it is COVID related (mention that it is a confirmed COVID-19 case) to ensure that the child receives pedagogical support. **Ms. Tracey** can be reached at **450-621-5600 ext.6315**.
- b) All parents and staff members are automatically contacted when a case of COVID-19 is confirmed.
- c) Anyone considered to be at moderate to high risk is removed from the school and is tested.
- d) The student is provided with pedagogical support.
- e) The reintegration directives will be provided by public health.

3. Face Coverings/Masks

Face coverings/masks are mandatory for all staff members, grade 5 students and grade 6 students when they are in circulation and in a common area or in the presence of students from another homeroom. The face covering/mask may be removed when they are in their regular homeroom class.

Students can wear their own nonmedical face coverings/masks. We invite you to read the informative article written by Catherine Handfield published in LaPresse on August 18, 2020 at this link <https://www.lapresse.ca/societe/sante/2020-05-14/port-du-masque-mode-d-emploi> . The following questions are addressed in this article:

- How many masks will your child need?
- How to transport them?
- How to handle them?
- Which masks to choose?

For obvious sanitary measures, students are not permitted to share face coverings/masks.

Although face coverings/masks are not mandatory for students from preschool to grade 4, it is at your discretion should you wish for your child to wear a face covering/mask in school and during bus transportation.

Staff members who will need to work with students less than 2 meters apart, will be required to wear a procedural mask with a visor or safety goggles in the classroom.

4. Hand Hygiene Routines

Appropriate hand hygiene is one of the most important protective measures to follow. Students will need to wash their hands or disinfect their hands:

- Upon their arrival at school
- Upon their arrival in the classroom
- Before and after recess
- Before and after working with materials
- Before and after physical education
- Before and after lunch
- Before leaving school at the end of the day

Some classrooms have sinks. For those rooms that do not have sinks, students will be sent to the bathrooms to wash their hands. Disinfectant pumps will be placed in strategic areas throughout the school. Each class will be equipped with a bottle of hand sanitizer and a bottle of disinfectant spray. If you wish, you may send your child to school with a small disinfectant bottle.

5. Physical Distancing

Physical distancing must be respected and reinforced at all times to ensure the safety of all.

- Distance of 2 meters between students and staff members
- Distance of 1 meter between students of different homerooms
- No required distance required between students in the same group.

6. Progressive Entry

Kindergarten and pre-kindergarten students will follow their progressive entry schedule as planned.

Students from grades 1 to 6 are expected to come to school on the first day of school, September 1st.

7. Morning Arrival

7.1 Daycare students:

Upon arrival daycare parents and students will ring the doorbell and wait for a staff member to greet them. Students will enter and proceed to their daycare room. Parents are not permitted into the building. The staff member will “sign in” for the child.

7.2 Bus Students:

When buses arrive, students must remain on the bus until a supervisor advises them to disembark. A staff member will sanitize their hands before they proceed into the school.

7.3 Drop Off Students:

We will continue with the “kiss and drop” system. Parents are to drive into the parking lot. A staff member will open the car door and help your child out of the car. Please make sure that your child’s school bag is on the seat next to your child. The staff member cannot remove the bag for your child due to health reasons. Your child will proceed to the school yard and stand on footprints that have been painted on the asphalt. Their hands will be sanitized before entering the school.

8. Circulation in the Building

Decals and signs will be displayed to remind students to walk on the right-hand side in the hallways and staircases. These visuals will also help students to respect physical distancing.

To reduce the number of students circulating at once in the hallways, students will remain in their classrooms as much as possible. Teachers will be travelling to designated classrooms with the exception of the physical education teachers.

9. Water Fountains

Water fountains may be used to refill water bottles **only**. As such, students are encouraged to bring their own labelled water bottle. To avoid congestion at the water fountains, we strongly suggest that your child comes to school with his/her water bottle already filled with water. He /she will be permitted to refill his or her water bottle during the day. For sanitary reasons, we ask that water bottles are returned home daily.

10. Late Arrivals to School

Students arriving late to school will present themselves at the main entrance with their parent/guardian. The school secretary will let the child in. Parents/guardians are not permitted into the building. It is important to let the school secretary know the reason for the late arrival. The school secretary will sign the child in.

11. Dismissal

11.1 Daycare Students: We ask that parents download the Hop Hop app so that at the end of the day, pick up will be effortless. The app will let us know when you will be arriving and we can have your child ready to go as soon as you arrive. Staff will also sign your child out.

In order to help with organization, if you arrive early for daycare pick-up, you must wait until daycare starts and all other students have been dismissed before getting your child.

Daycare students will be dismissed along with the pick-up students. In order to avoid traffic in the hallways, the students will remain in the classroom until the class is called to be dismissed. Teachers will escort the pick-up and daycare students to the door. Once outside, the daycare students will go towards the right in the schoolyard and will be greeted by daycare staff. They will play outside while the classroom that is being used for daycare is disinfected.

11.2 Bus Students: Students from the first set of buses will be dismissed one bus at a time and will be dismissed first. The second set of students will go to the gym and sit in lines that will respect social distancing.

11.3 Pick Up Students: Pick up time will be at the side door on the parking lot side. Teachers will escort the pick-up and daycare students out into the schoolyard. The pick-up students will go left towards their parents and will only be released when the parents have been identified.

12. Early Departures

If possible, try to avoid early departures as much as possible. If, however, your child needs to leave school early, please make sure to call the office prior to 1:00 p.m. to notify your child's early departure.

13. Lunch/Recess

Students will be eating in their classrooms. A monitor will be present in each classroom. It will be important that students do not share food with one another.

Lunch

Merenda is back again this year as our caterer and you will be able to order lunches for your child/ren online. Information will be sent home to you so you can create an account for your child with the caterer.

To avoid having too many students at once in the school yard at lunch, homeroom groups have been grouped into Groups A and B. Groups A and B will alternate between going outside and remaining inside during lunch and then they will switch. The schoolyard will be divided into 8 sections so that each class can play in one section. Classes will rotate within these sections on a daily basis.

Group A – pre-K, K, 1, 2

Group B – 3, ¾, 4, 4/5, 5, 5/6, 6

Recess

Classes will go out to recess in a staggered manner. They will go out in the same manner as lunch – Group A during first recess while group B stays indoors for recess and then they will switch in the afternoon recess. They will also rotate daily. The play structures will be sprayed after recess and lunch. Students will also be required to wash their hands before and after recess.

14. Physical Education

Physical education classes will be offered to each homeroom. Activities will be modified accordingly to respect our new reality. Activities will also be organized in such a way that the same equipment will not be used with each of the classes that are scheduled for gym during a day. All the equipment will be cleaned before the next use. As much as possible, physical education classes will be held outside.

15. Visitors

During the 2020/2021 school year we will have to limit the number of visitors that enter our buildings; this includes parents. Access to our buildings will be limited to our students and staff members, unless you have an authorized appointment. All visitors must wear a face covering/mask and present themselves to the office. Phone calls, conference calls, and zooms will be prioritized this school year given the circumstances.

Conclusion

We are conscious of the fact that the new measures put in place may be binding. In all this reorganization imposed by public health, it was important for us to make these adaptations as the health, safety, and well-being of our students and staff members are at the forefront of our concerns.

We hope that as these measures evolve over time, we will be able to gradually go back to how things were in the past.

All academic questions will be answered by your child's teacher on curriculum night (date to follow).

Our general assembly will also be held via zoom. The date is to be confirmed and more information will follow.

Remember to read all emails from the school board as well as from Mountainview and to consult our website <https://mountainview.schoolqc.ca/> and our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/MountainviewCares/>.

The Mountainview School Team looks forward to seeing you.