



École J.H. Sissons Elementary at École William McDonald School Re-Opening – Community Safety Measures and School Start-Up Information August 14, 2020

Introduction

Our school staff has been working over the summer with the YK1 office, ECE, and the office of the Chief Medical Health Officer. Our goal is to provide a safe and smooth start for our returning students, and for those who are new to the school. As a result of the pandemic, schools across the Territories and the country are planning to restart classes in a situation that is without precedent in living memory. We are working with the best available information from the health authorities. At the same time, we recognize two things: 1) As we learn more about COVID, we will continue to update our procedures to reflect the safest conditions for our students and staff. 2) Changes, when they happen, will occur quickly. We will do our best to keep you informed regarding the latest developments throughout the school year.

In addition to the safety measures required in response to the pandemic, we have also had to move from the old Sissons site to William McDonald school. We are scheduled to be guests at William McDonald for two years. This brings added questions for our parents and community. We recognize that, and our plan is to send you additional information related to the move and more routine school opening questions in a separate communication on Monday, August 17th. The bulk of this information is to update you on the school and district's response to the pandemic.

Because both William McDonald and J.H. Sissons share the same school facility, the plans for the two groups of students are planned collaboratively. I would like to express my thanks to Mr. Seabrook and the staff at William McDonald for their help and their flexibility as we get ready to welcome students on August 31st.

Graham Arts
Principal

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École William McDonald Phone: (867) 873-5814 (emergencies only)
Until phones are reconnected, please contact us by email at jhs@yk1.nt.ca
Please check our website for updates at jhs.yk1.nt.ca*

Important Points to Remember

Ongoing – We are still taking registrations for all grades.

August 31st – First Day of Classes – See newsletter for more details

Week of August 24th to 28th – Parent and student outdoor visits to school grounds

Week of August 24th to 28th – Publication of virtual tours of interior of school and portables

Wednesday August 26th – Emails sent to parents advising them of student classroom placements

Daily Schedule

08:00-08:30 – Student arrival (see details in newsletter)

08:30-15:00 – Regular classes take place with recess and lunch scheduled by classroom bubbles

15:00-15:20 – Staggered dismissals (see details in newsletter)

Student and Community Protection Measures

Classes will be

- full-time and in-person for all grade levels, starting August 31st
- self-contained, acting as bubbles, with no mixing of classes indoors
- remaining in their assigned classrooms except for outdoor learning, breaks, and for PE (which will take place in the gym, or outdoors, as applicable)
- receiving their specialist classes (music, and English for students in Grades 3, 4 and 5) in their assigned rooms
- scheduled for staggered outdoor breaks for recess and lunch, with a maximum ¼ of our students being outdoors at any one time

Students...

- taking the bus will be required to wear face masks
- are encouraged to respect distancing from one another as appropriate by age
- will generally not be required to wear masks while in class
- may be required to wear masks at other times and in other areas of the school, at the direction of the school's staff members
- must respect the 2m social distance guideline for all staff
- will have access to hand sanitizing stations upon entry to the school and within individual classrooms, and will be encouraged to wash or sanitize hands often
- must bring their own individually-labelled school supplies, food and water bottles
- will use their own supplies only
- showing symptoms of COVID will be sent to a designated medical room while waiting for prompt pick-up by a parent

Parents can help by...

- using the screening tool (to be provided by the school or district) to review symptoms with their children daily, before sending them to school
- keeping sick children at home until they are symptom-free, or have received medical clearance to return
- promptly picking up children who develop symptoms during the school day
- ensuring that their children arrive at school, and are picked up at day's end, within their designated drop-off and pick-up windows
- escorting their JK or K children to the portables in the morning, and wearing face masks when inside the portables
- respecting the school's medically-required 'no visitors' policy for students in Grades 1 to 5 at all times, and for students in JK and K other than at the designated drop-off and pick-up times. Exceptions are only possible for emergencies only
- sending your children to school with large zip-loc-style bags for the storage of individual student supplies

Arrival, Parking, and Departure Procedures

Detailed maps and diagrams are now being produced and will be published to both the JHS and WMS communities as soon as they are available. Student arrival and departure is staggered as follows. Dismissals at day's end will be done by class bubble

<i>Grade Level</i>	<i>Arrival Time & Procedure</i>	<i>Departure Time & Procedure</i>
<i>Junior Kindergarten</i>	8:00-8:15 am – Parents park and escort children to portables	3:00-3:20 pm – Parents park and escort children to vehicles
<i>Kindergarten to Gr 5 (on foot or in parent vehicles)</i>	8:15-8:30 am – Children arrive and remain outside, unless directed into the building (and then directly to class)	3:10-3:20 pm – Parents remain outside of school, meet children and take them home. Students are dismissed by class and grade level, youngest first.
<i>Kindergarten to Gr. 5 (Bus)</i>	8:10-8:30 am – Children arrive and remain outside, unless directed into the building (and then directly to class)	3:10-3:20 pm – As busses arrive, students dismissed from class directly to bus 3:20 pm – Remaining bus students dismissed outside to await buses