

## **Whitby School Reopening Plan August 2020**

Whitby School is committed to having students begin the 2020-2021 academic year in a way that protects the health and safety of students, faculty/staff, and families. The conditions under which we will have students and faculty on campus will strictly follow the Governor's Guidelines for Reopening Schools.

At the same time, we recognize that some families have concerns about the safety of their children returning to in-person instruction. As a community, we are committed to meeting the needs of all families to help support the intellectual and social-emotional growth of students.

We will offer families a choice about how they want their children to return to school. Families may choose either in-person classes on campus or a Modified Online Learning program (MOL) to start the fall semester.

### **Whitby School In-Person Learning Requirements:**

- All faculty/staff will be required to wear masks.
- All students from Primary 3 – Grade 8 will be required to wear masks.
- All students must sanitize their hands before entering school at the designated location.
- Students will be encouraged to wash their hands frequently or use hand sanitizer throughout the day. Supplies will be available in all classrooms and common areas.
- Before arriving at school each day, families will be required to have completed the Health Questionnaire, verifying that the student (s) is not showing any signs of COVID-related illness. If any symptoms are present, the student must stay home.
- Drop-off and pick-up of students will only be allowed in designated areas. Parents may not enter the building with children except for Stepping Stones parents accompanying their children as needed.
- In each grade, students will be assigned to cohorts that will remain intact throughout the day. Student travel to other parts of the campus will be restricted. Cohorts will remain together for breaks and recess and will not mix with other cohorts.
- Class sizes will be modified to comply with the Governor's recommendation that there be six feet of distance between student desks.
- In-person classes will continue to have discussion periods and small group interactions, appropriately spaced, to facilitate positive social-emotional growth.
- All students must bring their own ready to eat lunches. We ask that you refrain from lunches that need to be heated as microwave use needs to be kept at a minimum. If every student's lunch needs to be heated for 2 minutes, then in a class of 12, a student would be waiting 24 minutes of the 30-minute period to eat their lunch before recess. No outside lunches will be permitted.
- In Middle School, the day will end at 3:00 PM. No Electives for the first six weeks.
- No WECCP for the first six weeks to avoid mixing students from different cohorts.

- The School Nurse will be available throughout the day to assess both student and faculty/staff health symptoms. Any person showing signs related to Covid-19 will be isolated and then asked to leave campus immediately. Parents will be called for students.
- No one suspected of having direct or indirect contact with an individual with COVID-19 will be allowed to return to campus unless they follow the steps outlined in the Whitby Return to School Guidelines. These guidelines are currently under development.

**Please note that Whitby will close each day at 3:00 PM in order to thoroughly clean and sanitize the campus.**

**Families are asked to pick up their children no later than 3:00 PM and please leave campus. The playgrounds and fields are not open for use after 3:00 PM. Thank you for your understanding.**

### **Whitby School Modified Online Learning (MOL)**

**Starting on August 31, the first day of a full day in school, we will offer a Modified Online Learning program (MOL) for those families who do not feel safe returning to school at this time.**

**Families who want to enroll their children in the MOL program need to register by Friday, August 14. Please complete the Registration form for the Whitby MOL.**

- This program will offer a combination of synchronous and asynchronous learning.
- Based on current schedules and staffing limitations, the majority of MOL will be asynchronous learning, including recorded videos, pre-assigned work, assessments, and self-guided learning. Specific times during the week will be scheduled for the MOL student to check in with the classroom teacher and/or the MOL teacher.
- In selecting this option, parents acknowledge they or another adult must assist their children in the online learning process, especially in The Children's House and Lower Elementary-Grade 4.
- Students who select MOL may not return to in-person instruction without the approval of the Head of School and Assistant Head of School. Students who start in-person and decide to shift to MOL need the approval of the Head of School and Assistant Head of School. Any change from one mode of instruction to another will require five (5) school days of advanced notification.
- Students and parents will be directed to class pages on the parent portal for information about the classes to appropriately support students when needed.
- Middle School will continue to use Veracross as their main Learning Management System (LMS) while the Lower School will use a combination of Veracross, Google Classroom, and Seesaw.
- Middle School students will access classes via the Class website from the Student Portal that will outline course goals, assignments and assessments.

- Middle School students will synchronously join classes when the mode of instruction allows a MOL student to Zoom in on the class.
- Because of staffing limitations, it may not be possible for Lower School and Children's House MOL students to have a MOL instructor with whom they have a previous relationship.
- LE – Grade 4 students will be supported by a Modified Online Learning Instructor, who will coordinate with the classroom teacher. There will be synchronous and asynchronous lessons. LE-Grade 4 students will synchronously join classes when the mode of instruction allows for a MOL student to Zoom in on the class. The majority of MOL may be in an asynchronous mode.
- Children's House MOL students will be supported by a Modified Online Learning Instructor, who will coordinate with the classroom teacher. There will be synchronous and asynchronous lessons. Children's House students will synchronously join classes when the mode of instruction allows for an MOL student to Zoom in on the class. The majority of MOL in Children's House may be in an asynchronous mode.