



JMSS Return To School Update - Friday, September 4, 2020

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Update on Cohort Assignments, Timetables & Courses:

Beginning on Friday and over the weekend our **Grade 9** students and their parents will be receiving an email to inform you of the cohort students in your household will be placed in.

Cohorts will have separate orientation days:

Tuesday, September 8	Grade 9: Cohort A	9:50am to 1:00pm
Wednesday, September 9	Grade 9: Cohort B	9:50am to 1:00pm
Schedule for Grade 9 Orientation Day		

Also, beginning on Friday and over the weekend students and their parents will be receiving (to their @OCDSB student accounts) an email from their Period 1 teacher. Your Period 1 Teacher will let you know where your designated entrance to the school is, as well as your classroom number. Your teacher will explain what to expect on your first day, and how to arrive prepared.

Families with students in Grades 10 to 12 will receive their cohort confirmation and message from your period 1 beginning on Tuesday, September 8.

In the past, students have been able to change their timetables. This year, there will be limited options to change, in order to maintain our classroom groupings and cohort balance. Timetable changes will be considered by the following priority:

1. Students who have not completed a prerequisite for a course
2. Students who need to repeat a course
3. Consideration will be given to other exceptional circumstances

Update on Planning for the 2020-2021 School Year

With over 300 of our JMSS students choosing remote learning we have had some significant adjustments to our staff allocation and our course offerings. While we have had to close some of our courses, we have taken great care to make sure that all of our students will be able to take the classes that they need to work towards their [Ontario Secondary School Diploma](#) (OSSD), [French Immersion certificates](#), as well as the courses they need to work towards their post-secondary pathway. Whether that pathway is College, Apprenticeship, The Workplace, or University, we are confident that we will be able to provide a strong selection of the core courses that students need.

In order to ensure courses and pathways for our students, we have had to make some difficult decisions about some of our very popular courses. We know that the families in our JMSS communities are resilient and determined. It is our greatest intention to reintroduce these course options in upcoming years once things return to pre-COVID conditions.

COVID Protocols & Screening Tools:

Ottawa Public Health has helped us establish protocols that will help prevent the spread of COVID 19. The following are some of the preventative measures we have put in place:

- Students will be divided into 2 cohorts, and will attend on alternating days to minimize class sizes
- Parents will screen their children for COVID symptoms before school each day .If COVID Symptoms are present, students will stay home. Ottawa Public Health has created the following [COVID Screening Tool](#) for Students.
- School doors will be open from 8:45 to 9:05 in the morning for students to enter. Students will wear a cloth mask, respect physical distancing and sanitize their hands at the sanitizing station
- Each grade will have a designated entrance to the school to minimize contact between grades
- Each grade will have a dedicated stairwell to minimize contact between grades
- Some hallways have been designed to be unidirectional. The direction of traffic flow in the hallways will be indicated with arrows on the floor, as well as arrows on the wall. This precaution is to help minimize student contacts
- Some hallways require two-way traffic. These hallways have been separated in to two lanes (using yellow tape). Lanes are unidirectional, and the traffic flow will be indicated with arrows on the floor
- Students will not have access to lockers. They will store bags and coats beneath their seats. This will help minimize student contacts
- When students enter their classroom they will sanitize their hands using gel sanitizer located at the classroom entrance, or if their classroom has a sink they will wash their hands with soap and water using a paper towel to dry.
- A seating plan will be established in each classroom. Students will not share seats.
- At the end of their first 112 minute study block, students will have a 10 minute break where they will stay in their class. Following the 10 minute break, students will have a second 112 minute study block. At 1:00pm students will be dismissed from their classrooms in staggered groups to facilitate social distancing
- Students will leave the school right away and will head home for lunch, and will have access to a 75 minute period of remote support from 1:40pm to 3:00pm

- Students will have access to washrooms during their 112 minute instructional blocks. Students will be asked to sign in and out upon using the washroom, to facilitate contact tracing
- Students will alternate each week between period 1 and period 3 to minimize student contacts.
- Only students and staff will have access to the school building in order to limit contacts. We value the engagement of our parent community. Parents can contact staff members by calling 613-823-0367, or by emailing staff members. [Click here to access the school directory.](#)

JMSS 2020 – 2021 Parking & Bus Plan:

To help minimize contacts between individuals in our building, we will be assigning entrances to students and staff. Students will be assigned to Entrances A, B, C, and H. Staff will be assigned to entrance F. We will be asking JMSS families to comply with the JMSS Parking and Bus Plan for this year. We have an excellent working relationship with the team at Walter Baker Centre and the Ruth E Dickinson Library. In order to help them meet their COVID prevention protocols the following entrances will be closed to JMSS students and staff:

- The parking lot adjacent to the Main Entrance of the Walter Baker Centre
- The Main Entrance of the Walter Baker Centre
- The Entrance to the Arenas at the Walter Baker Centre
- The Entrance to the Ruth E Dickinson Library
- The parking lot adjacent to the Ruth E Dickinson Library

Walter Baker is a valued community partner. They have graciously enabled us to use the parking lot adjacent to the WBC Arena Entrance for Student Drop-off, and student parking.



Blue - Parking, Drop Off & Bus	Red - No Entry	Green - JMSS Entrance
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A – Yellow Bus Drop off B – OC Transpo route 170 C – OC Transpo route 173 D – Walter Baker Centre E – Student Drop off & parking F – JMSS Staff Only Parking G – Ruth E Dickinson Library Parking	X – Main Entrance WBC X – Arena Entrance WBC X – Ruth E Dickinson Library OPL	A – Grade 9 Entrance B – Grade 10 Entrance C – Grade 11 Entrance H – Grade 12 Entrance *Students with a class scheduled in a portable will go directly to their portable
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Advice From The Ministry of Natural Resources – Red Fox

One of the wonderful things about living Barrhaven is the wonderful green space and urban wood lots. The biodiversity of these spaces can lead to increased sightings of wild animals. In late summer, our JMSS staff members have noticed an increase in Red Fox sightings. [To reduce the potential for fox encounters the Ministry of Natural Resources has these tips for the public.](#)

Update from OSTA – The Ottawa Student Transportation Authority:

[OSTA has provided us with the following information to share with parents:](#)

Sincerely,

Erin O’Grady



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We acknowledge that John McCrae Secondary School rests on unceded and unsurrendered Algonquin Territory. We thank the Algonquin Nation for hosting us and recognize their enduring presence on this land.