

MAPLEVIEW HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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James Dobson, Principal
Juli Miller, Vice Principal

Welcome (back) to school, Husky Families!

My name is James Dobson and I am the principal of Mapleview Heights. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Juli Miller as our new vice principal. Our previous VP, Kristen Nafziger, has moved on to Hyde Park. We are excited to be returning to Mapleview Heights and we look forward to meeting you and your children.

As the new school year quickly approaches, we would like to welcome you. Our hope is that you had a chance to rest and recharge this summer. We have heard that many families and students are excited to get back to a routine, and we know we speak for the staff of Mapleview Heights when we say that we are all also very excited to reconnect with our students and families. We have missed you!

You will find important information outlined in this email. Please read and review with your child(ren) prior to their first day of school (*Year 2 Kindergarten (SK) - Grade 8 students start on Tuesday, September 5. Year One Kindergarten (JK) and senior kindergarten students who have not previously attended school will start Thursday, September.*

Our school day begins at 9:15 am and ends at 3:35 pm. Staff will be outdoors for duty beginning at 9:00 am. Staff are easy to identify as they will be wearing brightly coloured safety vests.

As with every year, start up **classes are tentative**. We will determine if changes need to take place once we have students in the building. School restructuring will take place by Tuesday, September 26. More communication around this will be forthcoming.

Drop Offs and Pickups: Although families are HIGHLY ENCOURAGED to walk, the back parking lot is available for parking or to go through the Kiss 'N Ride. Adults should not get out of the vehicle in the Kiss 'N Ride; students should exit the vehicle independently close to the shed. If parents/guardians walk their child(ren) to school, they should remain on the sidewalk along the parking lot. The kindergarten team will be out in the kindergarten yard (on the west side of the building) to meet your child(ren). Please wait at the front gate or at the catwalk (off of Raquel Street). The parking lot can become very crowded, especially for after-school pickup. We close entry to the parking lot by 3:30 pm to ensure that school vehicles can safely enter the bus lane. We appreciate your understanding, patience and flexibility.

School Access for Families: If you need to pick up your child for any reason, please use the intercom at the front door and someone will assist you at that time. Please be patient as it may take a few minutes to respond to the buzzer if our office staff are not immediately available. If your child is being picked up prior to the end of the school day, please ensure that this has been communicated with the school (e.g., phone call to the office, note to the teacher). It is VERY important that, at the end of the day, you are not buzzing into the office to pick up your child. Especially during these times, it is important to keep end of day routines as consistent as possible. If you are picking your child(ren) up at the end of the school day, please make sure you have outlined

a pick-up location and time with your child(ren) where you will meet. You may wish to practice this leading up to the start of school. Please do not remain at the school any longer than is necessary.

Communication: Information about what is happening at the school each week, updates on hot lunches, presentations, field trips, etc. will be communicated via email every Friday. Please look for our Friday eBlasts to stay informed.

First Day Procedures (Grades 1- 8): On the first day, your child should enter the school property on the tarmac area adjacent to the parking lot and make their way to the school sign with their current school grade. Attached (and on our website) is a map indicating where your child will meet. Staff (in safety vests) will be holding large signs numbered 1-8 (indicating the student's grade). Your child should gather at the appropriate sign and will be directed to their class line.

If you wish to come to the school to show your child their location on the property prior to the first day of school, you are free to do so and you can direct your child as to where they will stand. If your child walks to school, it is very important that they arrive on school property between 9:00 am and 9:15 am. Please remember that, for dismissal, we ask that you remain on the sidewalk and not to enter the school yard so it is important that you have procedures in place for the end of the school day if you are choosing to pick up your child, and that these procedures are reviewed with them.

First Day Procedures (Kindergarten): Students in Year 2 (SK) will begin school on Tuesday, September 5. Families should drop students off at the kindergarten gate (west side of school) or at the catwalk (off of Raquel Street) between 9:00 am and 9:15 am. Educators will be there to greet them and direct them to their class line.

Students in Year 1 (JK) (and senior kindergarten students who have not previously attended school), will begin school on Thursday, September 7. Families should drop students off at the kindergarten gate (west side of school) or at the catwalk (off of Raquel Street) between 9:00 am and 9:15 am. Educators will be there to greet them and direct them to their class line.

Year 1 (JK) Students and Families

On Wednesday, September 6 from 2:30 - 3:15 pm, our Year 1 students (and senior kindergarten students who have not previously attended school) and their parents/guardians are invited to tour their classroom and quickly meet with the educators. An email to families will be sent out by kindergarten educators early next week.

Nutrition Breaks: There are 2 nutrition breaks during the school day. Elementary students will eat lunch in their classroom. If weather permits, consideration will be given to eating lunch outdoors. Students should bring a refillable water bottle that is labeled with their name and kept with them during the day. We have 3 water fill stations. Information about purchasing hot lunches will be provided in the coming weeks.

<i>Nutrition Break 1</i>	Grades 1 - 3	10:55 - 11:15
	Kindergarten, Grades 4 -8	11:15 - 11:35
<i>Nutrition Break 2</i>	Grades 1 - 3	1:15 - 1:35
	Kindergarten, Grades 4-8	1:35 - 1:55

Please ensure that your child is prepared to learn outdoors as much as possible. This means that our students should come to school prepared for all weather conditions. If it's raining at recess or during outdoor learning times, we are still going outdoors. Our youngest huskies do such a great job at outdoor learning at all

times. The young students are outside learning during snow, rain, and poor weather conditions. They set such a great example for the rest of the school!

Please label student belongings. All students are strongly encouraged to bring a pair of indoor shoes that will remain at school each day. For younger students, a spare set of clothing would be advisable.

Mapleview Heights is a mask-friendly school. Students, staff and families are welcome to wear masks throughout the day. Masks will be available to all students, staff and families at the school.

It is recommended that staff, students and visitors continue to self-screen every day before attending school using the [COVID-19 school and child care screening tool](#).

If your child has any symptoms in the self-assessment, you are asked to follow the recommendations outlined for your child. In the case where your child becomes ill at school and is displaying symptoms associated with COVID-19, we will call families to arrange for a pick up. Please ensure that we have updated information regarding emergency contacts in the event that we are unable to reach you.

We will continue to send updates on Twitter: (@mapleviewhtshusky) and on our school website: (<http://mht.scdsb.on.ca/>). You can also visit the SCDSB website for board-wide updates: www.scdsb.on.ca.

Well-being: We believe that looking after our physical and mental health is essential to our well-being. We are committed to creating an inclusive school environment where students feel safe, welcome and included. For helpful information and resources to support student mental health and well-being, visit the [SCDSB website](#) or [School Mental Health Ontario](#).

Reminder: Each Friday, you will receive an e-Blast (via email) with Mapleview Heights information. Please read through this information each Friday.

Looking forward to a fun-packed year.

Sincerely,
James Dobson
Principal of Mapleview Heights E.S.