



RCFI Weekly Memo to Families from Administration

MISSION: TO IMPROVE OUR STUDENTS' ORAL PROFICIENCY IN FRENCH

GOAL: TO DEVELOP STUDENTS' UNDERSTANDING AND APPLICATION OF ADDITIVE REASONING

Principal: A. Maddox

Vice Principal: S. Chamberlain

Superintendent: D. Wright

Admin. Assistant: T. Kormendi/A. Law

Trustees: Bill McKinnon, Barb Yeoman

We would like to welcome everyone to the 2020/21 school year. We are eager to see those students who are returning to onsite learning at RC, and we are equally excited to meet our newest students (and their families) joining the Raptor community this year. We would also like to wish the best of luck to those Raptors who will be starting the year in Full Remote Learning. We are looking forward to an exciting year working with all of you.

There are so many questions about what this year will be like, and what adjustments will need to be made. This email will try and begin to answer many of those questions. There is A LOT of information in this email, please pace yourself as you work through the information. Please remember that these protocols are subject to change, either because of changes from the Ministry/Board, Public Health Unit, or because once we have the students on site, we may need to streamline our routines. We will be sending out more information later this week. If we miss something, or you feel an item requires more clarification, please do not hesitate to reach out to either Mme Chamberlain (s.chamberlain@tvdsb.ca) or myself (a.maddox@tvdsb.ca).

Here we go...

Who is my child's teacher? Teachers will be reaching out to families this week to introduce themselves and share specifics about the first day of school. Please remember that only students with last names that begin with the letters A-J attend school on Monday September 14 and Tuesday September 15. Students whose last names begin with letters K-Z attend school Wednesday September 16 and Thursday September 17. ALL students will attend school from Friday September 18th onward. If you have children with different last names that fall into both categories, please choose one option and send all children on those days (either Mon/Tues OR Wed/Thurs).

Building Access (new this year) - At 9:00 am each day, once staff and students are inside, the front doors will be locked and will remain locked all day. Families will only be able to access the school building by appointment.

- If your child is late, they are to come to the front door, we have a new doorbell that they can ring. A staff member will let them in and then they will sign in and head to class with their admit slip.
- If you are picking up your child during the day, you will need to call the school (519) 537 7321 and let them know when and who you are picking up, or send a note in their planner. We will ensure that your child is ready when you arrive. You can then call the school office when you arrive and we will send them out to you, or you can meet them at the door. If you have an appointment, you can come right to the door. The staff member with whom you are meeting, should be there to greet you, if not ring the doorbell and one of the Administrators or office staff will let you in. There will be one door near the portables/portapac that is unlocked throughout the day for students to access the washrooms and water bottle filling station.

What will the entry routine be? In the morning, as buses and walkers arrive, and families drop off, we will have all 400 students on the yard at one time. This will make social distancing very difficult, which is why we will have zones for different classes. Each class will have a region of the yard dedicated to their grouping. All classes within a grouping (max 3 classes) will have similar teacher contacts throughout the school day and these groupings will also be used for recess times. This is one of the steps we are taking to limit students 'bubbles' while at school. In order to assist with social distancing, we are asking families (AFTER the first day of school) to drop their children off at the gate, and not be on school property. We will have additional supervisors on the yard. This will also assist us should we need to provide lists to Public Health for contact tracing. **SEE ATTACHED MAP OF ZONES**

Where can I drop off my child? For those families who are dropping off students in the morning. Supervision on

the yard begins each morning at 8:45, so we ask that you do not drop your child(ren) off before that time.

Drop off spots in the morning: we have a few options

- If your child can exit your car without adult support, we would encourage you to use the two entry points on the northside of the yard, near to portables. Pull up to the curb, and have your child hop out and walk onto property. There will now be a staff member on that side of the yard for supervision.
- You can look at the Drop and Walk 5 map attached, for areas you can safely stop and let your child out. They would then walk the short distance to the school yard.
- If your child can not exit the car independently, you will need to find street parking near the school, and walk your child to the yard. Leave them at the gate (after the first day) to join the other students and supervising staff on the yard. See the link in the section about parking to identify locations where parking near the school is permitted.

****The school parking lot will not be accessible at the end of the day as we will have to limit in/out traffic as we adjust our routines for loading buses. **See attached map from STS re Walk-a-Block**

Reminder with regards to Parking

The number of vehicles in and around the school property at drop off and pick up times each day is significant. In order to ensure the safety of all members of the school community and neighbourhood, we ask that families please abide by the parking signs posted throughout our school zone. We have attached a link indicating where parking is and where it is not permitted by City Bylaws for your reference

<https://www.cityofwoodstock.ca/en/resourcesGeneral/PDFs/Engineering/Parking/Traffic-By-law-Amendments-for-School-Zones---RochCarrierFrenchImmersionMap.pdf>). We would hate to see anyone receive a ticket should the Bylaw Officer be on site during these times. Thank you for your support in keeping everyone safe.

What will recesses/breaks look like? We will have two breaks for all students each day. The first break will be 40 mins (20 mins for eating and 20 mins for outside time - they will not be in that order for all classes). The second break will be 50 mins (15 for eating and 25 for outside time). If you are going to give your child in Grade 6-8 permission to leave property at break, we ask that they do so during the afternoon break as it is the longer of the two.

In an effort to limit the number of students on the yard at one time, we will have four rotating recesses/breaks each morning and then again each afternoon. Classes have been clustered together based on their teacher contacts and grouped. No more than 6 classes will be on the yard at one time during a recess. The yard will be split in zones, with no more than three classes per zone. Northside will include the area with the climbers, basketball court, gaga ball pit, and surrounding green space. Southside will include the area with the soccer field, baseball diamond, and part of the tarmac near the parking lot. There will be areas that are off limits to allow for those classes that are still in session to have outdoor space for learning activities should they wish to be outside. If your child in the morning is scheduled to play on the northside, then in the afternoon they will be scheduled to play on the southside and vice versa.

Some classes will have their break before their eating times, while others will have their eating time first, and then head outside.

Masks: Students in Grade 4-8 must wear a mask while in the school/portapac/portables and while on buses.

Students in Grades 1-3 are strongly encouraged to also wear a mask during these times. Masks must cover the nose and mouth without gaps, so bandana versions are acceptable. We will have a supply of cloth masks for students who forget theirs, or those whose masks get soiled or damaged during the day.

We ask families, if possible, to send more than one mask per day with their child, just in case. We encourage you to practice with your child wearing their mask for increasing lengths of time. We as staff realized this past week how different it is wearing a mask when needing to interact with others, specifically having to speak, as the mask can move around.

Each classroom will build routines about how to put on and take off masks properly (ie. practicing hand hygiene to not contaminate the mask), and how/where to store the mask while outside during breaks or learning activities.

We continue to learn more about best practices for storing masks. Students can wear a lanyard (preferably double break away), or you can place the mask in a paper bag and put the bag into a pocket/pouch for safe keeping. It is discouraged to put a mask into a plastic or ziplock bag during these times as these bags hold moisture which is problematic for keeping the mask germ free. Another option is to clip the mask to your child, possibly with a clothes peg, or binder clip.

Lunches: As you begin to plan for lunches for your child, please ensure that you are using containers that they can open independently as we will not be permitted to have lunchroom helpers this year. We want to limit the movement of students around the lunchroom while masks are off. Therefore students are asked to place their debris from lunch in their lunch pails to return home for disposal.

There will be two formal eating times per day, please speak with your child about how to divide their food between the two. Staff will also work with their class on learning how to split their lunch between the two eating times. We will not have a formal snack program to start the year, but we will have emergency pre-packaged snacks should a child run out of food and are still hungry. We will also have a small supply of plastic spoons available in each class should a child forget their utensil at home.

Hand Hygiene: Every classroom that has a sink, has soap and paper towels as well. Students in these classrooms will be encouraged to use their sink throughout the day as needed to wash their hands. Those classes that do not have a sink, have had a wall mounted hand sanitizer installed over the summer. They will also have access to the washrooms for washing their hands with soap as needed.

Students in all classes will be cleaning their hands A LOT. Each time students leave/return to the classroom, before and after eating, as well as before and after the use of equipment (i.e. PE class). The importance of this will be shared in all classes, and routines to normalize this will be established at all grade levels.

Water Bottles: Our water fountains have been turned off in an effort to reduce contact points for students. We do have a water bottle filling station, and are working on getting a second one installed, or adapting some of our water fountains to accommodate bottle filling. We are asking families to send their children to school with at least one filled reusable water bottle each day. We have received a donation of reusable water bottles from the TVDSB Caring Foundation. These will be shared with students who do not have their own. Classes will have designated times to refill their water bottles during the day.

United Way Gift Cards: Unfortunately we have not been able to get our hands on those gift cards, YET. I will be reaching out to my contact at United Way over the weekend to hopefully get them onsite on Tuesday sometime. As soon as we have them, we will have our amazing office staff (Mme Kormendi and Mme Law) start reaching out to families who applied to determine if you wish to pick them up prior to the first day of school. If you are not able to make it, don't worry we will send the card home with your child on their first day of school.

Returning of Technology borrowed in the spring: Those families who borrowed devices in the spring should have received either a phone call or email from the school to set up a drop off time. Drop off times will be Tuesday September 8th and Wednesday September 9th. Morning drop off times are between 8-11am, and afternoon drop off times are between 1-4 pm. Please either reply to the email, or call the school directly (519-537-7321) to set up an appointment for drop off. We will ask that families bring the device and power cord to the front door, ring our doorbell and wait for a staff member to bring out a bucket for you to place the device into. Then we will ask for the name of the student who was using the device, and if there were any issues with the performance of the device. Then you will be on your way. If you are unable to drop off your device that day, please let us know and we can make alternate arrangements.

Distribution of Technology requested for Full Remote Learning: We have been told to expect these devices to be delivered to schools by Wednesday September 9th, at which time we will send out an email and begin to make phone calls to set up pick up times on Thursday September 10th, and Friday September 11th.

Dismissal: This may be the trickiest part of our day. We will have the majority of our student body heading

towards the buses at the same time. So we are shifting our routines. At approximately 3:10pm, we will be 'coning' off the school parking lot entrance. There will be NO in/out access until after buses have left property. Students from the main building will exit as normal - class by class to allow for social distancing through the south exit.

Students from the portpac will split, the 5/6 class (Mme Beshara), the Gr 6 and Gr 6/7 classes will exit the east doors of the portapac and head across the school yard to the buses. The other three classes (Mme Roth's Gr 7s, and both Grade 8 classes) will exit the West doors and head towards the village of loose portables. Then they will follow the classes in the loose portables (see below).

Classes in loose portables will be walking across the front of the school (on the sidewalk) along Belgrave, supervised by their teachers.

Bus students: We will have two buses on Belgrave, and the rest will be in our bus lane on Cromwell. Students will proceed to their buses while adhering to social distancing.

Walkers will either

- Head off property towards home if they are not being picked up
- Follow the path back onto the school yard until a staff member can connect them with their parent/guardian - there will be a dedicated space for families to meet their children (tarmac between school and parking lot)

** On the occasion that a bus student needs to be picked up, parents will need to sign their child(ren) out at the tarmac pick up zone with the supervising staff member as building access will not be possible. That being said, we need to be notified about pick ups prior to 3:00 in order to ensure that we have sufficient time to get the information to the staff member/students.

Revised School Organization

Grade 1 Mme Eyraud, Mme Lebelle, and Mme Elligson

Grade 2 Mme Richard, Mme Rexer, Mme Nixon, Grade 2/3 Mme Kidd

Grade 3 Mme Flint, Mme J Martin, and Mme Havens

Grade 4 Mme Corina, LTO to be determined, Grade 4/5 Mme Lebel

Grade 5/6 Mme Beshara, Grade 6 LTO to be determined, Grade 6/7 LTO to be determined, Grade 7 Mme Roth

Grade 8 Mme S Martin and Mme Beatty

Mme Alyea is back as our librarian, Mme Boomen, M Robert, Mme Olsson are back providing prep. We welcome Mme Regehr and Mme Kerr who will also be providing prep coverage.

Mme Barnim is taking over as our Learning Support Teacher

Mme Schell will be back as one of our Educational Assistants and M Uchacz (a.k.a. Monsieur U) will also be part of our EA team.

You will notice that three of our primary staff are missing from that list, Mme Johnson, Mme Radford and M Duplain will all be teaching in the virtual French Immersion school! We wish them all the best and look forward to having them back onsite eventually.

Phew...that was a small novel! Hopefully this answers many of your questions. Please let us know if you have any other questions. I have reached out to the Principal of the Virtual French Immersion School to ask for any information he has for those families from RC who will be participating in Full Remote Learning (FRL). I will be in touch when I hear back from him.

Your devoted Administrators,
Mme Maddox and Mme Chamberlain

Any Questions?



Check our website @ www.rochcarrier.tvdsb.ca