

PDPS Update January 14, 2022

Good evening, Panther Families. As you can imagine, there will be a lot of information in this update regarding students' return to in-person learning on Monday. Please make sure to read the TVDSB memo attached as only additional information we've received since its publication or changes for PDPS students directly will be outlined in this update. As always, if you have any questions, please email Ms. Elcombe directly at t.elcombe@tvdsb.ca or 519-684-7436 (school) and she will get back to you as soon as possible.

Return to In-Person Learning, Asynchronous Learning Models

We anticipate the return of all of our in-person learners on Monday, January 17. We also understand that at this time, your family may not feel comfortable with sending your child back to school. There are four options for students not returning outlined below. If you have questions regarding any of the following models, please reach out to Ms. Elcombe directly.

- 1) Change of learning model to *full remote learning* (to the end of the school year). This will require an application to the TVDSB committee for students with exceptional circumstances. There is no guarantee that an application will result in acceptance to this learning model.
- 2) *Asynchronous learning* through existing PDPS Google Classroom platform. Students will have access to existing materials for asynchronous independent learning opportunities on their Google Classroom. While educators may post some work or activities used in-person (if already in a format that is easily posted to the online platform), this work will not be individualized for your child, and new material may not be posted on a daily basis. Please understand that the teaching methods and formats used for in-person learning differ greatly from those used during remote learning periods (e.g., educators do not usually put all activities into Google Slides each day), and often do not lend themselves to being 'posted' electronically (e.g., hands on learning activities, small group instruction, oral discussions and conversations). Students may submit work to the classroom teacher for assessment as appropriate. Students may return to in-person learning at any time.
- 3) *Short-term Virtual Learning* through TVDSB. Learning Support Services staff will be creating independent, asynchronous, curriculum-based grade level learning opportunities for students. The activities will not be connected to what is happening in their current classrooms back at PDPS. The lessons and activities may be for units already studied at school, or to be studied later in the year. PDPS staff will not be monitoring student learning in this option (including IEPs). LSS staff will be available during 'office hours' to support students, but there will be no synchronous or live lessons provided. There will be opportunities for students to participate in live 'mental well-being' sessions only. Families choosing this option must register their child through Ms. Elcombe at the school. Students may return to in-person learning at any time.
- 4) *Parent approved absence from all learning opportunities*.

No student's marks will be affected negatively (e.g., will not go down from current grades) if they do not participate during in-person learning. They will not be expected to 'make up' assignments or tests they have missed, but they may need to put some extra effort into 'catching up' with new learning that has occurred during their absence.

If your child will not be attending in-person, it is imperative that you continue to use the same safe arrival process as you have always used for student absences.

Student Covid-19 Daily School Screening and Electronic Confirmation

With the current transmission rates of the Covid-19 Omicron variant, it is extremely important that families complete the Covid-19 School and Child Care Screener for each student daily, and use the QR code (blue sticker sent home in early December with student login/password credentials) or go to https://schoolapps2.tvdsb.ca/students/covid_screening_verification/ to complete the online confirmation each day for each child. The screener may be updated regularly by the Ministry without notice to schools (<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>). At this time according to the Ministry, if your child is required to stay home, ALL family members will also be required to isolate for 5 to 10 days, dependent on vaccination status.

Change in Return of Technology from TVDSB Memo

During this past remote learning period, we deployed 61 Chromebooks to students. This leaves the school with only 16 devices in total to use for in-person learning opportunities. Of the 61 units deployed, 45 went to students in Kindergarten through Grade 2, whose classes do not use this technology on as regular a basis as our older classes. With approval from our Superintendent, we will be asking that students in Kindergarten through Grade 2/3 classes who have had Chromebooks deployed **RETURN** their devices to the school when they return to in-person learning. Students in the Grade 3/4 through Grade 8 classes are asked to bring their borrowed technology back and forth to school as needed or requested by their classroom teachers for in-class learning opportunities. This will allow all of our students to continue to use technology while in-person for regular in-class programming as they were before the break. If a returned device is needed again (e.g., student isolating with family, return to remote learning,

etc.), we will make arrangements for it to be re-deployed to the same student. If you have any questions or concerns about this change from the Board's messaging, please feel free to contact Ms. Elcombe directly.

Hot Lunches Postponed

As the schools once again are required to limit visitors in the building, we are unable at this time to run the Hot Lunch program. Lunchbox will update the online calendar to reflect a two-week postponement and will issue credits as needed for orders already placed for the next two weeks. The calendar for February will remain open at this time.

Student Masks and Rapid Antigen Testing Kits

We have received and will be distributing one washable 3-ply cloth mask supplied by the Ministry of Education for each student when they return to in-person learning on Monday. These are not mandated, but recommended along with disposable surgical/medical masks in place of single layer fabric masks. For students who choose to use the provided masks, we will provide a second mask later in the week, as we have received limited supplies at this time.

TVDSB has not yet received any Rapid Antigen Testing kits. Once they are received, staff at the Board will need to divide the boxes into 'mini kits' of two tests per package before they are distributed to schools (this may take up to two weeks). Once they arrive at PDPS, each student and staff member will be provided with one 'mini kit' to have for student use at home when needed. At this time, we are not anticipating additional testing kits will be provided for whole-school distribution. Schools will receive a limited number of 'extra' kits to be provided to students who develop symptoms at school and need to be picked up.

School Council Meeting

We invite all families to join us for our next School Council meeting on Monday, January 17 7:00 – 8:30 pm. Please see the attached agenda for the TEAMS link for the meeting.

Bus Registration for 2022-2023

As has become the practice the past couple of school years, students eligible to ride the school bus to and from school will need to register each year. Please see the attached flyer for more information.

Kindergarten Registration for 2022-2023

Children born in 2018 will be eligible to register for Kindergarten for 2022-2023. Online registration will begin January 17 and run until February 4. More information will follow in next week's update. Please feel free to pass on information to family and neighbours who may not already have a child at PDPS. Please note that new eligible Kindergarten students will also need to register for school transportation. <https://www.tvdsb.ca/en/schools/kindergarten-registration.aspx>

Opportunity for Students

Investing in Children is very excited to announce that we will be offering another Let's Chat: Live Different Circles program for students in Grades 7 - 10 for 7 weeks beginning on Jan. 27th. This valuable program supports kindness, values, and compassion and is suitable for ANY student in Grades 7 - 10 (2 age group sessions provided). We were so pleased with the outcome of our fall session that saw the students collect 3860 pairs of socks for the homeless as part of their Compassion Project. We can't wait to see what a new group will accomplish! It is too good to be missed!!!! REGISTRATION is now open on our website at <https://investinginchildren.on.ca/circles>

Lost & Found

Please see the attached photos of items that have accumulated over the past few months or have been unclaimed in classrooms. If you see anything belonging to your household, please contact Ms. Elcombe directly (t.elcombe@tvdsb.ca) and we'll make sure they find their way home when we return to in-person learning next week.

Private School Facebook Page

If you are on Facebook, we would encourage you to join our 'Plattsville & District PS PDPS' private Facebook group. Please feel free to invite families who attend PDPS who are not yet part of the group, as well as any community members or businesses from Plattsville who support our school. We re-post all messages that go out from School Messenger both on this page, as well as on our school website at plattsville.tvdsb.ca. Please email t.elcombe@tvdsb.ca rather than using Facebook Messenger if you wish to get hold of the Principal/Facebook Group administrator directly as messages may be missed otherwise (Ms. Elcombe does not use FB Messenger and only sees messages if in the administration section of the school's Facebook page).

Important Upcoming Dates

Monday, January 17

Return to in-person learning

School Council Meeting 7:00 – 8:30 pm – meet link will be posted in next week's update

January 17 – February 4

Kindergarten Registration

Have a great weekend, Plattsville Families! We can't wait to see everyone on Monday!