



September 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are so excited to welcome students **back to school on Wednesday, September 7th**. Please note that **bussing will not begin until Monday, September 12.**

The staff and I at Valleyfield look forward to having your children back at school.

This parent guide will provide you information about Valleyfield's school opening plans as well as the health and safety guidelines set by Toronto Public Health (TPH) and the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) for school reopening. Please note that there may be revisions to our school-based procedures.

We appreciate your patience and support as we work together to have a successful and positive year at Valleyfield. Please review the following information carefully and use it for future reference

Thank you,

B. Dixon

Transportation

Please note that **bussing will not be available until Monday, September 12th.**

While we wait for bussing to resume on September 12th:

- Students must arrive at school by **8:15am** sharp
- Students will go to their class line in the school yard upon arrival –staff will be outside to help you find the class line
- At dismissal time, students will line up outside in the same place
- Parents must pick up students in the yard by **2:50pm**
- Kindergarten students must be picked up and dropped off in the kindergarten yard

Please note that teachers will only allow parents/guardians, unless otherwise notified, to pick up children from the yard. If you are sending someone else to pick up your children, please notify the office by 2:30pm.

You can use the following link to Bus Planner to access more information about bussing:

<https://busplannerweb.torontoschoolbus.org/>

Parents may call the **Transportation Call Centre – 647-790-3829.**

Designated Vehicle Drop-off and Pick-up Zone

If you plan to ***regularly pick up*** your children at the end of the day, please let your child's teacher know and note the following:

- Kindergarten students and their siblings will be picked up from the kindergarten yard by 2:50pm
- Gr 1 to 6 students get picked up by the gates in the Junior yard facing Saskatoon by 2:50pm

Please also note that:

- Supervision outside of the school begins at 8:00am in the morning. To be extra safe, **please do not drop off your children before 8:00am** as there will be no one to watch them outside or inside the school.
- We encourage all families to walk or roll (bike, scooter, etc.) to and from school for the many benefits to your well-being and the environment.

- **Please do not block the bus loop entrance/exit or idle your cars.** It is also important that you be mindful of people moving around your vehicle. A reminder that dropping off and picking up your child(ren) should be done in a safe manner. *Children should not be left to cross the road alone; they need to be escorted by you or the Crossing Guard.* Please keep in mind that homeowners in the area need to be able to enter and exit their driveways safely; please do not block their driveways.

Renovations in the Kindergarten and Primary/Junior Yards

The renovation of our Kindergarten yard is almost complete. Construction in the Jr. Yard is now underway. How exciting!!!

Renovations in the Jr. Yard will mean that portions of the area will be fenced off until sometime in November. Due to the decrease in space, we ask that parents dropping off gr 1 to 6 students in the yard to be mindful and limit their time with their child(ren) to ensure safety, and to avoid confusion and overcrowding.

Screening

Students should continue to do a daily self-assessment before entering school or Board buildings and stay home if they are sick. We are awaiting an updated screening tool from the Ministry and will share as soon as it is available.

Masks

The TDSB continues to be a mask-friendly environment inclusive of all staff and students. While the Ministry of Education and public health officials are not mandating the use of masks, Toronto Public Health strongly recommends wearing a well-fitting, high-quality mask, especially in indoor public settings. The TDSB will continue to provide medical masks for staff and students who request them.

Cohorting

Cohorting classes is no longer required for health and safety reasons.

Ventilation

More than 16,000 institutional-grade HEPA filters are in the TDSB with at least one in every occupied classroom. Caretakers will continue to increase ventilation in schools and classrooms with mechanical systems by adjusting the air exchanges and running them before and after class as well as increase natural ventilation by opening windows for short periods of time.

Bell Times

Our day starts at 8:15am and ends at 2:50pm.

Update Parent/Contact Information (Phone numbers, Emails)

If your contact information has changed, it is critical that you make sure to update the information with the office staff @ 416- 395-7590. This ensures that we will be able to contact you promptly if a need arises. The office is open from 8:15am to 3:00 pm on school days, Monday to Friday.

School Access for Parents/Guardians and Visitors

We will continue to minimize people coming into the building. At the same time, this year we are looking forward to having parent volunteers, student teachers etc. in the school on a regular basis.

We ask that all parents/guardians and visitors to the school call the office staff @ 416-395 – 7590 to make an appointment prior to visiting Valleyfield.

We recommend that parents/guardians call the school, if you are picking up your child who is sick or is leaving outside of the regular school hours. With notice, we will have your child come to the office and wait until you arrive.

Late Arrival

If you are bringing your child to school late, please go to the main/front doors and wait outside. A staff member will pick up your child.

Lunch

Children will continue to eat lunch in their class while supervised by a staff member and/or Lunchroom Supervisor. Please ensure that you send your child with a litter less lunch and/or snacks daily along with plenty of water for the day (i.e., water bottle).

If you are dropping off your child's lunch, please call us before 11am at 416-394-7590 to let us know.

Communication from Classroom Teacher

Paper agendas/planners will no longer be used for communication between teachers and parents. Teachers will now communicate to you via the online Google/Brightspace classroom, emails and/or phone calls. Your teacher will let you know which platform will be used.

5-Day Cycle- School Year Calendar

We follow a 5-day rotating schedule as indicated under the day of the month. Please note that Wednesday, September 7 is a Day 1.

Student No-Cellphone Policy

To support students to focus on learning and minimize distractions, we will continue with the NO CELL PHONE USAGE policy during the school day unless allowed by the classroom teacher. Students will need to turn off cellphones when they enter the school yard at the start of the day and to keep them out of use until they are outside and off school-property (sidewalk) at dismissal. If your child needs to contact you and vice versa, the office staff is happy to assist to facilitate communication through the school phones.

Birthday Food

Due to the many students and staff that have severe allergies, please do not send food to school on your child's birthday. Loot bags are allowed if there are no food items.

Nut Free Environment

We have students and staff with life threatening allergies to NUTS. **Please do not bring food with nuts or nut products to school** (i.e., Nutella, Peanut and/or Peanut Butter products). Just the oil or smell from nuts can be life threatening!

Start-of-Year Online School Forms

We will continue with the online platform for parents to complete school forms including the media release, walking excursion, online code of conduct, and medical information form. ***Please complete these online forms as soon as possible so that the school is aware of any medical conditions (allergies, asthma, seizures etc.) that your child has.***

Parent Council

A reminder that we have Parent Council meetings throughout the year. Please make sure to come out to the meetings because your voice matters.

Please note that Parent Council Elections will take place on Tuesday, September 27th at 6:00pm. More details to follow.

Mental Health and Well-Being

The COVID pandemic has been a source of anxiety, fear and stress for many students across the country. As we return to school, our focus will continue to be both on your child's physical wellbeing and their social emotional wellbeing.

Back to School Website for Parents

The TDSB has created a [Back to School website](#) parents, caregivers and students that will continue to be updated throughout the year. Please check out the link for more information.

School Website/Twitter

The school website address is <http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/valleyfield> and our Twitter handle is [twitter@JpsValleyfield](#).

Upcoming Dates

Curriculum Night – September 22

Terry Fox Run – September 22

Parent Council Elections – September 27

Photo Day – October 20

Photo Retake Day – October 24

Elections Polling Station at Valleyfield – October 24

On a Final Note...

As the new school year begins, our staff are working hard to get plans in place and the building ready for school to resume.

Thank you to our parents/guardians for your patience and all you have done to support our teachers, staff, and students during these last 30 months. We look forward to a wonderful year ahead as we continue to learn together, grow together and help each other.

Parents, please remember to look after your own well-being. You need to take care of yourself, so you can take care of others.

The staff and I are looking forward to seeing students back at school On Wednesday, September 7th! We are here to support and work together with you to make this a positive school year at Valleyfield.

Sincerely,

B. Dixon
Principal
Valleyfield Jr School

