

**August 26, 2020**

Dear Families:

I hope you have had a safe and restful summer. After six months apart, I am so excited to welcome students and staff back to our building! The first day of school for students is Tuesday, September 8, 2020.

All students are returning to school as outlined in Nova Scotia's *Back to School Plan*. To learn more about the plan, visit [www.novascotia.ca/backtoschool](http://www.novascotia.ca/backtoschool).

I recognize that you may have questions. Rest assured that supporting your child's return to school is our highest priority. COVID-19 has changed what our school and school day will look like, but it has not changed the quality of education, or the care and support that your child will receive.

There will be many changes to routines in September. Among the changes:

- All students who ride a school bus will be required to wear a mask.
- All students in Grades 4 to 12 and all staff will be required to wear a mask when they are unable to physically distance.
- Schools will receive enhanced cleaning.
- Increased handwashing and sanitizing as students enter and exit school and throughout the day.

Over the course of the next two weeks, leading up to the first day of school, I will be outlining what students and families can expect. These updates will be sent by email and posted on our website at: <https://hpe.hrce.ca/>

I will be sure to share photos of our new signage, handwashing stations and our classrooms as they are set up. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

I want to assure you that together, we've got this. We all have a role to play in helping students feel safe and supported when they return to school. I promise to keep the lines of communication open to make this a positive year. We are all in this together.

I can't wait to see our students!

Sincerely,

**Kelly Joy**