



Halifax West High School
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Sept 11 / 2020

Dear Students, Parents, and Families:

I hope your child(ren) had a positive start to the 2020-21 school year. It *always* takes some time to settle into September routines following the summer months. After six months apart, it may take a little longer this year, but we will get there. I recognize that some of our families may have not had the experience with transportation that you (or we) expect. Please know that the Halifax Regional Centre for Education (HRCE) is actively working with our transportation providers to address these concerns in both the short and long-term.

The most important routine for all of us is to practice public health protocols. Nova Scotia's *Back to School Plan* includes multiple public health measures that are most effective when they're layered together and followed consistently. ***Our shared health depends on our shared actions at home, on the bus and in school.*** Attached, you will find a visual reminder of these measures. Please take a few minutes to review and reinforce this information with your child(ren).

Supporting young adults to be social and safe during lunch hour is a challenge, especially when they are in community restaurants and public areas away from school. It is easy to find pictures on social media of young people gathering in crowds and not wearing masks when they are not in school. Generally speaking, students are doing a great job of adjusting to the new practices when in school. Please know our teachers, administrators and support staff continue to reinforce expectations daily.

How you can help

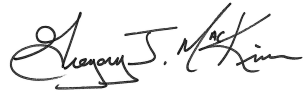
- Practice physical distancing when outside
- Avoid large gatherings
- Wear a non-medical mask when you can't physically distance

These three things keep our children safe. These three things reduce risk for us all. I'm writing to ask for your help to reinforce your expectation with your teenagers, especially when they are off school property at lunchtime or during a free period. Your help is important and it will make a positive impact. Taking a few minutes to remind our teenagers that they have an important role to play in keeping our communities and schools safe will go a long way. Please have that chat, sharing your expectations.

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

Our staff has gone above and beyond this week to ensure a successful start. Our students were awesome at learning new routines and expectations. And you, our families, have been our greatest partners. We truly are in this together!

We hope you take time to rest and recharge this weekend – next week will be even better.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen J. MacKinnon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Stephen" and last name "MacKinnon" clearly legible.

With thanks,

Greg, Marilyn, Glen and Karen
Halifax West High School Admin Team