



Tecumseth South Central Public School

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Principal: Susan Nixon

September 2021



From The Desk of Mrs. Nixon... "Think Kindness!"

Welcome to the 2021/2022 school year. Tec. South staff are delighted to be welcoming our students back to in person learning. We have many returning students AND many new families at Tec. South this year. A special welcome to our new Junior Kindergarten students who began school today, for the very first time!

I hope that parents and students have had a rejuvenating summer and had the opportunity to enjoy the precious opportunity to play together, and to spend time outside. I am sincerely looking forward to this new school year as I know it will be filled with innovative learning experiences, awesome opportunities to be creative, and leadership opportunities for our students.

At Tecumseth South Central Public School, I am proud of the way that our students have opportunities to make a difference...in our school, our community, and globally. This year, we will continue focusing on the importance of being kind...Kindness Matters @ Tec. South! I feel very privileged to have the opportunity to be the Principal at this great school! I value your partnership as together, we help our students to become life-long learners, to grow their character and positive mindset, and to achieve to their full potential in all that they pursue.

I extend a warm invitation to attend our first Parent School Council meeting virtually, on Monday September 27th, beginning at 7:00 pm. Log in details will be shared in the next few weeks. We value your partnership and thank you for entrusting us with your children and sharing their life journey.

I have greatly appreciated all the work by our dedicated team of teachers and support staff to prepare for their students. I also want to acknowledge the hard work of our amazing custodial team over the summer to clean our school and ensure that it is safe. A special thanks to Mrs. Rosie (our administrative assistant in the office), who has been kept extremely busy with numerous new registrations and helping staff and parents prepare for this year's school start up, after distance learning last year.

I feel proud of our school and believe that Tec. South is a special place for our students – a family away from home. The staff team are looking forward to connecting with you this year as we strive to help every one of our students to grow their love of learning as they adjust to being back at school. Thank you for your partnership every day, to help keep our students AND our staff safe.

Sincerely,

(Mrs.) Susan Nixon

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted." (Aesop)

Character Attribute for the month of September

Caring - we show kindness towards each other.

More information about Character Education can be found here: www.scdsb.on.ca/about/character_education



Safety measures in schools

We want to assure you that the health and well-being of our students and staff remains our top priority. We are in regular contact with our local health authority, the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU), and we continue to take their direction on all matters related to COVID-19. Please visit the COVID-19 Return to School page on the SMDHU website at www.simcoemuskokahealth.org for additional information.

The following health and safety measures will be implemented in our schools.

Masking:

Students from Kindergarten (JK and SK) through Grade 12 will be required to wear masks while indoors.

Staff will be required to wear masks while indoors.

Enhanced Health and Safety Protocols:

Hand sanitizer will be provided in each classroom for student and teacher use.

Students will receive training on proper hand hygiene including instructions on hand washing and sanitizing.

Ventilation

Standalone high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter units will be placed in all schools without mechanical ventilation.

HEPA filter units will be placed in all standalone Kindergarten classrooms.

Enhanced Cleaning:

Enhanced cleaning and disinfecting at least twice a day of frequently touched surfaces and shared resources such as doorknobs, light switches, toilets and faucet handles.

Buses will be sanitized twice daily with frequent cleaning of high-touch surfaces.

Physical Distancing:

Directional arrows and signage will be utilized in schools to support physical distancing measures.

Schools will have designated entry and exit doors and staggered entry and exit times. Acrylic shielding will remain installed in school offices.

Self-assessment

All students and staff will be required to complete the daily COVID-19 self-assessment prior to entering SCDSB schools and buildings, using the provincial self-assessment tool. Students or staff with symptoms must stay home from school. To access the COVID-19 self-assessment tool, please visit <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/>.

No visitor access

As we transition into the return to school routine this fall, following the direction from our local health authority, the SMDHU, visitors are not permitted within SCDSB schools at this time. Parents/guardians may ring the doorbell at elementary schools to receive assistance. Parents/guardians will be asked to call the school's main office at secondary schools to receive assistance. School main office phone numbers will be posted on the doors

Instructions for when children become sick at school

Parents/guardians will be asked to provide multiple contacts who will be available to pick up their child(ren) in the event that they become ill while at school. Children who become ill while at school will not be able to travel on a bus home for the protection of the other riders.

Keep connected with our school and with the SCDSB

It's important to get accurate information about what's going on at our school and at the SCDSB. Here are some ways to do that:

- Subscribe to our school's website by visiting the 'What's New' section at http://***.scdsb.on.ca. You can sign up to receive emails about school news updates and information during emergency situations. It is easy to subscribe – visit our website and click the 'Subscribe' link at the very top of the page. Provide your email and click 'Subscribe'; a message will be sent to your inbox with a link to click to confirm that you want to subscribe. You can unsubscribe at any time using the link at the bottom of each email.

Sign up to receive SCDSB media releases by clicking the 'Subscribe' button at www.scdsb.on.ca.

- Follow the SCDSB on Twitter (@SCDSB_Schools), Facebook (facebook.com/SCDSB) and Instagram (instagram.com/scdsb). *(also include your school social media account information here if you have active accounts)*

For school bus transportation information, visit the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium's website at main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca. Also, remember to bookmark the school bus information page at simcoecountyschoolbus.ca for bus delay and cancellation information on inclement weather days.

Student dress code

Students are expected to respect the guidelines when dressing for school. Our school is a safe space. We work to be equitable and inclusive, and understand that students may choose to express themselves through their clothing choices. Student clothing cannot pose a safety concern or conceal identity. Exceptions are granted to students who wear head coverings or other garments/objects for the purposes of religious observance, medical or sensory needs, or other reasons protected by the Ontario Human Rights Code.

The SCDSB dress code is available in the student agenda and online at www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/dress_code. If you have questions about the dress code, you can contact your school principal.

Procedures help keep our school safe

We have a number of procedures in place to keep our school safe. You can help your child understand and feel safe by:

- talking to them about the situations below;
- reminding them that emergencies are rare; and, telling them it's important to follow staff instructions in these situations.

Parents/guardians should talk about the following emergency drills with their children:

- **Shelter in place** is used when there is an environmental or weather-related situation, like a chemical spill outside the building, or a major storm. Activities continue inside the school. Students and staff are not allowed to leave the building. The ventilation system may be shut off temporarily.
- A **hold and secure** is used when there is a situation in the community, not related to the school, like a bank robbery nearby. Activities continue, but all exterior doors are locked. No one is allowed to enter or exit the school.

A **lockdown** is used when there is a major incident or a threat of violence related to the school. Students and staff move to secure areas, away from doors and windows. Interior doors are locked, lights are shut off and blinds are drawn. Students and staff remain quiet. We practice lockdown drills at least two times per year. In the unlikely event of an actual lockdown situation, police ask that parents/guardians do not go to the school. Information will be communicated through the school board social media sites (www.facebook.com/SCDSB and www.twitter.com/SCDSB_Schools) and website (www.scdsb.on.ca), through local police and local media.

All schools have **evacuation plans** in case of gas leaks, bomb threats or fire incidents that would require everyone to leave the school. We hold drills to practice our evacuation plan. In a real evacuation, students and staff may go to the evacuation site, depending on the situation. Parents/guardians will be informed about pick-up procedures by the school, school board and local media.

When parents/guardians are at school during a drill or emergency event, they must follow direction from school staff, police, fire and/or emergency personnel. Parents/guardians may not have immediate access to their children during drills or emergencies. They may need to wait until the situation is resolved and school staff and/or emergency personnel release students into parent/guardian care.

It's important for you to know we'll always take whatever precautions are necessary to keep our school and students safe.

Please note the following:

- Elementary school main doors are locked during the school day. Visitors must use the **intercom system** and wait for assistance. **Staff may not be available to answer the door immediately, so please be patient.**
- Staff must complete a **criminal record check** before having contact with students.
- We ask parents/guardians to contact us when their child will be absent from school as part of our **Safe Arrival** program. When we don't hear from a parent/guardian and a student is absent, we will call home to find out the reason for the absence.

At least two staff members in every school are trained in **first aid and CPR**. All SCDSB schools have **Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs)**.



School bus 'Bus Tag' program helps students get to and from school safely

The Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium's Bus Tag program supports safety for JK/SK and other school-identified students. The program helps match students to their assigned afternoon school bus and identifies that they must be met by a parent/guardian at their afternoon bus stop.

The program provides a colour coded bus tag with the assigned p.m. route number, to be attached to the student's backpack, and a colour-coded route card with route number in the windows of the school bus that the bus tag is matched to. The program can also provide tags for students who are walkers and/or who remain at an on-site childcare centre to make sure they don't get on a bus in error.

For more information, visit main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca and click on the 'Safety' tab.



September 2021

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1	2	3	4
5	6 Labour Day	7 Rosh Hashanah	8 International Literacy Day	9 First Day of JK	10	11
12 Grandparent's Day	13	14	15	16 Yom Kippur	17	18
19	20	21 Sukkot Begins International Day of Peace	22 Autumnal Equinox	23	24	25
26	27	28 Sukkot Ends Shemini Atzeret	29 Simchat Torah Rowan's Day	30 Orange Shirt Day		