

Preparing for our Back-to-School Re-Entry 2020-2021

July 10, 2020

The Dr. Eric Jackman Institute of Child Study Lab School is committed to providing a safe, healthy and supportive environment to our students. At this time, and having reviewed the Ministry of Education reopening plan (updated July 2, 2020), we anticipate that JICS will re-open in September onsite and face-to-face with protocols and policies in place to safeguard the health and well-being of our students, faculty, staff and families.

Our plans will continue to remain flexible and ready to pivot in anticipation of new developments in the COVID-19 pandemic, including the possibility of easing or tightening of safety restrictions throughout the school year.

<u>GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOL RE-ENTRY</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>STUDENT WELLBEING AND CONNECTION</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>SCHOOL ORGANIZATION AND SCHEDULE</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>OVERALL SCHEDULING PLAN</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>GRADE TEACHER STAFF LIST</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>OVERVIEW OF JICS EDUCATIONAL MODELS</u>	<u>3</u>
NURSERY	3
KINDERGARTEN (JK AND SK)	4
PRIMARY AND JUNIOR DIVISION (GRADES 1-6)	5
SCHOOL GATHERINGS	5
REMOTE LEARNING	5
FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL	6
OUTDOOR TIME AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION	6
<u>HEALTH & SAFETY PROTOCOLS</u>	<u>6</u>
LABELS AND SIGNS	6
ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL	6
CLEANING AND SANITIZATION	6
LUNCH PROGRAM	7
MONITORING OF STUDENT HEALTH WHILE AT SCHOOL	7
PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)	7
TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS	7
WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON PROGRAM	7
DAY CARE	8
<u>SUMMER COMMUNICATIONS</u>	<u>8</u>
PARENT HANDBOOK	8
PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT	8

Guidelines for School Re-Entry

- The health, safety, and well-being of students, faculty, staff, and families is our highest priority.
- Government Pandemic Emergency Orders will continue to be strictly followed and Ministries of Health and Education guidelines followed.
- We will continue to provide the exemplary, research-based JICS instruction and teaching.
- There will be continual analysis of re-entry approaches (i.e. schools in other provinces and other countries that have reopened, Sick Kids recommendations) to help determine best practices for our own re-entry.
- We will have ongoing identification and mitigation of potential risks as much as possible, while acknowledging the limitations of attempting to create a perfectly safe and zero risk environment.
- We will provide clear communication of protocols.

Student Wellbeing and Connection

- We believe that in-person school attendance and connection with classmates and strong relationships with teachers support the wellbeing of all students.
- We will sensitively address the social-emotional needs of all students.
- Our Special Education Team will continue to provide support to students who require academic support.

School Organization and Schedule

We are very fortunate that the physical space in the JICS building and our small school size allow us to bring **all students to school five days a week** while **cohorting** (see below).

Overall Scheduling Plan

All JICS students will be back to school five days a week (full days: Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays; morning only: Wednesdays). School hours will be modified to create a staggered entry and dismissal (families with more than one child will be accommodated). More information about entry and dismissal times will be shared in August.

Our planning includes drawing on the key idea from the Ministry of Education: **cohorting**. Cohorting means that the children in each grade will be divided into two separate half groups. The JICS staff, under the leadership of the principal, will sensitively determine the two academically balanced half groups per grade using a variety of information, including social peer dynamics, special education needs, etc. Two distinct learning spaces for each half-group grade cohort will be provided with a dedicated washroom for the grade.

Grade Teacher Staff List

We are fortunate during this time of change, to maintain consistent staffing in each grade:

Gr 6 – Ben Peebles
 Gr 5 – Zoe Donoahue
 Gr 4 – Robin Shaw
 Gr 3 – Michael Martins
 Gr 2 – David Orsorio
 Gr 1 – Raadiyah Nazeem
 SK – Carol Stephenson
 JK – Marcia Bumbury
 Nursery – Norah L'Esperance and Kenisha Peters
 Nursery – Tara Rousseau and Krista Spence

In addition to each JICS grade teacher, we are hiring (OCT qualified) supply teachers (JK to Grade 6) who have experience working in our school, are well-versed in our philosophy, and follow the same teaching approach. Each full-time supply teacher will be dedicated to one grade and will work with the JICS grade teacher to form the teaching team for the grade. The team will collaborate to provide the learning experiences for the two half-group cohorts. Each half-group grade cohort of children will have equal time with the JICS grade teacher who will be responsible for the instruction of core subjects.

Cohorting will minimize the number of students and teachers that any individual comes into contact with and maintains consistency in those contacts as much as possible.

The two Nursery cohorts will have separate teachers in separate learning spaces and will not alternate. See Nursery section below.

Overview of JICS Educational Models

Pending government regulations, we are developing the following plans for each of the divisions. Further details will be shared in the Parent Handbook in August.

Nursery

Please note that the Nursery program is regulated by the Child Care and Early Years Act (CCEYA) and has specific guidelines that differ from other divisions.

- Plans are underway for our Nursery students to be at school five days (mornings) a week.
- The size of the cohorts is 8 students. The CCEYA requires cohorts to be a maximum of 10 individuals, including adults.
- Each cohort will be taught by an experienced JICS OCT teacher/s with ECE qualifications.

- Each cohort will have a dedicated learning space and remain in this space when indoors. This space will have its own dedicated washroom.
- Physical distancing between the cohorts will be maintained.
- Screening will be conducted before entering the classroom.
- There will be limited movement of staff between the cohorts.
- Any toys and equipment that are shared between children will be cleaned and disinfected before and after each use.
- Frequent hand-washing will continue to be part of the daily routine including prior to snack.
- Students will be outside whenever possible.
- Afternoon Day Care will be provided for families who register.

Kindergarten (JK and SK)

- Plans are underway for our kindergarten students to be at school five days a week (full days: Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays; morning only: Wednesdays).
- Students will be grouped into two balanced cohorts of 11 (two cohorts of JK students and two cohorts of SK students). These cohorts will be carefully designed and may change at specific breaks in the year (e.g. following the winter holiday, etc.)
- Each cohort will be taught by the JICS classroom teacher for an equal amount of time. When not with the classroom teacher, the students will be in the care of the supply teacher.
- Each cohort group will be physically separated from the other cohort group when utilizing both indoor and outdoor spaces, as much as possible.
- Each half-grade cohort will have its own dedicated washroom.
- There will be limited movement of staff between the cohorts.
- Community building and connection between cohorts is an important component of the school day. Connections between cohorts will be facilitated virtually.
- The specialty subjects (French, Music, Art, Phys Ed, Drama, Library) will be taught using a combination of in person and in-school synchronous (live screen based) delivery to minimize interactions with numerous teachers.
- Any toys and equipment that are shared will be cleaned and disinfected before and after use.
- Students will have their own personal work materials that can be brought home in the event of distance-education.
- Frequent hand-washing will continue to be part of the daily routine including prior to snack and lunch time.
- Lunch and snack will be eaten in the classroom.
- Students will be outside for recess and teachers will facilitate learning outdoors when possible.

Primary and Junior Division (Grades 1-6)

- Plans are underway for our Grade 1-6 students to be at school five days a week (full days: Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays; morning only: Wednesdays).
- Students will be grouped into two balanced cohorts of 11 (Grades 1-3) or 12 (Grades 4-6). These cohorts will be carefully designed and may change at specific breaks in the year (e.g. following the winter holiday, etc.)
- The cohort will be taught by the grade teaching team (JICS classroom teacher and grade-dedicated supply teacher), with the half-grade cohorts alternating their time equally between the two teachers.
- The students will remain in one space per day.
- Each cohort group will be physically separated from the other cohort group when utilizing both indoor and outdoor spaces, as much as possible.
- Each grade will have its own dedicated gender-neutral washroom.
- There will be limited movement of staff between the cohorts.
- The specialty subjects (French, Music, Art, Phys Ed, Drama, Library) will be taught using a combination of in person and in-school synchronous (live screen based) delivery to minimize interactions with numerous teachers.
- Community building and connection between cohorts is an important component of the school day. Connections between cohorts will be facilitated virtually.
- Any materials and equipment that are used will be cleaned and disinfected before and after use.
- Students will be provided with their own personal work materials and technology that can be brought home in the event of distance-education.
- Frequent hand-washing will continue to be part of the daily routine including prior to snack and lunch time.
- Lunch and snack will be eaten in the classroom.
- Students will be outside for recess and teachers will facilitate learning outdoors when possible.

School Gatherings

There will be no large, in-person gatherings. We will continue to find ways to come together as a community and build whole school connections through virtual assemblies and celebrations.

Remote Learning

The JICS Lab School is focused on providing exemplary education to our students. We will continue to provide a caring environment that promotes security for every student, based on relationships of trust, caring and compassion between teachers and students. Our teaching practices and learning opportunities are anchored in inquiry, developmental readiness, and emerging research. Remote learning accommodations will be made for students who have a medical situation or family circumstance that might make returning to school difficult or imprudent. We ask that parents who will request remote learning for their child/ren due to health concerns be in touch immediately with school principal, Richard Messina. Should a

second wave of COVID-19 require us to return to full remote learning at any time during the school year, we are prepared with an updated remote learning plan.

First Week of School

We are devising a re-entry schedule that includes an opportunity for all students to become familiar with and practice new routines and protocols in the first week of school (September 9-11, 2020). Further details for the first week will be provided soon.

Outdoor Time and Physical Education

- We are fortunate to have many outdoor spaces which are ideal for outdoor learning/play. In addition to the school yard, we have the newly completed landscaped courtyard, the outdoor space south of 56 Spadina and the grassy area in front of 45 Walmer. Our plan is to ensure that students have outdoor learning time whenever possible in addition to recess play in the yard.
- The Ministry of Education guidelines recommend that physical distancing within a cohort is not required during outdoor activities such as recess, however physical distancing must be maintained between cohort groups.
- The gym has been preserved for physical education classes. Each half-class cohort will have regular physical education classes.

Health & Safety Protocols

Labels and Signs

- Signage (hand washing and sanitizing; prevention and precautions) and floor labelling (directing flow) will be utilized throughout the building.

Arrival and Dismissal

- We are designing staggered arrival and dismissal times for students to ensure physical distancing and ease of traffic flow.
- Parents will complete assessments and temperature checks at home before departing for school, except for Nursery children who will have a temperature check at school each morning before entering the room.
- All faculty and staff will be required to complete self-assessments and temperature checks at home before departing for school.
- Visitor access, including all parents, will be limited to advance appointments only and visitors will be required to undergo screening before entry.

Cleaning and Sanitization

- Additional hand sanitizer stations will be installed throughout the school.
- Routine sanitizing of facilities and high touch surfaces will take place throughout the day.
- Daily professional deep cleaning will take place at the end of day.

Lunch Program

- Lunch will be eaten in the classroom.
- Our lunch provider “The Lunch Mom” is developing COVID-19 pandemic safety protocols for food services so that the lunch program can run this year for interested families. Information will be provided in August.

Monitoring of Student Health While at School

- We will be implementing a new guideline and protocols for health screening and monitoring, including when and how long to stay home, and when it is safe to return after illness. JICS families will receive detailed information in August.
- Students who are ill or are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 will be asked to remain home under the care and supervision of their parents.
- During the school day, should a student exhibit symptoms of COVID-19, parents will be informed and the student will be isolated with supervision until picked up.
- We are obliged to report suspected cases and contact-tracing information to our local public health unit.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Although subject to change based on recommendations from Public Health, students, faculty, and staff will not be required to wear masks.
- Students, faculty, and staff who choose to wear a mask or face shield may do so.
- If a parent chooses to send a mask for their child/ren to wear while at school, the parent is responsible for the safe use and cleanliness of the mask.

Travel Restrictions

- Should families be making plans to travel during the summer, please be aware and adhere to national and international travel restrictions. At this time, anyone who is travelling internationally must self-quarantine for 14 days upon return to Canada. Please plan accordingly.

Wednesday Afternoon Program

- The Wednesday Program offers a variety of extra-curricular arts and sports-based multi-age classes to students in Grades 1 – 6, following the noon dismissal each Wednesday. **Due to the need to maintain social distancing between grade cohorts, we are unable to offer a Wednesday Afternoon Program this year.** School will end at 12:00 noon on Wednesdays. The ICS After School Day Care will be open starting at 12:00 noon on Wednesdays for any students who are registered with the Day Care. More information about registering for Day Care will come in August.

Day Care

- It is currently planned that the ICS After School Day Care Program will operate for students who are registered. Drop-ins will not be accepted. More information will be provided by the ICS Day Care in August.

Summer Communications

Parent Handbook

Our School Re-Entry Task Force is currently developing the 2020-2021 Parent Handbook. It will be shared with parents in August and will provide updated detailed information.

Parent Information Night

Join Principal, Richard Messina and Vice Principal, Chriss Bogert for a “Parent Question & Answer” opportunity on Tuesday, July 14, 7:00-8:00pm. This evening is intended as a follow-up to the high level information provide here. Please note that we are still living with a number of unknowns and as a result, we may not have answers to all of your questions but we will note them and share the answers to you as soon as possible.

Zoom address: <https://utoronto.zoom.us/j/99352103740>

Meeting ID: 993 5210 3740

Password: jicsfamily

We invite you to send questions in advance if possible to richard.messina@utoronto.ca
