

NEWSLETTER

Northumberland Hills Public School
Virtual Learning Ed: January 7, 2022



To our Northumberland Hills Community,

We want to start this newsletter with a BIG thank you to all families, students, educators, and community members that have gone above and beyond to continue the learning. COVID-19 continues its presence around the world, making for ongoing adjustments to all areas of life. Many have been forced to become expert caregivers, teachers, and healthcare providers whether we are prepared or not. This reality causes increased anxiety and stress. Please be kind to yourselves during this time and allow your school to be a place of support and information. If there is anything you need, please reach out. Wanda Lansley and myself are at the school each day to ensure we are able to answer questions, navigate challenges and celebrate wins.

Today's newsletter will remind everyone of the unique expectations of online learning. You will also find a PARENT & STUDENT information hub with links and resources to support your child's learning from home.

Be well,

- Stephen Koshurba, Principal - stephen_koshurba@kprdsb.ca; Wanda Lansley, Secretary - wanda_lansley@kprdsb.ca; Cyndi Dickson, Trustee - cyndi_dickson@kprdsb.ca

ONLINE LEARNING

The following expectations have been set by the Ministry of Education, making it very clear that both learning and assessment will continue throughout school closures.

What to expect...

Learning Platforms:

- Daily learning is posted in your child's unique [EDSBY](#), and/or [Google Classroom](#)
- Students meet using [Google Meets](#). A code or link has been provided by the teacher

Student Attendance:

- Completed daily - based on online interaction and/or submitting work online each day
- There is a combination of full class and independent learning
- Students follow a consistent routine and schedule
- Individual teachers contact families with a schedule and links

Assessment:

- Student work is submitted for feedback and assessment
- Work completed will be used for evaluation on the Ontario Provincial Report Card

Other Information:

- Teachers are available throughout the day to assist students
- The office is available Monday to Friday 9am - 4pm to support students and families

ONLINE PROGRAM DELIVERY @TheHillsPS

The following is a breakdown of divisional program delivery at Northumberland Hills PS

KINDERGARTEN

In Kindergarten, educator teams have learned a lot over the past several months about how students and families approach learning during school closures. Although synchronous learning opportunities such as full class Google Meets, immediate feedback through EDSBY and email/phone conversations continue to be the cornerstone of our online portions of learning, families have said that they prefer the flexibility of working with their children on activities and experiences that are provided by the classroom team.

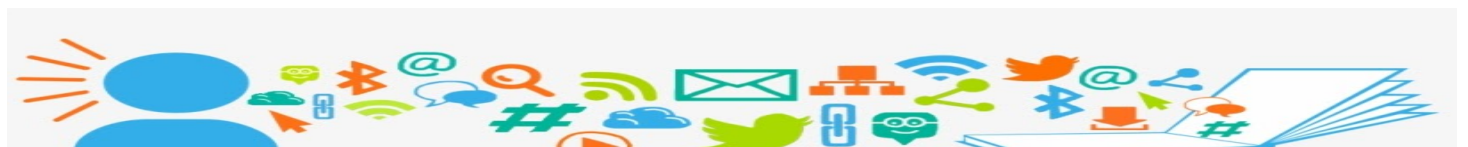
Our Kindergarten educators are working hard to keep students engaged, but want to be responsive to the individual needs of each family. If you need additional support during this time, continue to reach out. Our educators are available to support and are monitoring their programming to ensure it continues to meet the needs of the students and families in the coming weeks.

PRIMARY & EARLY JUNIOR (Gr. 1-4)

In the Primary and Early Junior years, there are a variety of approaches that classes take to engage in the learning while schools are closed. These differences occur because teachers are being responsive to the needs of their unique community of learners. Teachers have used their learning from past experiences and the feedback from families to identify how to best meet the learning goals of students during school closures.

We recognize that primary virtual learning adds additional pressure on families. Independence is still being developed at this stage and staying focused in front of a screen for extended periods of time can become problematic – particularly for working families. To minimize the impact on parents/caregivers, large group online meets will be used in combination with small group instruction, email/EDSBY conversations and one-on-one instruction. The number and length of each session are dependent on the needs and availability of the students. Teachers establish consistent meeting schedules that allow time for peer connection, direct instruction, and review of tasks/assignments.

Our primary team responds to emails and messages throughout the day and are open to making themselves available for one-on-one support when the need arises. They have indicated clear “office hours”. Office hours are the times you can expect to receive a response within a reasonable time frame (i.e., 10-20 minutes). They have also indicated when they are not available and this is to facilitate lunch breaks and planning time for future lessons.



UPPER JUNIOR & INTERMEDIATE (Gr. 5-8)

In our Upper Junior and Intermediate divisions, students have greater independence, so the structure of the day may include more time in front of computers. Teachers have established a structured timetable that aligns very closely to the regular face-to-face learning experience. Educators and families have observed that (in general) students at this age can communicate more effectively without a parent sitting beside them. Students have developed stronger organizational skills, making them more independent than those in the early years. These students can focus in front of a screen for longer periods of time.

Throughout the day, there is a combination of full group meets, online student break-out rooms (monitored by the teacher), one-on-one teacher-to-student conferences, and direct student-to-student interactions. Teachers continue to provide timely feedback on assigned work and planning time teachers (i.e., French and Library) continue to interact with students daily.

Teachers have established clear times that they are available to answer questions when they are not online and will respond to messages within a reasonable timeframe. Students know when lunch and body-breaks occur, giving time throughout the day when everyone moves away from the virtual world.



TOGETHERNESS & PRIDE

Students, parents, caregivers, and educators have been forced into a less than ideal situation. Everyone is working hard to keep the learning experiences as meaningful for students as possible without overburdening families who must continue to work themselves. Patience and understanding are essential during this time so that we can monitor, adjust, and curate learning experiences that are right for each age and stage. Even though the model of delivery in each division is different, all students have access to their educators for direct learning opportunities that align with the Ministry of Education PPM 164.

If you are still unclear about how your child's program is structured or how to connect with the teacher in a reasonable timeframe, please let them know directly. Northumberland Hills Public School has an outstanding team of educators that we should be proud of. They are working around the clock to ensure your child gets as much out of this challenging situation as possible. Stress is exceptionally high, but their care and commitment to student success remains intact.

Thank you for being there for your children and providing the feedback needed to support the ongoing learning at our school. #STORMProud #NHPStrong

IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE - 905-344-7361

Please note that the office remains open during school closures to assist you.
We are available 9am - 4pm, Monday to Friday.

Phone 905-344-7361

email: stephen_koshurba@kprdsb.ca; OR wanda_lansley@kprdsb.ca



You can also reach out through private EDSBY messaging.

STUDENT & PARENT HUB

Problem?	Solution!
Technical inquiries	Email: Elementary_Helpline@kprdsb.ca
Google Classroom Help	Parents' Guide To Google Classroom (YouTube) Parents' Guide to Google Classroom PDF
Password Reset	http://studentcreds.kprdsb.ca/ Uses student's KPR email.
Text to Speech: To hear text read out loud and scribing support.	Text to Speech software is free and accessible through Google Read and Write. Google Read and Write Videos
Technology Requests	Families requiring technology supports for students during online learning are asked to complete the form linked here: KPR Technology Request . The first deployment of technology went out today, but additional requests will be filled in a timely manner. Families will require student OEN numbers to complete their request, which can be found on student report cards (report cards are available in Edsby). If you do not have an OEN# or it will not work in the Google Form, please email kpr_technology@kprdsb.ca with student name, date of birth, and home school.
Locked out of Edsby	It could be because at one point you logged in with a different device. Contact wanda_lansley@kprdsb.ca or stephen_koshurba@kprdsb.ca for support.
KPR Student Portal...including KPR email through Office 365	kprweb.kprdsb.ca/students
What is my child's KPR email address?	add @kprschools.ca to their username

For Cisco WebEx Login issues	Guide to connecting to WebEx
Not able to complete a Google Form for or enter a WebEx or alternate platform	Make sure you are using your KPR email address and not a Google/Hotmail or other outside email.
How to connect through the KPR Student Portal	https://kprweb.kprdsb.co/students

If your child needs additional support to continue the learning at home, please let your child's teacher, and/or the office know. We have access to Educational Assistants who can support with additional online tutoring and coaching as needed. Call: 905-344-7361