

Dear Grafton PS Families,

We are looking forward to seeing our students back on Monday, January 25<sup>th</sup>. Thank-you again for your support with assisting your child with the routine of online learning. We couldn't do this without you. Our staff are thrilled to be able to teach in front of kids instead of a laptop!

Some changes that were sent to you by the KPRDSB are: **Students in Grades 1-12 must wear masks.** It is **strongly encouraged** that Kindergarten students wear masks. **Students must also wear masks if they cannot physically distance by 2 metres when outdoors.** This means that at recess, students will be wearing masks. Please send 2-4 for a day as they get wet due to activity or if it is snowing. We do keep extras at the office, if needed. Please follow the daily screening protocol to know whether your child can come to school, stay at home or get a Covid-test/isolate. <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>

Students that are starting at the Virtual Elementary School will be able to connect with their Grafton PS teacher through Edsby or Google Classroom for next week. After that Virtual Elementary students will start with their new classroom on Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please email me, if you are moving to the Virtual School and would like your child(ren) to be included in our 9:40am WebEx Morning Announcements for the week of the 25<sup>th</sup> (from home).

Public Health has asked me to request that at parent drop-off and pick-up, families do not congregate together to help decrease the transmission in our community. We are reviewing all mask wearing, hand sanitizing and social distancing next week to ensure a safe start. <https://www.kprschools.ca/en/COVID-19.html> Drop off at 9:20am. Pick-up is at 3:40pm from the south parking lot. The Kiss N Ride is available when buses are finished using the bus loop. This is for students that can get out of the car without assistance to help traffic flow.

Please send back all personal items needed for school (indoor shoes, pencil cases, notebooks, textbooks etc.) If you borrowed technology, please return it on Monday. Our I.T. team will be preparing it to return back to classrooms. We may be short technology in our cohorts until all are returned.

If you are unsure about returning to in-person on Monday, please let me know so that we can speak tomorrow. The deadline to opt-out of in-person is tomorrow Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup>.

An Opt Out portal will open at <http://optout.kprdsb.ca/> from January 13 to 4 pm January 22 for families to complete if they wish to transfer their children to VES. **Parents and guardians must complete the form on this portal between January 13-22 if they wish their children to move to VES on the next available transfer date.**

The first day of virtual classes for new VES students will be **Tuesday, February 2** (February 1 is a PA Day). Teachers will begin contacting families of new VES students January 28. Until then, students will continue to attend their home school.

Here are the important dates:

**January 13-22** – Opt Out portal open to transfer students to Virtual Elementary School (VES)

**January 28** – VES teachers start contacting families of new VES students

**February 2** – First Day of online classes for new VES students

For details visit the [Virtual Elementary School website](#) or call 705-760-8620.

Sincerely,

Renee  
Renee Cameron, Principal  
Grafton Public School  
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905-349-2591