



Henry Larsen Elementary School

1750 Sunview Drive
Ottawa, Ontario K1C 5B3
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Principal: Amanda Pruner
Vice-Principal: Dianne Morris
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Trustee: Sandra Schwartz 613-868-5249
School Council Chair: Melody Currie
School Council Email: sc-henrylarsenes@ocdsb.ca
Twitter: [@HenryLarsenE](https://twitter.com/HenryLarsenE)
Website: <https://henrylarsenes.ocdsb.ca>

“Through Caring and Sharing We Learn”

Here are the School Messenger emails that we have sent to families during the month of September, 2021:

2 September 2021

Dear Henry Larsen Families:

We are excited to welcome you back to school. We are Amanda Pruner, your Principal, and Dianne Morris, your Vice-Principal.

The amazing staff here at Henry Larsen have been working to prepare our school for your children’s return. As per direction from the school board many of the health and safety protocols we had in place last year will remain for the time being in hopes of keeping children and staff learning together in the building.

The first day of school: Grades 1-8 is Thursday Sept. 9th, and Kindergarten is Monday Sept. 13th

Kindergarten teachers will be reaching out to families to arrange for a virtual intake meeting on either Thursday or Friday, September 9th or 10th.

At the beginning of the school day, staff will be outside at 8:30 am to meet students. A map will be sent out so your child will know where to line up. **A friendly reminder that only staff and students are permitted on the school yard and in the school,** and students arriving between 8:15-8:30 am will be directed to line up with their class until the bell rings at 8:30 am.

A list of **school supplies** is posted to the OCDSB website. It can also be found [here](#). This list of supplies is strictly voluntary.

Information about updates to our school ventilation system can also be found on the OCDSB website and [here](#). Specific school ventilation information can be found [here](#).

Chromebook/Device Returns:

Families who are still in possession of a Chromebook and/or an internet hotspot are requested to return their device(s) to the school they borrowed it from as soon as possible. Our school office is open starting on August 30 from 8:00 am until 4:00 pm to receive devices. Please ring the doorbell at the front door and someone will be happy to assist you.

The following information is for students who are new to in person learning, e.g., new to our school or returning to us from OCV, or if you would like to review with your children to be reminded of the protocols that we had in place last year:

Here is a [google slide](#) that was created to welcome you to/back to Henry Larsen.

We have adjusted school entrances, hallways and classrooms to optimize safety and learning:



A line has been painted down the middle of the hallways, yellow directional arrows remind us which way to go. **Water Fountains are for water bottle filling only, so please bring a refillable water bottle.** Hand sanitizer stations are located at each school and classroom entrance.

Here are few things you should know:

- Designated drop/off and pick up areas for walkers and drivers: (map shared)
- Arrival information: *The entrance to the kindergarten and grades 1-4 yard is the gate off the parking lot facing Sunview. The grades 6-8 students can go to Yard B (where the soccer field is located around the back of the school).*
- Parking and traffic information: ***Please do not park in the parking lot in front of the school to drop off your child. You can park on neighbouring streets where parking is allowed, stop on Sunview in front of the school, or use the gravel parking lot (enter by the south driveway, closest to Des Epinettes) if your child is able to exit the vehicle independently.*** Please be mindful of the no stopping, no parking, and no U-turns signs in the neighbourhood.
- Buses: *Students who arrive at school on the bus will exit the bus and walk to their respective school yards on either side of the school.*

We will be posting this information on our website so that is readily available to you. **Please bring a mask with you as distancing from other parents/guardians at drop-off and pick-up locations may be challenging.**

We will be following **Covid-19 protocols** and ask that you do the same.

- There will be signage and information when you arrive at school to guide you.
- Only students and staff are permitted in the school and on the school yard.
- All students in grades K-8 must wear a mask.
- All students and staff will sanitize their hands each time they go in and out of the school and the classroom.
- We will be practicing physical distancing inside the school and in the yard as much as possible.

- Students will be assigned a desk in their classroom, and students remain in the same classroom all day.
- Students will stay with their classroom/cohort at recesses, nutrition breaks and learning times. Teachers will move between classrooms.

Handwashing:

Students will be using soap/water and/or hand sanitizer:

- When they arrive at school
- Before they enter the school
- Before and after eating
- Anytime they leave or return to the classroom

Learning Outside:

Please dress for the weather. Rain or shine, we want to try our best to be outside for recess and for as much learning time as possible. Physical Education classes will be held outside.

Before School please remember:

- Children must be [screened daily](#) before coming to school for any symptoms of cold, flu or other symptoms associated with Covid 19 *OPH is updating the screening tool - until it is updated, please use [the screening tool on the Government of Ontario website](#).
- Children must stay home if they exhibit any symptoms *OPH is providing an updated list of symptoms.

During School: If your child becomes sick at school or shows signs of illness:

- The parent or guardian will be contacted immediately to pick them up
- They and any siblings at school who are under 12 years old or 12 and over who are not fully vaccinated will be taken to an isolation room where they can wait (with supervision) until they can be picked up
- The ill student(s) will be provided a disposable mask to wear while waiting
- The school will advise the family on next steps based on direction from Ottawa Public Health.

What families can do to prepare:

- Talk with your child about returning to school. Focus on the joy of learning, seeing their friends and reconnecting with staff, building routines, and being [COVID-wise](#);
- Practice hand washing;
- Practice wearing a mask, especially taking it on and off it off independently;
- Read over this [handy story](#) about returning to school for primary/junior students and this one for [intermediate students](#). * Please note these are from September 2020 but maybe helpful for those students joining us from OCV.
- Keep the link to the [Ottawa Public Health Self-Assessment Tool](#) in a handy spot so you can access it daily.
- Review these helpful [back to school tips from CHEO](#).
- Learn more in the language you need from these [Multilingual Resources](#) from OPH.
- Ensure the school has the most up-to-date contact information for you as well as an emergency contact in case it is needed.

Belongings:

Intermediate students will start the year without lockers and are asked to bring the minimum needed to school each day.

Students will not be allowed to bring non-essential personal items (their own toys, stuffies).

Please send a labelled water bottle (water fountains can only be used for refilling).

Only items to be sent daily are:

Indoor shoes on rain/snow days, otherwise shoes will not be changed.

Labelled lunch bag with labelled containers (please make sure the children can open containers). All garbage and recycling goes back home in the student's lunch bag.

Labelled water bottle.

School work.

Clean mask (sometimes more than one is helpful) * we have cloth masks for students in the office as needed

Getting to School Safely – Bus Transportation, Walking, Drop Offs

The Ottawa Student Transportation Authority (OSTA) is experiencing severe driver shortages and has made many route changes and cancellations. OSTA has posted the full list of cancelled routes according to school [here](#). Families - please check the list and plan for alternative transportation to school. Note that due to continued uncertainty, OSTA warned that further routes may need to be cancelled. Parents/guardians should sign up to the [OSTA Parent Portal](#) to receive the latest updates, including bus cancellations, and confirm the status of your child's bus route.

Traffic Safety

With more parents/guardians dropping their children off at school, traffic safety is more important than ever. Please consider using the OSTA [walking route maps](#) posted on the school website to help children walk to school safely. Parents/guardians are asked to consider parking a few blocks away from the school to help avoid congestion near the school. It's also important to remind your child about traffic safety when walking or biking to school. **A reminder that if your child is riding their bike to school a lock is required!**

A Warm Welcome:

Our entire staff at Henry Larsen is so excited to welcome students back to school! We know that it will continue to be a different year, but we are so fortunate to have a school community that is committed to making this year a success. We hope that we will soon get permission from the school board to start extracurricular groups/clubs and sports. Watch for more information from the school and from your child's teacher. We know that a lot is different this year, but what remains the same is a strong focus on wellbeing and academic success for all students.

Please remember that we can all help to keep school safe by following public health guidelines.

More information will be sent out next week as well. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Amanda Pruner, Principal

Dianne Morris, Vice-Principal

Thank you for your support and patience as we work through this together! Follow us on twitter [@HenryLarsenE](https://twitter.com/HenryLarsenE)



Dianne Morris, Vice-Principal

8 September 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Here are a few items for our start at school tomorrow:

Here is a link to the updated [online Plan of Care form](#) if your child has a condition we need to be aware of at the school. This form needs to be submitted at the beginning of each school year.

Please take a moment to complete the [Media/School Website Permission Form](#) and [Appropriate Use of Technology Agreement](#) for your child or children.

Verification of completion of COVID-19 screening:

Schools and school boards have been directed to implement daily on-site confirmation of self-screening for all elementary and secondary students, staff and visitors for the first two weeks of the school year.

It is a requirement that all elementary students learning in person confirm or have a parent/guardian confirm each day that they have completed COVID-19 screening prior to, or upon arrival at school.

Beginning on September 9th, **elementary students and/or parents/guardians are required to confirm they have conducted a COVID-19 screening each day** to determine if they should attend school.

Please ensure that this screening has been completed **daily** for your child. Classroom teachers and/or school staff will be checking that students have conducted the self-assessment during daily attendance.

Anyone with symptoms must stay home and follow public health directives about testing. Learn more on the [Ottawa Public Health website](#) and on the OCDSB [website](#).

Students in grades 4-8 will be asked verbally if they have completed the screening before coming to school and students in grades K-3 will have a paper sent home to be signed by the family to verify. The student will come to the office if they have not and we will call home to verify.

For the first day of school: All students will be asked verbally if they have completed the screening. We have attached a copy of the form. If you are able to print at home, sign it and send it in for tomorrow it will help us greatly at the school level.

Thank you for your support and understanding as we begin our new year together. We look forward to welcoming our grades 1 to 8 students tomorrow and our Kindergarten students on Monday.

Take Care,
Amanda Pruner, Principal
Dianne Morris, Vice Principal

10 September 2021

Dear Henry Larsen Elementary School Families,

Thank you for all of your support as we start another busy and wonderful school year! We've started talking about gratitude again this year and we began with a quote by young poet Amanda Gorman "Where can we find light in this never-ending shade?" We talked about finding the good when times are hard. Well, we will tell you right now that our light was welcoming your children back to in person learning here at Henry Larsen - so many happy, happy students! We are so hopeful as we look at the year ahead.

Here are few updates/reminders:

Verification of COVID-19 screening:

We know that mornings are busy, and we really appreciate all of the families who have been communicating that they have done the screening with their child. We are still being directed by the Ministry to verify this screening for the next two weeks. Here is the [link for the screening tool](#).

Busing:

If you are a family who qualifies for a bus and are choosing to walk or drive your student to school this year, please call OSTA (613-224-8800) and the school office (613-830-4634) to let us know. We are required to make seating charts for potential contact tracing. All students who are eligible for transportation are currently on and will remain on the seating chart for contact tracing purposes, unless you let OSTA know that they are not going to be taking the bus. If a bus cohort is designated as high risk contacts of a positive case of COVID, your child will be on that list. Please help us to keep our lists up to date. Thank you for your support.

Student Accident Insurance:

Creating a caring and safe environment for our students is our top priority. Unfortunately, despite all reasonable precautions being taken, accidents can still happen. Some injuries may result in medical, dental or other expenses that are not covered by provincial health care or employer group plans. As a parent/guardian, you become responsible for these expenses.

Student accident insurance is available for purchase, on a voluntary basis, through Old Republic Insurance Company of Canada. Parents and guardians may apply online at www.insuremykids.com or call 1-800-463-5437.

The OCDSB encourages all parents/guardians to consider purchasing this insurance. The accident insurance coverage options range from \$17.00/year to \$33.00/year. This coverage is for the entire calendar year and also applies to accidents that occur outside of school hours. If you have any questions, please call Binks Insurance Brokers directly at 613-226-1350.

I know my own child was exhausted yesterday after her first day back! We wish everyone a wonderful weekend!

Take care,
Amanda Pruner and Dianne Morris

17 September 2021

Dear Henry Larsen Elementary School Families,

That wraps up our first full week of school for our grade 1-8 students! Thank you for an amazing week!

Here are few updates/reminders:

School Council Meeting (via Google Meet):

School Council's first meeting of the year will be on **Tuesday, September 21**. All are welcome to attend each meeting (held once per month) to discuss what's going on in the school as well as any fundraising initiatives. We will start the year with virtual meetings (normally held in the library), and a google link is sent before each meeting. If you attend a meeting you can be as involved as you like; pitching new ideas, asking questions, or simply listening in.

Formal positions on Council are voted on during the first meeting of the year. Positions available are Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. If you would like to hold one of these positions, all that is required is that you come, introduce yourself and explain why you'd like the position, and then we vote. Simple as that. Voting will take place at 6:45 pm.

Continued Verification of Daily Student COVID-19 screening:

We know that mornings are busy, and we really appreciate all of the families who have been communicating that they have done the screening with their child. We are still being directed by the Ministry to verify this screening for the next two weeks. Here is the [link for the screening tool](#).

Reminder Regarding Busing - eligible students who are not riding the bus this year: please notify OSTA:

If you are a family who qualifies for a bus and are choosing to walk or drive your student to school this year, please call OSTA (613-224-8800) and the school office (613-830-4634) to let us know. We are required to make seating charts for potential contact tracing. All students who are eligible for transportation are currently on and will remain on the seating chart for contact tracing purposes, unless you let OSTA know that they are not going to be taking the bus. If a bus cohort is designated as high risk contacts of a positive case of COVID, your child will be on that list. Please help us to keep our lists up to date. Thank you for your support.



Wishing all of our families who observed Yom Kippur a good and meaningful fast.

Terry Fox National School Run Day:

Henry Larsen Elementary School is proud to be participating in this year's Terry Fox School Run. Let's get our fundraising going and show everyone how we can "try like Terry"! Donate to: <http://www.terryfox.ca/HenryLarsenESOttawa>. Together, we can all make a difference.

#terryfoxschoolruns #tryliketerry @terryfoxfoundation

Online Safety, Privacy and Social Media: Instagram

Part of our strategies for supporting student mental health will continue to be awareness and education around online safety and privacy. Here is a link for families about Instagram.

Have a safe and wonderful weekend everyone.

Take care,

Amanda Pruner and Dianne Morris

24 September 2021

Dear Henry Larsen Elementary School Families,

Thank you for another fantastic week! Here are a few reminders and information what we are doing at school next week:



National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day

Thursday, September 30th is the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day. This is a day of mourning and remembrance for Indigenous people. This date also offers an opportunity to reflect and to honour survivors, their families, and communities, and ensure that public commemoration of the history and legacy of residential schools remains a vital component of the reconciliation process. We will be sharing more information next week about learning opportunities for students and how families can mark this day.

Please note, this is not a statutory holiday in Ontario and students will be required to go to school. However, Indigenous students may decide to be home on that day to engage in activities with family and community. Indigenous self identification is a confidential process and should not be understood as a requirement for students to be away from school on this important day. There is no expectation that students who are away from school on this day participate in any school-related activities. Teachers have also been asked to not schedule tests or make assignments due on September 30th.

Terry Fox Run:

Henry Larsen Elementary School is proud to be participating in this year's Terry Fox School Run. Let's get our fundraising going and show everyone how we can "try like Terry"! Donate to: <http://www.terryfox.ca/HenryLarsenESOttawa>. Families can also donate via SchoolCash Online to make a \$1,\$2, \$5 or \$10 donation. Unfortunately we are not able to collect cash at this time. Together we can all make a difference! #terryfoxschoolruns #tryliketerry @terryfoxfoundation

[CBC digital archives of news coverage of Terry Fox doing the Marathon of Hope](#)

We are busy planning how the run/walk will unfold and will provide that information in the coming days. Due to covid protocols, we will be keeping the classes separate while they run, similar to what we did last year by using their recess zones.

Dressing for the Weather:

We are learning and playing as much as possible outside in the fresh air. Please ensure your child arrives dressed and ready to learn outside, and have recess outdoors.

No peanuts, or tree nuts: A friendly reminder not to send any peanut or tree nut products to school. We have students with severe allergies. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Attendance Calls/Emails:

A friendly reminder that if you know your child is going to be away to please call the office at 613-830-4634 or email henrylarsenes@ocdsb.ca prior to the absence. Please also let us know the reason and the symptoms and if you are waiting for test results. This will save us a lot of time in the office - thank you!

Reminders from the OCDSB:

Speech and Language Open House for Parents

Do you have questions about your child's communication skills? Do you just want to know what the OCDSB Speech-Language Pathologist offers at your child's school? To answer your questions and provide more information, the OCDSB Speech and Language team will be hosting a virtual open house for parents. [Learn more and register.](#)

Date: Tuesday, September 28, 5:00 p.m - 6:30 p.m.

OCDSB FREE VIRTUAL TUTORING GRADES 7-12

The OCDSB is excited to be launching a free after school tutoring program for grade 7- 12 students within our school board.

FLYER LINK: [Fall Virtual Tutoring Program](#)

WEBSITE LINK: https://ocdsb.ca/continuing_education/literacy_numeracy_support_programs

COVID-19 Self-Screening and Symptoms:

The list of symptoms for COVID-19 for children under 18 years has been [updated for this school year](#). Please note: even if your child has symptoms that do not require a COVID-19 test, they are STILL required to stay home until symptoms are improving for at least 24 hours.

- If your child is a high-risk contact and they are showing ANY possible symptoms, they are required to isolate and get tested for COVID-19. This applies to children that are fully vaccinated or not fully vaccinated.
- Before your child goes back to school, please see the Attestation for return to school for students following illness ([English](#), [French](#), [English and Somali](#), [English and Arabic](#)).

Have a wonderful weekend and Take Care,
Amanda and Dianne