



OTTAWA-CARLETON  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

## Henry Larsen Elementary School

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**Vice-Principal:** Dianne Morris  
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**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, 2020:**

1 September

Dear Henry Larsen Families,

I would like to start by saying that I appreciate your patience and understanding during these unprecedented times. We are happy to support and try to provide as much information as we have. We continue to work at getting the school ready for your children. Things are falling into place, but there remains some work to do. Yesterday, all staff participated in health and safety training. We are looking forward to welcoming back your amazing children.

**For our families that have chosen Remote Learning**, please see the information on the OCDSB website, [OCDSB Return to School Progressive Entry](#). The first day of school for students in the virtual school is September 18.

**First Day of School for In Person Learning at Henry Larsen Elementary School:**

**September 16:** Grades 1-3, plus all specialised classes (BIP)

**September 17:** Students from prior day plus Grades 4-6, all students in year 1 Kindergarten (JK), and students in year 2 Kindergarten (SK) that are enrolled in the Extended Day Program (EDP).

**September 18:** Students from prior day plus Grades 7 and 8, and all remaining year 2 Kindergarten students (i.e., those not enrolled in EDP).

For our Kindergarten families: virtual intake meetings will be held on September 10 and 11th. More information will be coming regarding the intake meetings.

**Pick up and Drop off at Henry Larsen:**

As you are likely aware, the OCDSB is restricting parent/guardian access to all school buildings and the school yards. I know this worries many of you for drop off and pick up, but we are working on plans to ensure you and your child's safety. We will provide more detailed instructions closer to the start of school.

If you plan to drop off your child, we strongly suggest you park on one of the side streets near our school, and walk over to the school. We will provide a map of options for you closer to the start of school.

If your child rides the bus or a van, please go to [www.ottawaschoolbus.ca](http://www.ottawaschoolbus.ca) for the latest update on school transportation information.

Here is a link to the self assessment you are required to do each morning before sending your child to school. It is vital to complete it daily so that we can ensure the health of our students and staff and help keep our schools open.

[COVID- 19: Self Assessment](#)

There will be more information to come regarding the opening of schools, such as what to send your child with on the first day and what school supplies your child will need. We wanted to provide you with some details to help you start planning. Thank you again for your support thus far. We are all in this together and will have a great year!

Know that all of us in the Henry Larsen family are looking forward to working with your children this year. For those entering the Virtual School, we know we might not see you for now, but look forward to welcoming you back when the time is right.

As always, please send us any questions or concerns.

Amanda Pruner, Principal and Dianne Morris, Vice-Principal

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10 September

### **Greetings Henry Larsen Families:**

We are so excited to welcome your children next week. The staff here have been working hard putting into place various safety measures mandated by the Ministry and planning their teaching and learning for the new school year. By the end of this week, you should hear from your child's homeroom teacher. Staff will let you know the online learning management system they will be using this year (Google Classroom, Google Site, D2L, etc.) and how to access it. Kindergarten families have been offered virtual intake meetings either at the end of this week or the beginning of next week.

### **Henry Larsen ES Progressive Start Dates:**

**Wednesday, September 16:** Grades 1-3, plus BIP

**Thursday, September 17:** Students from prior day plus Grades 4-6, all students in year 1 Kindergarten (JK), and only those students in year 2 Kindergarten (SK) that are enrolled in the (EDP).

**Friday, September 18:** Students from prior days plus Grade 7, 8, and all remaining year 2 Kindergarten students (i.e., those not enrolled in EDP).

**Transportation:**

School bus seating plans are being created at the school level and will be sent to the various transportation providers. This will likely mean that siblings and those living in the same household are sitting together. Please click on the OSTA link for any other transportation updates: [Ottawa Student Transportation Authority](#)

\*We have been informed by OSTA that school bus and van drivers will not know the different start dates for the different grades/schools. Please do not place your child on a van/school bus if it is not their correct start date for their grade/class at our school.

**Requests to Switch From In Person to Remote Learning:**

The deadline has passed to switch into remote learning. The process to switch is currently on hold. If you would like to have your child's name added to a waitlist to change please call the office (613) 830-4634.

**Switching Classes or including "bubble friends" or extended family:**

Class lists were created with the best interest of the students in mind. We were asked by the District to revisit these class lists last week to include school bus and EDP groupings as much as possible. Unfortunately, we are not able to switch classes or consider "bubble friends" or extended family at this time.

**What about School Supplies?**

School supplies are always a big part of back to school preparation. This year, as we prepare for school with COVID-19, we need to focus on bringing as few things into the classroom as possible. Although some younger children will want to bring other items and toys from home, we are asking all families to keep these special items home.

The Four Most Important Things for Students to Bring to School Each Day are:

1. A Backpack and Lunch
2. A Mask (Grade 4-12, a reusable mask can be supplied by the school or a child's own personal mask, brought daily)
3. A Refillable Water Bottle with your child's name on it
4. Dressing in layers

A few other tips:

- School supplies are voluntary. The school will have supplies available for students. Some families prefer to buy them, and if so, this [voluntary supply list](#) provides an idea of the kinds of supplies that are used by grade.
- School supplies cannot be shared between students in order to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and other viruses.

- If a student brings supplies, they should be labelled and stored in a pencil case (or a resealable plastic bag) for personal use.
- Students will be keeping all supplies at their desk. If you choose to send supplies, please keep it to a minimum and replenish throughout the year

READ MORE ABOUT [Elementary School Supplies](#).

**Transition Planning:**

We will also be sharing out videos and photos for transition planning early next week. We want our students to be able to have a look at their new learning environments and see the physical changes. In upcoming communications, we will share maps and our plan for student entry into the school and what recess will look like.

Please check out these other resources to help with transition planning for your child:

[CHEO - How to wear a mask at school](#)

In an earlier communication I had shared different social narratives for primary and junior.

Here is the link for Intermediate:

[English Intermediate Back to School story](#)

[Arabic Intermediate Back to School story](#)

[French Intermediate Back to School story](#)

We continue to work with the Ministry, the District and Ottawa Public Health. More updates will be sent to families and posted on our Twitter and school website.

Be Safe and Take Care

**Amanda Pruner**

Principal

Henry Larsen Elementary School

1750 Sunview Dr, Orléans, ON K1C 5B3

Phone: (613) 830-4634

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15 September

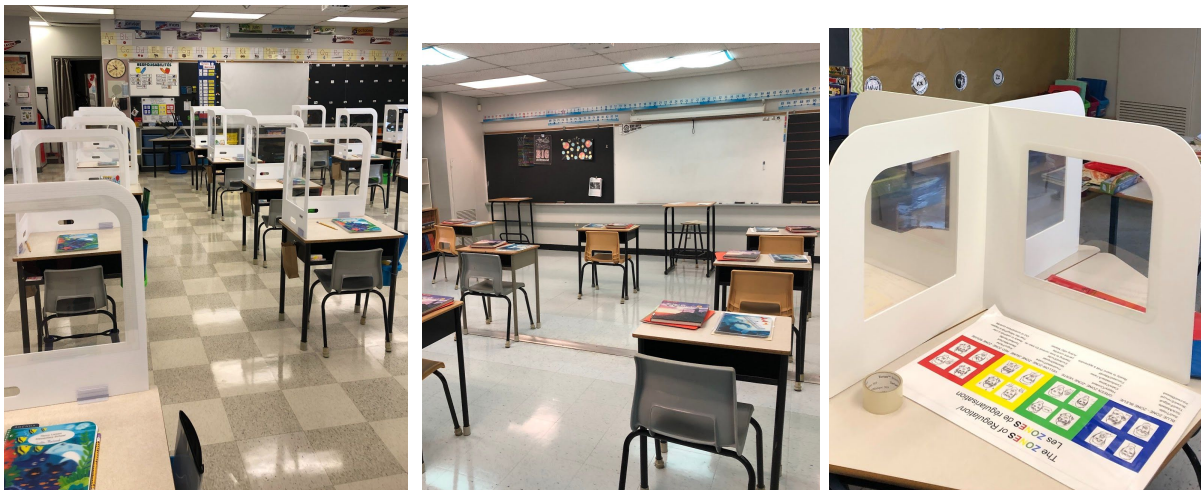
**Dear Henry Larsen Families:**

I am excited to welcome you back to school. My name is Amanda Pruner and I am your new Principal this year. This is a long note so I will save my introduction for another time:

The amazing staff here at Henry Larsen have been working to prepare our school for your children's return. 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 reminds us which way to go. Floor decals help us remember to distance. Water Fountains are for water bottle filling only. Hand sanitizer stations are located at school entrances.



Primary (grades 1-3) classrooms have desk shields in place, all classes have been laid out to maximize distancing. Kindergarten classrooms also have tabletop "pod" shields.

Here are few things you should know:

- Designated drop/off and pick up areas for walkers and drivers (PDF map shared with families)
- Arrival information: *The entrance to the kinder 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 consider bringing a mask with you as distancing from other parents/guardians at drop-off and pick-up locations may be challenging.**

**As you know, we will have a progressive start this week – students will start on different days. Here is our schedule:**

**September 16:** Grades 1-3, plus BIP

**September 17:** Students from prior day plus Grades 4-6, all students in year 1 Kindergarten (JK), and students in year 2 Kindergarten (SK) that are enrolled in the Extended Day Program (EDP).

**September 18:** Students from prior day plus Grade 7, 8, and all remaining year 2 Kindergarten students (i.e., those not enrolled in EDP).

\*Note: Students enrolled in EDP may only attend EDP on the day that they are in school.

**On the first day of school:** Staff will be outside at 8:30 am to meet students. Pylons with teacher's names will be placed where students are to line-up. Dots have been painted to assist students with social distancing while in line. Please see the attached map so your child will know where to line up. A friendly reminder that only staff and students are permitted in the school and on the school yard and students arriving between 8:15-8:30 will be directed to line up with their class until. (PDF map shared with families)



See Mrs. Morris and her dots?

Our play structures and outdoor benches remain closed during the school day as per current school board regulations.

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.
- All students in grades 4-12 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.
- Students will be assigned a seat in class, students remain in the same class with teachers moving classrooms

**Handwashing:**

Students will be using soap and 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 be outside for recess and for as much learning time as possible

**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
- Children must stay home if they exhibit any 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 will taken to an isolation room where they can wait (with supervision) until they can be picked up
- The ill students will be provided a disposable mask to wear while waiting
- The student must kept home until they are symptom-free for a minimum of 24 hours or if they can provide a medical note indicating that they can return to school

**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, putting it on and off it off independently;
- 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](#).
- Watch our OCDSB Back to School video with your child;
- Watch this [COVID Wise for Back to School Video: A message from Dr. Etches](#)
- Learn more in the language you need from these [Multi-lingual Resources](#) from OPH.
- Ensure the school has the most up-to-date contact information and an emergency contact

**Belongings:**

Students do not have access to lockers and are asked to bring the minimal needed to school each day

Student 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

Agenda and school work

Clean mask (grades 4-8) \* 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 have 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!**



**Our parking lot crosswalks were recently painted and our staff is showing us how we line up!**

### **Happy Back to Normal stuff:**

- Consider participating in the virtual Terry Fox Run and/or make a donation online to the school:

Link to the fundraising page: <http://www.terryfox.ca/HenryLarsenESOttawa>

- **Did your child learn a new skill or try a new hobby while learning from home? Send us a photo to put in our E-News to staff and families to celebrate that learning experience!**
- Announcements will be done via Google Meet this year! We hope to still have our junior and intermediate take a leadership role with this. We also hope it will be an opportunity for students to share their work and celebrate their learning in the absence of school assemblies this year.



- We are not permitted to sing indoors at the moment so for OCanada we are going to learn how to sign in using American Sign Language and practice in our whole school Google Meets.

### **A Warm Welcome**

Our entire staff at Henry Larsen is so excited to welcome students back to school! We know that it will be a different year, but we are so fortunate to have a school community that is committed to making this year a success. Watch for more information from the school and from your child's teacher. I 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.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Principal, Amanda Pruner



My little one and I and then here I am with a dog mask

Dianne Morris, Vice-Principal



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18 September

Thank you Henry Larsen ES!!!

I feel like I have been placed at the friendliest school in the OCDSB! We were all very happy to welcome back all of our students and families. The students did an amazing job this week with their new health and safety routines at school.

Happy Friday to everyone, and we wanted to reshare some information from Ottawa Public Health:

Linked below you will find the flowchart that we use to respond to new health concerns. This flowchart is located on the Supporting Schools section of the [OPH website](#).

On the "[Symptomatic Student or Staff at School](#)" flowchart, **if the individual with symptoms does not get tested**, it states: "Individuals with symptoms and household contacts must self-isolate for a minimum of 14 days and be symptom free for 24 hours before returning".

This means that if your child answers yes to any of the questions on the [daily screening tool](#), or has any of the symptoms on the list in the daily screening tool **and is not tested**, then they would need to self-isolate for 14 days and be 24 hours without symptoms before returning to school.

Students who **are tested** and results are negative may return to school once they are 24 hours without symptoms.

I appreciate that this is a big deal for families to cope with; however, in this new COVID-19 climate, safety must come first. We are in daily communication with our Public Health Nurse and the Superintendent as the community situation evolves and we want to be as up-to-date as possible.

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

Wishing everyone a safe and happy weekend!

Amanda and Dianne

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25 September

**Happy Friday!** We have had a wonderful first full week of learning with all of our students! We would like to thank everyone for their support during this first week of the 2020 - 2021 school year. We also send out a warm WELCOME to our new families who have joined us this week. A SPECIAL THANK YOU to our wonderful and hard working staff!

The students are amazing and showed excellent behaviour this week with their adherence to the enhanced safety rules: sanitize your hands upon entry and exit of the class and building, quiet in the

hallways, keep your distance, stay home if you are sick. Ask your children about safety! They are becoming experts! We are all working together to keep students and staff safe!

### **Online Learning:**

All teachers in the OCDSB have been asked to create and maintain a Learning Management System (LMS). In our school board, that may take the form of a Google Classroom (grade 3 and up) or a Google Site (K-2). If a student is at home either ill or awaiting test results for themselves or a member of their household, or a classroom is closed or our school is closed by OPH, then this is the platform with which educators will support student learning during that time.

### **Ottawa Virtual Campus (OVC) waitlists:**

Here is an update from the District:

*“The OCV currently has a waiting list of approximately 2000 names (600 secondary and 1400 elementary). We are in the process of reviewing the names to validate the entries. In addition, we will be verifying where those students were counted in terms of staffing allocations. These steps are critical prior to making any additional changes. After we review the list and confirm the data, students may be placed in OCV if space permits. When processing change requests, we will consider available staffing and class sizes. Priority for changes will be given to students and families who requested remote learning by the August 21st deadline through the Confirmation of Attendance form and those with exceptional family circumstances like critical illness. Students on the waitlist for OCV should be attending their home school.”*

It's been a great beginning. Thank you to all of our wonderful families for your support and patience with us. Thank you for continuing to conduct daily screening with your children. We know how busy mornings can be. You have been an outstanding community to work with! Have a wonderful weekend...oh and follow us on Twitter @HenryLarsenE

### **Reminders for Next Week:**



**Orange Shirt Day** takes place on September 30th and is an opportunity to raise awareness about the legacy of Residential Schools in Canada, and to participate in a visual representation of solidarity and reconciliation.

Don't forget to wear your Orange Shirt on Wednesday, September 30th!

### **Rowan's Law Day- Also September 30th**

In 2018, the Ontario Legislature passed legislation designating the last Wednesday of each September as Rowan's Law Day. The day is dedicated to promoting awareness of strategies to prevent, identify, and manage concussions. Rowan Stringer was an OCDSB student. The OCDSB is committed to honouring her memory by ensuring that students in the District have an opportunity to learn about concussions so that they can keep themselves and others safe.

## **Government of Ontario Concussion Awareness Resource E-Booklet in many languages**

These resources are available in 17 translated languages on the websites (see the bottom of the provided link). Additionally, to access the French versions, click the tab at top right of the webpage to select "Francais".

[Ages 10 and Under](#)

[Ages 11-14](#)

Take care and have a great day!

Amanda and Dianne