

Carrville Mills Public School



School Start-Up Package 2020-2021

270 Apple Blossom Drive, Vaughan, ON L4J 8W5

Phone: 905-709-2646

Fax: 905-709-6409

Attendance Line: 905-907-0002

Email: carrville.mills.ps@yrdsb.ca

Website: www.carrvillemills.ca

Blog: www.carrvillemills.ca

Twitter: @carrvillemills



Carrville Mills Public School

Welcome letter from Administration

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year! On behalf of the entire staff, we would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our new and returning Carrville Mills students and their families. Within the context of our current global pandemic and environment, it is our hope you had the opportunity to find some time to relax and reflect on what is truly important in life. We recognize that during this COVID shut down, one's level of stress and tension have shifted. As schools reopen, please note that several changes to past practice have been made in order to ensure the safety of students and staff. Please take some time to review this informative package about our school, including forms that need to be completed and returned to school.

Fostering a strong home and school communication link is an integral part to success. As such, we encourage you to become involved in your child's education and the life within the context of schooling. There will be opportunities to join school council, committees, volunteer (pending Public Health Protocols) and provide valuable input into the daily life at Carrville Mills Public School. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions or concerns.

The Carrville Mills staff recognizes that parents and caregivers have an important role to play in supporting student's efforts and extending their learning beyond the school walls. Our collective words and actions have an impact on how students value both the academic and non-academic aspects of schooling. We thank you in advance for your partnership and support during the school year.

In closing, we look forward to speaking and working with you in the months ahead. Your child's education is a shared partnership, and we encourage regular communication between you, your child's teacher and administration.

We wish you all a happy, safe, rewarding and successful school year.

Sincerely,

Mr. D. Rossi and Ms. M. Appiah

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Information Package and Form Checklist

The package includes important information about the school, and a number of forms that you need to complete for each child.

The Required forms will be emailed to families for completion and return electronically. The anticipated email date is September 16 to 18th

Required Forms

These forms are mandatory:

- School Start-Up Permissions
- Student Information Consent Form

Additional Forms

These forms are optional:

- School Council Nomination
- Faith Request for Curriculum Accommodations

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School Hours

Period	Times
Before school supervision	8:40 am - 8:55 am
Period 1	8:55 am - 9:35 am
Period 2	9:35 am - 10:05 am
Period 3	10:05 am - 10:45 am
Recess	10:45 am - 11:05am
Period 4	11:05 am - 11:45 am
Period 5	11:45 am - 12:25 pm
Lunch	12:25 pm - 1:25 pm
Period 6	1:25 pm - 2:05 pm
Period 7	2:05 pm - 2:35 pm
Period 8	2:35 pm - 3:15 pm
Dismissal	3:15 pm

Office hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Soft Entry begins at 8:40 a.m. A two minute 'warning bell rings at 8:53 a.m. It is expected that students be in-class ready to learn within 5 minutes of this bell.

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Additional Information

You can find information on topics covered in this package and more in the Guide to the School Year. A copy is provided to families and is also available on the York Region District School Board website at www.yrdsb.ca.

Accident Insurance

Student accident insurance provides coverage for injuries due to accidents not covered by government or private health plans (e.g. the cost of expensive dental work as a result of an accident). It is strongly recommended that parents/guardians of students involved in athletics purchase this insurance.

If your child is involved in an accident, whether at school or during non-school hours, insuremykids protects your family from the resulting expenses, which are not normally covered under your government health and group insurance plans. For more information, visit www.insuremykids.com or call 1-800-463-5437.

Arrivals and Departures

Families and students who live within walking distance are encouraged to use active travel, including walking or rolling (cycling, scootering, skateboarding) to and from school. Choosing active travel can improve physical and mental health and helps students start the day alert and ready to learn. It also helps to protect the environment and reduce traffic, making school zones safer for everyone.

Students who use bicycles, rollerblades, skateboards or scooters to travel to school must wear a helmet, and walk while on school property. Students should lock bicycles on the bike rack, and store rollerblades, skateboards or scooters in their backpack or in another school designated area.

The school is not responsible for any lost or damaged personal items. Please note, walk and roll shoes are not allowed on school property.

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For students who take the school bus, parents/guardians of students who are eligible to receive school bus transportation per the Board's Transportation Policy should:

- Understand the need to make alternative arrangements for their child/children if the school bus is late.
- Refer to the Late Bus Report on the Student Transportation Services website at www.schoolbuscity.com before leaving for the bus stop in the mornings and afternoons.
- Should ensure their child(ren) arrive at the bus stop five minutes before the regularly scheduled pick-up and drop-off times (10 minutes during the first week of school).
- Ensure their child/children's safety and conduct while walking to, from and waiting at a designated bus stop.
- Make alternate arrangements for their children if they are unable to meet them at a bus stop. To help ensure student safety, Student Transportation Services recommends students in Kindergarten and Grade 1 are met at their bus stop by a parent/guardian, and age appropriate arrangements made for all other grades.
- Know their child(ren)'s route number.
- Know their child(ren)'s bus stop location.
- Know the school and bus company phone number in the event of an emergency.

Parents/guardians who choose to **drive their children to school** are asked to consider parking a block or two away from the school and walking the rest of the way. Should you wish, parents/guardians can access the 'kiss n ride' at the front of the school beginning at **8:40 a.m.** Please note, **the school parking lot is not a designated drop off area** and will be closed from 8:45 a.m. to 9:05 a.m. Dismissal is at 3:15 p.m. We have a **soft entry** beginning at 8:40 a.m., where indoor supervision begins. Please note that staff do monitor the designated entry doors. In order to support physical distancing, students must enter and exit from their assigned doors.

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There may be rare occasions when unprecedented winter weather events occur and we need to close all schools and Board locations. For more information, please see the section on Weather Conditions in the Guide to the School Year. At all times, students and families should be aware of somewhere else they can go if bus services are cancelled or delayed, or if schools are forced to close due to an emergency.

For parents/guardians who drive their children to school,

Kiss and Ride

In order to ensure efficiency in the kiss and ride loop, please adhere to the following guidelines:

1. **Close the gap**--move up along the curbside prior to stopping to unload.
2. **Unloading**--have passengers unload curbside.
3. **Be Ready**-- have your child(ren) ready with their backpack before stopping to unload.
4. **No Parking**--vehicles cannot be left unattended.
5. **Arrival Time**--there is much less congestion at 8:40 a.m., rather than after 8:50 a.m.; arriving at 8:40 a.m. will alleviate traffic and improve efficiency in the loop.
6. **Going Green**--parents are encouraged to walk to school with their child(ren).
7. **Alternate Drop off**--driving and dropping off close to the school and walking will save time and reduce congestion.

Entry/Exit Doors:

If parents and/or caregivers are picking up their child after school, they need to wait outside of their child's designated entry and exit doors. For parents and/or caregivers needing to enter the school, please note that due to Public Health restrictions, all visitors must have a pre-scheduled appointment. Please note, this is to minimize transition of COVID.

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Allergies/Medical Conditions

There are students in our school who have a life-threatening allergy to nuts and/or other allergens. If they smell or come into contact with these foods, they may have an anaphylactic reaction.

All students and families are reminded not to bring nut and/or nut products to school.

We also have some students who are allergic to egg, fish and sesame. If you know there is a student in your child's class with any of these allergies, please be mindful when packing your child's lunch. If your child has a serious or life-threatening allergy or medical condition, let the school know immediately and speak to the school office about completing the appropriate medical forms. For more information on helping to create an allergen-safe environment, please see the section on Allergies in the Guide to the School Year.

Also, please note that substitute peanut butter products are not to be brought to school. These products tend to look like, smell like and taste like peanut butter and can cause a great deal of confusion.

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Attendance

We will endeavor to ensure the safe arrival of students attending Carrville Mills Public School, both in the morning and in the afternoon. With this in mind, we ask that parents notify us **each and every day** if your child is to be away, unless a prolonged absence (such as a family vacation) is anticipated. In this case, a return date needs to be provided and a form has to be filled out at the office. If there is a change in this date, the school must be notified. **If your child is absent it is important to report it before the school starts** (i.e. by 8:55 a.m.). You can use EDSBY to report a student's attendance. Alternatively, you can call our attendance line at 905-907-0002 and leave a clear message on the answering machine. Please spell your child's first and last name.

If your child is to be absent or late for class due to a medical or dental appointment, or if you wish to have your child leave school before regular dismissal time for such an appointment, please put a note in your child's agenda prior to the absence. **In order to protect instructional time, we encourage you to make appointments outside of school hours, when possible.**

When it is necessary to pick your child up for an appointment or because of illness, we ask that you come into the office so that your child can be signed out. In order to avoid classroom interruption, and to ensure the security of all students, parents are *not* to go directly to the classroom. **Please note, your child will be called down to the office, once you arrive to pick them up.**

Any student who arrives at school late must report to the office, and obtain an admit slip. Please note, parents or guardians dropping their child(ren) off late, will be asked to remain at the front entry doors when greeted by a staff member.

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School Code of Conduct

The Code of Student Conduct sets standards of behaviour for students and members of the school community. The code of conduct supports a caring and safe school environment and creates a shared understanding of expectations of behaviour.

Students are expected to follow these rules of behaviour on school property and during Board or school-sponsored events and activities. To enhance caring and safe school climates, positive student behaviour supports are provided and inappropriate behaviour is addressed using a progressive discipline approach that takes into account mitigating factors.

Behaviour/Code of Student Conduct

Students are expected to demonstrate behaviour that is respectful and courteous at all times. This includes demonstrating respect for each other and our community. These expectations are indicated in our **School Code of Student Conduct**. Students are expected to follow these expectations on school property and during Board or school-sponsored events and activities.

Expectations for Students

Carrville Mills Public School shares the belief that:

- every person has the right to:
 - be respected
 - have one's belongings respected
 - feel safe
 - be understood
 - be treated with dignity
 - experience consequences which are clear, consistent and age appropriate

- every person has a responsibility to:
 - carry out the Code of Behaviour
 - model the expected behaviours

In the classroom students will:

- be prepared to work (i.e., have supplies, agenda, books, etc...)
- respect others, their belongings and personal space
- take care of school materials and books



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- ❑ only use technology when permitted by the teacher
- ❑ respect the learning rights and needs of others
- ❑ raise their hand and wait for a turn to speak
- ❑ follow directions from all staff
- ❑ keep classrooms clean by putting all debris in the appropriate recycling or garbage bins
- ❑ understand that taking photographs on school property is not permitted, unless permitted by staff and for educational purposes

In the halls and stairwells students will:



- ❑ walk quietly, while following directional decals (i.e. travelling on the right-hand side of the hallway)
- ❑ walk to and from classes on the right hand side, respecting the space of others
- ❑ access knapsacks only at entry, recess and dismissal times
- ❑ keep hallways and stairwells clean by putting all debris in garbage or recycling bins

On the school yard students will:

- ❑ remaining in your designated area
- ❑ keep one's hands and feet to oneself
- ❑ use appropriate and respectful language
- ❑ remain outside until the bell rings unless accompanied by a staff member or have obtained a hall pass from a staff member
- ❑ respect the environment
- ❑ keep the school yard clean by putting all debris in the garbage or recycling bins
- ❑ respect personal space and belongings of others
- ❑ when the bell rings, stop playing and line up and enter the building appropriately

In assemblies and group presentations students will:

- ❑ walk in with teaching staff and sit in assigned area
- ❑ listen attentively
- ❑ remain seated until dismissed
- ❑ be a respectful audience – keep feet and hands still, watch quietly and clap appropriately



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At lunchtime students will:

- stay seated until dismissed
- raise their hand for assistance
- leave eating area clean and tidy
- put waste/garbage in recycling and garbage bins
- exit the school promptly when dismissed by the supervisor or at exit bell
- remain on school property
- listen to and follow the staff/supervisor's instructions



Personal Belongings

If students bring personal belongings to school please note, **the school will not take responsibility for lost or stolen items.** During recess, students are encouraged to engage in social activities and team games. We recommend any items from home, including clothing and footwear, are clearly labeled with your

Students will leave the following items at home:

- hockey sticks
- baseballs (soft and hard), and baseball bats
- laser pointers
- money (unless for a specific purpose)
- roller shoes

Consequences

Failure to meet the preceding expectations will result in consequences directly related to the behaviour, while following a progressive discipline plan that may include:

- problem solving & restorative measures
- contact with parents
- loss of privileges
- work assignments
- community service
- withdrawal of privileges
- suspension and expulsion

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The Board Code of Student Conduct is part of Policy #668.0, Caring and Safe Schools.

We use a progressive discipline approach when inappropriate behaviour occurs. This means we consider a range of options to determine the most appropriate response to each situation to help students learn from their choices. In some cases, suspension or expulsion may be necessary. The Ontario Education Act and our Board Caring and Safe Schools Policy outline the situations in which suspension and expulsion must be considered. These infractions are also outlined in the Guide to the School Year. When inappropriate behaviour occurs, information will be shared with the victim and parents/guardians of the victim to the extent that legislation allows.

Class Placements

Due to late registrations and in order to meet ministry cap-size requirements and other guidelines there may be staffing changes and class reorganization during the first few weeks of school. We do our best to keep these changes to a minimum and to support students during any transitions. If this is to occur you will be notified.

Communication between School and Home

Parents/guardians are our most important partners in educating children. We communicate with you in a variety of ways throughout the year.

Agenda

The student agenda serves as a useful way for teachers and parents/guardians to communicate. Parents/guardians, please check your child's agenda daily. An agenda:

- Includes important information about the school
- Is a tool for students to record homework, important dates and notes
- Is a useful way for teachers and parents to communicate

Parents/guardians, please check your child's agenda/handbook daily. If your child is in grades 1 to 6 and you wish to purchase an agenda through the school, the cost is **\$5.00 per agenda**. **Agendas can be purchased on School Cash Online until September 24th, 2020.** Grade 7-8 students will be encouraged to use various online organizational tools to track their daily homework and due-dates. Should a grade 7 or 8 wish to purchase an agenda, they can do so as well.

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Email

To improve communication between home and school and reduce paper use, the office coordinates an email distribution list. The list will be maintained and used only by school staff to communicate electronically to parents/guardians. Your email will not be sold, distributed or publicly posted. **To subscribe to receive information about school events such as newsletters, hot lunch programs and important notices, please visit our school website and subscribe to our online newsletter.** Please note if you have subscribed for the emails in a previous school year, no action is required if you wish to continue receiving emails.

Canada's Anti-Spam Legislation (CASL)

Canada's Anti-Spam Legislation (CASL) impacts how schools, staff and school councils communicate electronically to parents. CASL prohibits the sending of any type of electronic message that is commercial in nature (e.g., registration fees, pizza days, field trips, fundraising, etc.) unless the recipient has provided specific and informed consent. CASL does not apply to electronic information messages or to hard copy formats.

To subscribe or unsubscribe to commercial electronic messages, parents/guardians should visit the school website and, using the link provided and submit a valid email address.

Texts-From the YRDSB

Families can now receive text messages in emergency situations only - as part of our elementary school safe arrivals program, to communicate the COVID-19 school closures or in the rare occasion of schools being closed due to [emergency winter weather](#). Ensure your school has your correct cell phone number captured to participate. Families can opt out at any time.

Online

Stay Connected Online

You can also stay connected online through our school website, blog -<http://www.carrvillemills.ca/blog/>, Twitter: @carrvillemills and the Edsby app or website (<https://yrdsb.edsby.com/>). Some classrooms also have blogs, Twitter feeds or newsletters to help you stay connected. Your child's teacher will provide more information.

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In addition, you can follow Board news and updates through:

- www.yrdsb.ca
- Instagram @yrdsb.schools
- Twitter @YRDSB
- YouTube channel YRDSBMedia
- the Board app YRDSB Mobile
- TuneIn YRDSB, the Board's podcast, available on most podcast platforms

Dress Code

School is a place of learning and so in order to be successful, students must focus their attention and energy on school-related matters. For this reason, it is important that students dress appropriately for the task of learning. Clothing which demonstrates respect for self and respect for others is expected at all times. **Students will be sent home if clothing is inappropriate.** For example:

- Language and/or graphics on clothing must not display provocative, obscene, sexist or racist slogans, or refer to drugs, alcohol, smoking or sex. Clothing which contravenes the Human Rights Code in any way is unacceptable.
- Students will not wear clothing that is revealing or provocative. Midriffs and undergarments must remain covered at all times (e.g. when sitting, standing and playing sports). Shorts must be mid-thigh in length. Tube tops, halter tops, and other tops with narrow shoulder straps or "spaghetti" straps are unacceptable.
- Clothing and accessories/paraphernalia depicting violence of death or that promote cults or gangs are unacceptable.
- Head coverings of any description (e.g. hats) will not be worn inside the school. Exceptions are made for religious or medical reasons.
- Pajamas or clothing which look like pajamas are not to be worn at school.

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- Students are expected to wear appropriate clothing for gym (see section below “Physical Education Clothing.”)
- Appropriate footwear must be worn at all times. Students should not wear beach flip-flops in school.

For Physical Education Classes, it is highly recommended that students have:

- a change of appropriate clothing for the physical activity planned for the day
- non-marking gym shoes

Emergency Information

Office staff should be notified immediately if any of the following information changes:

- address, work or home numbers or other contact information
- emergency contacts and telephone numbers
- changes in custody agreements
- medical alert or changes in health condition (e.g., allergies, medications)

Emergency Preparedness

The Board has a number of policies and procedures in place to address emergency situations when normal school operations cannot continue or where student and staff member safety may be at risk. This could include a fire, flood or acts of violence. All schools have individual plans and conduct drills throughout the year.

Homework

The Ministry of Education defines homework as “work that students do at home to practice skills, consolidate knowledge and skills, and /or prepare for the next class.”

The Board has a homework policy that supports student learning and recognizes the importance of personal and family well-being. The amount, frequency and nature of assigned homework will vary depending on the student’s strengths and needs, well-being, grade, subject and other factors. For more information about time guidelines and how parents can provide support, please see the Guide to the School year and Board Homework policy and procedure.

The following timelines are suggested daily maximum number of minutes across all subjects that a student spends on homework:

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Grade	Daily Minutes
Kindergarten	10 minutes
Grades 1-3	20 minutes
Grades 4-6	40 minutes
Grades 7-8	50 minutes

Teachers will:

- Develop regular parent/guardian communication and share homework expectations.
- Provide students with the instructional tools and skills for completion of work at home.
- Provide various activities in order to accommodate a variety of learning styles.
- Provide activities that are connected to class work.
- Provide feedback towards homework assignment.

Parents will:

- Support and monitor the child's learning at home.
- Ensure homework is completed and check the daily student agenda and/or online homework communication.
- Work as partners with teachers to consolidate, reinforce concepts and skills acquired at school.

Students will:

- Establish, develop and reinforce good homework practices.
- Complete assigned work to the best of their ability.
- Take responsibility for completion of their work.
- Communicate with the teacher(s) if unable to complete homework.

How Can We Help You?

Most concerns can be resolved with dialogue and cooperation. If you have a school-related question or concern, please follow these steps:

1. Arrange a meeting with your child's teacher or the appropriate school staff member.
2. If you need further assistance, the school principal or vice principal may be contacted to review the matter, mediate and help facilitate the process.
3. Contact the superintendent for our school, if the matter remains unresolved.

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We are committed to addressing concerns in a fair, equitable and timely manner.

If you have a human rights related concern and/or complaint, the first step is to engage with the school or the superintendent. Following a review of the matter, a determination is made on whether or not it is to be referred to the Board's Human Rights Commissioner's Office. The Independent Office of the Integrity Commissioner may also be engaged to address concerns related to trustee behaviour. Contact information can be found on the Board website, or by contacting the school.

More information is available in the Guide to the School Year and on the Board website.

Lunch Time Agreement

In order to minimize community and cross cohort transmission of illness, we are asking that all students remain at school during the lunch hour. Please review the consent forms for details.

Requests for Religious Accommodation

There may be circumstances where students and families request accommodation for religious beliefs in curriculum areas including the Arts and Physical Education. Accommodations may include different instruction and assessment opportunities, or full withdrawal. If you are interested in discussing an accommodation based upon your religious beliefs, speak with your child's teacher and the school principal or complete the Faith Requests for Curriculum Accommodations Form available through the school.

By providing a range of accommodations, we are building a sense of community and belonging for all students. For more information, see Board Procedure on Equity and Inclusivity: Religious Accommodation.

School Council

As parents/guardians, there are many ways you can be engaged in your child's learning at home and at school. This includes getting involved with the school council. Contact school office staff for more information. School Council nomination forms are due by **Tuesday , September 22, 2020**. Nomination forms (yellow page) have been included in this package.

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Student Personal Information

Schools routinely collect, use and release student personal information, in keeping with the Education Act and other laws. Whenever your child's personal information is collected, its use will be explained to you.

Parents/guardians, please sign the **Student Information Consent Form** and see the section on Student Personal Information in the Guide to the School Year for more information.

If you have any questions about your child's privacy protection, please contact the school principal or the Information Access and Privacy Office at 905-727-0022 ext. 2015.

Technology Use

All students and their parents/guardians are expected to read the Use of Technology Agreement (in the Guide to the School Year or available on the Board website). They are also required to sign the School Start-Up Permissions Form to acknowledge that they have read, understand and will support the conditions/rules concerning the use of school/Board and personal technology as it supports learning.

This agreement is designed to ensure a safe and supportive school environment and network integrity.

We believe the classroom is the ideal place to teach students how to use digital tools effectively and responsibly, and how to stay safe online. Google Suite for Education is one of the tools educators may use to engage students in online learning and teach students how to stay safe and be responsible using technology.

Through Google Suite, students have access to a Google Suite Gmail. This Gmail access is customized for appropriate age levels. Students younger than Grade 6 cannot send or receive emails outside of the YRDSB Google Suite. We have also put strict measures in place to prevent SPAM and block inappropriate language and websites for students using email through the Google Suite. For more information, please visit the Board website or speak to your child's teacher about the tools they are using in the classroom.

We all have a role to play in helping students to become responsible digital citizens. Digital citizenship at home resources are available on our Board website.

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Carrville Mills Public School

Use of Non-Board Electronic Devices

We recognize that learning can be enhanced by technology and we have created opportunities in our classrooms to leverage digital tools to enhance teaching, learning and communication. Each school has its own guidelines about electronic devices. At a minimum, cell phones and other personal communication devices must be turned off and kept out of sight during all instructional periods and during recess and lunch, except with the clear permission of the staff.

Discussions will take place in our classrooms throughout the year about the impact of digital footprints and how a positive attitude toward using technology supports collaboration, learning and productivity. Camera and/or video functions on mobile devices are not permitted for use on school property without clear permission from the vice principal/principal or teacher. Infractions will be dealt with as student discipline, under the Caring and Safe Schools Policy and its related procedures.

Check with the school's main office to find out if students may bring electronic devices into the classroom, use them in school, or if they must leave these items in their backpacks/lockers. There are exceptions for students who need specific devices as per their Individual Education Plan, such as voice recorders and other mobile technology. The use of these tools is managed by Board staff.

At no time may electronic devices be used in washrooms or changerooms.

Students are responsible for the care and security of their personal devices. The school is not responsible for any damage, loss or theft.

If a student needs to contact parents/guardians for any reason, they must come to the office and use the school phone to call. They should NOT use their personal phones to call from the class.

Visitors

At this time, any visitor, including parents and/or caregivers, must have a pre-arranged appointment in order to visit the school. Please note, other ways to communicate with both the office, teaching and support staff include phone, video conferencing and/or email. The change in practice is a recommendation from Public Health as we work to minimize person to person contact during this pandemic.

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Carrville Mills Public School

Student Threat Assessment and Intervention: Fair Notice and Process

Threat Assessment and Intervention

Schools continue to be among the safest places in our community. The well-being and safety of members of the school community are a shared responsibility. This includes preventing and responding to the risk of violence. Our Student Threat Assessment and Intervention Protocol was developed with community partners to respond to behaviours, including actions, statements and other indicators that suggest that a student may be “at risk” of harming others. To keep school communities safe and provide support to everyone, staff, parents/guardians, students, and community members must report all threatening situations to the school administrator or police as soon as possible. Note – other procedures and protocols are in place to deal with threats from adults in the school community.

What is the purpose of the Student Threat Assessment and Intervention protocol?

Ensure the safety of students, staff, parents/guardians, and other members of the school community

- Ensure an effective and timely response when there is a threatening situation
- Understand the factors that contribute to a threatening situation
- Assist in the development of an intervention plan
- Promote the emotional and physical safety of everyone involved

What is a threatening situation?

A threatening situation is defined as an indication of impending harm or violent acts against someone or something. Threats may be implied, verbal, written, drawn, posted on the internet, sent electronically or by information technology of any type, made by gesture or reasonably inferred from the surrounding circumstances of events. Threats may be direct, indirect, conditional or veiled.

What behaviours activate the Student Threat Assessment and Intervention Protocol?

The protocol will be initiated when behaviours include, but are not limited to:

- Serious violence or violence with intent to harm or kill

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- Verbal/written threats to kill/harm others
- The use of technology to communicate threats to harm/kill others or cause serious property damage
- Possession of weapons (including replicas)
- Bomb threats (making and/or detonating explosive devices)
- Fire setting
- Sexual intimidation or assault
- Ongoing issues with bullying and/or harassment
- Gang-related intimidation and violence
- Hate incidents motivated by factors including, but not limited to, race, culture, religion, and/or sexual orientation

What happens when a threatening situation is reported?

All threatening behaviours by a student shall be reported to the principal who will activate the Student Threat Assessment and Intervention protocol.

Once a threatening situation has been reported to a school administrator, interviews will be conducted. These interviews may include students, staff, family members and/or others as appropriate. This will be done to determine the level of risk, and develop an effective and timely response to the incident. After the immediate safety risk has been addressed, support and intervention plans will be developed with input from parents/guardians.

Who is a member of a Student Threat Assessment and Intervention team?

Each school will have staff trained in the Student Threat Assessment and Intervention protocol. A multi-disciplinary Student Threat Assessment and Intervention team will assess the situation and support the development of an intervention plan. The team includes a School Administrator, a School Social Worker and/or a Psychological Services staff member, a York Regional Police officer, and appropriate members of the student's circle of care.

Is parental/guardian or student consent required?

Consent is not required to respond to an emergency situation. When there is a risk that someone may be harmed, it is important that the incident be addressed as quickly and effectively as possible.

Fair Notice

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Please consider this as “fair notice” to all members of the school community that any report of a threatening situation will be investigated. The Student Threat Assessment Intervention protocol is part of our strategy to create a safe, secure and supportive school environment for everyone.

If you have any questions, please contact your school administrator.

YRDSB Student Suicide Intervention Protocol Fair Notice

York Region District School Board is committed to student well-being and mental health. YRDSB has developed a Student Suicide Intervention Protocol to help keep students safe in the event of suicidal thoughts or actions. Youth suicide is a complex, emotionally-charged and sadly real problem in Canada. It is the second leading cause of death amongst young people. It’s important to recognize that those who struggle with mental health have personal strength and resilience and the potential to overcome difficulties to ultimately thrive.

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The YRDSB Student Suicide Intervention Protocol is designed to address the six steps involved when responding to current and present thoughts of suicide, as well as actions related to suicide. In addition, the Protocol is governed by a set of guiding principles which are underpinned by a culturally responsive and reflective practice.

Suicide is not culturally neutral. Our cultural and ethnic backgrounds will inform how each of us understands suicide. To see all the guiding principles, see the Student Suicide Intervention Protocol on the Board website, or request a copy through the school office.

Given the urgent need to help keep students safe from suicide, each school has access to Board staff trained in suicide intervention. In the urgent situation of suicide intervention, staff trained in suicide intervention do not require parental / guardian consent to intervene. However, we do make every effort to contact parents/ guardians to apprise you of your child's situation and the assistance provided.

Parents/guardians are an integral part of keeping their children safe. In the event that the intervention protocol is used, a record of the intervention will be shared with you (student consent to share information is required for those over the age of 18 years) and a copy will be created and stored in a private and confidential on-line records management system. In accordance with privacy and health records legislation, a copy will be retained for one year plus a day following the intervention. As per the protocol parental/guardian (student if 18 or over) consent will be sought to share the intervention plan with those members identified in the record. If you have any questions about the Student Suicide Intervention Protocol please contact your school principal.

Additional Information

You can find more information on these and other topics in the **Guide to the School Year** included with this package or on the York Region District School Board website at www.yrdsb.ca

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