

R.H. King Academy

3800 St. Clair Ave. East, Toronto, Ontario M1M 1V3 • (416) 396-5550

Niva Kulendran, Principal

Lesley McLean, Vice-Principal Tasneem Munir, Vice-Principal

September 5, 2021

Hello and welcome to our incoming R.H. King Academy Grade 9 students and their families! We are so excited to have you join our school community. Our staff members can't wait to meet you all. This year is proving to be a different year than ones that we have had in the past. We know that your own experiences in preparing for high school have been different, too. Regardless, we are striving to make this year a safe, positive, and memorable experience for you all as we prepare to work and learn in new ways.

We would like to share some important and helpful information as we continue to prepare King for the start of school on Thursday, September 9th. Most of this information will relate to students who are attending the school in-person. We have asked our teaching staff to reach out via email and provide first day Brightspace links to our virtual students. Please note that many teachers will be doing this on Wednesday, September 8th as that will be the next day that they are at school.

We hope you enjoy these last days of summer and we wish you and your families a wonderful Labour Day weekend and the very best in the upcoming school year!

Niva Kulendran,
Principal, R.H. King Academy

Administration & Student Services:

Just a reminder of key staff that you can go to, based on the starting letter of your last name:

Vice-Principals:

Tasneem Munir (A-L): tasneem.munir@tdsb.on.ca (416) 396-5550 ext. 20011

Lesley McLean (M-Z): lesley.mclean@tdsb.on.ca (416) 396-5550 ext. 20012

Office Administrator:

Krista Baines: krista.baines@tdsb.on.ca (416) 396-5550 ext. 20001

Student Services Department:

Office Assistant:

Clara Morino : clara.morino@tdsb.on.ca (416) 396-5550 ext. 20040

Guidance Counsellors :

Alison Cole (A-G): alison.cole@tdsb.on.ca (416) 396-5550 ext. 20041

Jason Podur (I-Q) : jason.podur@tdsb.on.ca (416) 396-5550 ext. 20044

Mirela Ilisan (R, S): mirela.ilisan@tdsb.on.ca (416) 396-5550 ext. 20042

Don Halliday (T-Z): don.halliday@tdsb.on.ca (416) 396-5550 ext. 20043

School Information:

You will be able to access school information using the TDSB School Connects App, which is replacing the paper agenda. It is available for download from either [Google Play](#) or the [Apple App Store](#). From the app, you will be able to access your timetable, school messages and updates. You also should have received your student timetable earlier this week via your TDSB email address.

Grade 9 Entry and Safety Protocols:

This year, like last year, we will use separate entrances at King for each grade of student. Our grade 9 students will be using our main entrance, **door #18**. A site plan map of the school has been attached to this email so that you can see which doors are your entry doors.

School begins at 9:00 am, and in our first few weeks, we will be adjusting to the screening process. Please give yourselves, plenty of time to be screened before entering the school. This may mean arriving up to 30 minutes earlier than usual. We will begin screening at the grade entry door at 8:05 am.

We will have a special start to the day for grade 9s on Thursday, Sept. 9th. All grade 9s will be asked to meet with their period A teachers, after entry screening, on the King back field. Each teacher will have a sign with their name and students will be asked to line up with their teacher. When everyone in each class is present, your period A teacher will escort you to your classroom, as a group.

- You will need to have completed your Health Self-Assessment using either the ServiceNOW app (available on [Google Play](#) or the [Apple App Store](#)) or by completing a paper Health Pass. Paper Health Passes will be available at the entry doors and are an attachment in this email. This must be done **before** the screening check at the entry doors.
- Masks in the school building are always mandatory, except specifically for the time required to eat during lunch time. When not eating at lunch time, masks will be required. Whenever possible and weather permitting, students should eat their lunch outdoors.
- Students will be asked to sanitize their hands before entering the school. Sanitizer will be provided during the morning entrance time and in all classrooms and school spaces.
- Students are asked to distance themselves from each other, whenever possible, by 2 metres and to be distanced while in the hallways and stairwells.
- If you are not well, please remain at home and notify the main office at: (416) 396-5550.
- If you or a family member has tested positive for COVID-19, please notify your Vice-Principal immediately.

Grade 9 Orientation:

This year, we are unable to provide a full grade 9 orientation due to limits to group sizes and a temporary ban on assemblies. Instead, members of our King's Court Representatives (KCR) will be visiting grade 9 classes on Sept. 9 or 10 to provide students with school tours. We are also reviewing whether we will be able to conduct our grade 9 team-building half day later in September. More news on that will follow later.

Photo Day:

We have tentatively set our student photo day for **Wednesday, Sept. 15, 2021**. Our vendor is complying with all TDSB and TPH health and safety protocols and further information will follow.

Lockers:

While the school has tentatively assigned lockers, the TDSB has requested that no lockers be used at this time. Once school routines have been established, the Board will decide if locker use will be allowed. We will advise students and parents if/when locker access is permitted. All lockers have a combination lock provided for each student. Combinations will be shared with students when locker use has been approved.

1:1 Student Device Program:

The TDSB will be providing every grade 9 student with a new Chromebook that will be registered to that specific student. We are so excited to share the news of this initiative and are hoping that having a personal device to access at all times will enhance learning for all of our grade 9s. We will be distributing the Chromebooks in school up to Sept. 17th. Each student will be able to use their Chromebook, both at school and at home, until the end of grade 12. If the student moves to another TDSB secondary school, they will be able to take their device to their new school and have it registered to that school. Students will be able to use the device over the summer and during holiday periods as well. Students can bring their devices to school and care must be taken to avoid loss or damage.

School Uniforms:

As previously mentioned, we will be having a "relaxed" uniform dress code as we are still operating while managing a pandemic. This means that only a King "top" will be required. This can be either a uniform top (polo shirt, dress shirt, t-shirt with vest, sweater or crew-neck sweatshirt) or a top from a King team or club. Any bottoms, socks and shoes can be worn this year.

Since our grade 9 students do not have any King tops yet, we will be providing a King long-sleeved t-shirt to every grade 9 student. Please use this [Google Form](#) to let us know your size for distribution.

In addition, for all of our students we will be selling a King short-sleeve t-shirt at cost (\$7.50) so that students who want an extra top, have outgrown their current tops or were unable to purchase a top due to size issues at McCarthy's. We recognize that our current uniform supplier is selling its inventory of R.H. King Academy uniforms. This is due to the upcoming student vote on King's uniform, scheduled for this school year. We will be sharing more information regarding the student vote and the TDSB school dress policy later this year.

Ventilation:

Please refer to the TDSB's online Ventilation information for more information on the TDSB's ventilation plan. We have a mechanical ventilation system, with HEPA units in our learning spaces. We are anticipating additional HEPA units being delivered to the school.

Extra-Curriculars:

We are pleased to share that we will be gradually and responsibly re-introducing extra-curricular activities in the fall. Virtual clubs, councils and events will be able to begin once school routines are established but in-person extra-curriculars will begin later in September so that we can monitor case numbers in our community, get more specific direction from Toronto Public Health and the Board, and determine staff availability to run clubs, councils and events in-person. Please listen for announcements at the school, monitor our "Update All Day" monitors in the building and follow the club and council Instagram accounts for more details.

Student Activity Fees:

At this time, the \$50 student activity fee has been deferred until later this fall. This will allow administration to meet with school council to determine implementation of the fee. Any parents/guardians who have already paid their child/children's fees using our online system will have it applied when extra-curriculars begin operating or it will be reimbursed fully if no fees are collected this year. Please contact your child's Vice-Principal if you would like to discuss this matter further.

Lunch Time/Eating and Drinking Reminders:

This year, our modified schedule for all secondary schools allows for a 45-minute lunch period. If you leave the school property at lunch time, it will be the student's responsibility to make sure that they are back for their afternoon class, ready to learn, at 12:15 pm.

- The cafeteria will be available, with reduced seating to allow for distancing.
- There are no cafeteria food services available as King has not had food services since Sept. 2019.
- Students will be permitted to use the hallways and stairwell upper landings to eat their lunch. Individuals must always be distanced from other students.
- In all circumstances, masks must be worn unless food or drink are being consumed. Once eating/drinking is over, masks must be worn.
- Whenever possible, eating outdoors is recommended by Toronto Public Health.
- Students should not gather in groups larger than 4 (smaller groups are best) and they should always be distanced.
- Try to bring grab and go, "litter-less" snacks and lunches.
- Do not share food or drinks. Bring portions for individual consumption.
- Water bottles and filling stations can be used for refilling bottles only. Students are encouraged to carry individual refillable water bottles that come filled from home.
- When eating outdoors or taking mask breaks, distancing must always be maintained.
- To avoid congregating in hallways, if students are eating off site they should use the exit located closest to their classrooms.

We will continue to share information with students and parents/guardians as we learn best practices and adjust protocols and expectations, as needed. We thank you all for your cooperation and support as we open our schools again.

Niva Kulendran, Tasneem Munir and Lesley McLean,
R.H. King Administration