



August 31, 2020

Dear Guardians and Parents and Grandparents,

This week begins a brand-new school year for **all** of us, and we'd like to extend a warm welcome to our new students. As always, the start of a school year holds the promise of new discovery and learning, as well as the prospect of personal growth in all areas. This year will look MUCH differently compared to previous years. We will focus on social and emotional learning, new procedures for the classroom for our September.

Below you will find information to help you and your child become familiar with our classroom's expectations for the school year. If you need to contact me, I prefer email if possible. My email address is ejohnson@bhncdsb.ca. I check my email each day and I will respond as promptly as I can. If you do not have email, you may call the school and leave a message (519-759-4211). My goal is to call each family weekly to check in and get to know you. Thank you for your cooperation in getting this year off to a great start!

Sincerely,
Erin Johnson
Mary Ann Ramey

School Supplies and Materials Needed

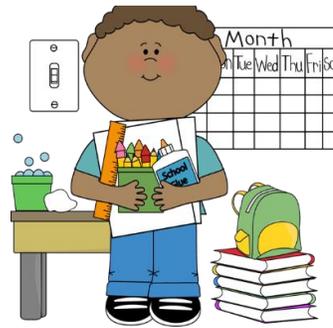
Your child will need all of the supplies in the list on the left. There will not be sharing of items as we have done in the past. If someone doesn't have glue, scissors, highlighters I will have a small supply to give out. We would also appreciate donations of the materials on the other list to our classroom supplies. Please do not send in large book bags or rolling book bags. Please send your child home with a reusable water bottle, one that will be taken home daily and washed ready to go for the next day. As the cubbies will not be used, student's belongings will be stored around the room. We will make pillowcase chair backpack for our supplies (pencils, glue, etc.). Just send to school what is needed, no extras like stuffies will be allowed. We just don't have the space to store them. Thanks!

Individual Student Supplies

- Pencils with erasers
- Box of colored pencils
- Pack of dry erase markers
- Scissors (child-size)
- Zippered pencil case (heavy duty canvas)
- Sturdy clipboard (not plastic)
- Headphones
- Highlighters
- Mask or two with a baggie to store
- Tissues (travel size)
- Small bottle of hand sanitizer
- Reusable water bottle
- Used, clean pillowcase
- Indoor and outdoor shoes

Classroom Supplies Requested

- Box of tissues
- Box of baby wipes



Attendance and Illnesses

Regular school attendance is critical to the learning process. Our school day officially starts at 8:45 a.m. When your child is absent or tardy, he or she misses valuable instructional time. Please call the office whenever your child is absent.

This year, the school board is asking each parent to take the temperature of your child before leaving for school and check to make sure they do not have a cough or other signs of illness. Here is the website to use as a checklist before coming to school each day: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/> . It's important to keep your child home if he or she is sick, do not give them fever reducing medication and send them to school. Because of the coronavirus outbreaks, it's especially important to keep your child at home if he or she has a fever or other symptoms of the virus.

New School Procedures

Staff are participating in 3 professional activity days prior to the beginning of school year. During this time, I will have an opportunity to learn and prepare our classroom and school environment to protect all members of our community. I know there is much uncertainty and many questions as we begin this school year. Once I receive more information, I will contact and share any correspondence that will help you and your child return to school. The school has direction arrows on the floor to indicate how the flow of traffic will work. One set of stairs is designated for going up, the other set is for going down. We will review hand washing procedures, how to walk down hallways, and washroom procedures.

Drop off/Pick up Procedures

This year, students will walk to the back of the school on their own, parents are asked to stay on the sidewalk. Staff will be out front to walk students to the back of the school to get in a physically distant line. I will be there to greet them to begin their day. Students will leave the school by grade, again, with parents waiting on the sidewalk. I do appreciate how much you all are doing to ensure our back to school experience is successful.

BrightSpace

You will find our class page on Brightspace.

<https://bhncdsb.elearningontario.ca/d2l/home> is the link for our class Brightspace page. Here you will see work we are doing, what our focus is for each week. A weekly newsletter will be posted there. As you may remember from last spring, each student uses their school email as a log in and 4 digit password they have from the school. Reminders to students of their information will be given the first week of school.

Username – email (first initial last name@bhncdsb.ca)

Password – four digits



Zones of Regulation

Each day, students will check in letting us know how they are feeling. We will work on recognizing how we are feeling as that can interfere with learning. In very loose terms:

- We need to be in the GREEN zone to be ready for learning.
- If we are in the BLUE zone, we are too sad or tired to learn.
- If we are in the YELLOW zone, we are too excited or anxious to learn.
- If we are in the RED zone, we are too angry to learn.

We will work on recognizing how we are feeling using physical cues and then strategies to help us when we are in the blue, yellow, or red zones.

| CHECK-IN | |
|--------------------|---|
| Green Zone | I am Feeling Happy, Focused, ready to learn and calm. |
| Blue Zone | I am Feeling Sad, tired, bored, nervous or sick. |
| Yellow Zone | I am Feeling Frustrated, silly, a little out of control, worried or excited. |
| Red Zone | I am Feeling Angry, upset, out of control, wanting to yell or hit or am refusing to work. |

Outdoor Time

I plan to be outside as much as we are able. That means we will be sitting (physically distant) on the ground reading, or doing math, or science. It will look weird but will be great! We will use our clipboards for when we are outside for a lesson. This will be time for a 'mask break' – WAHOO!

Physical Education Program

Our class participates in physical education every day, weather permitting. We will do exercises, run laps, practice P.E. skills, and play games. Therefore, your child needs to wear appropriate clothing and footwear each day. Students who wear dress clothes or shoes should be prepared to change into appropriate clothing before our P.E. period. If you feel your child should not participate in P.E. on a particular day, please write a note stating the reason.

