Hello and welcome back!

My name is Andrew Riddick and I am the principal at GHSS starting this September.  This is a return to ‘home’ for me since I have spent over half of my career here as a science teacher, guidance counsellor and vice principal.  In looking over the names of the students who currently attend Grey Highlands, I don’t know any of you yet but I recognize a lot of last names!

This year hasn’t started yet but is showing itself to be interesting for all concerned.  If you have opted to return to in class learning, we look forward to seeing you during the week staggered start in the week of September 8th!

As with everything in the time of Covid 19, we have had to make changes to how we do things.

I would encourage you to read through the items below with your child and make sure that they are aware of them.  We are here to help them get through this but these rules are from Public Health and must be followed in order to maximize the safety of students and staff.

If you have questions about when your child is to come to school and what the day will look like, please see the board website under Return to School.  You will be contacted this week by your Period A teacher to tell you what room to go to when you arrive.  It would be really helpful, especially for the Grade 9’s, if they remember the room number for their class!

Because we cannot have school assemblies, this is the only way for me to communicate the changes so forgive the length of this letter. If you still have questions regarding the return to school, please call the school and we will do our best to answer them.

**A late development is that if you are considering remote learning for your child, the deadline for doing so in Quadmester 1 is September 8th, 2020. You can opt for remote learning later but it won’t take effect until November 9th, 2020.**

Despite the uncertainty of these times, we look forward to seeing our students back in school after such a long time away.  By following the protocol as set by Public Health, I am confident that we will get through this in true Lion’s spirit!

Take care,



**Changes to the GHSS school routine:**

**Before coming to school each day, the Covid screening questions must be completed.**

**Busing and drop off procedure**

* Students are to exit their bus and either go directly to their classroom or they can stay outside.
* When getting on the bus at the end of the day, students will be asked to maintain 2m social distance with their masks on as they line up.
* **If you are dropping off or picking up your child, please park in the front lot on the north side and remain in your car.** If you need assistance, please call 519 924 2721 ext 524.
* **Parents and community members are not to enter the school.**  Call the above number to make an appointment to meet online with a teacher or administrator. If online meeting is not possible, call and we will make alternative arrangements.
* Parents/Guardians will only be provided with direct access to the school in the case of an emergency related to the child(ren). Parents who enter for an urgent situation must do a screening questionnaire before entering the school and are required to wear a mask.

**What to bring**

* Lockers are not going to be assigned at this time so we ask that you bring only what is essential.
* Water fountains are not available but water bottle filling stations are so bring a water bottle.
* The cafeteria will not be open for the first week.  It will be open for lunch only in the second week and then for breaks after that.  Please make sure your child has food with them as the restaurants in Flesherton have Covid 19 procedures in place. As usual, the cafeteria is cash only.

**Hallways**

* Please look at the signs!  Most hallways and stairways are one direction only. See the map at the end of this message.
* Students are not allowed to hang out in the halls at any time during the day.  Students who are in the hallways are on their way to the bathroom, the office, Guidance or a computer lab.

**PPE**

* Students and staff must wear a mask at all times except for eating and drinking. Students are asked to bring a mask from home.  If you do not have a mask, we will provide one for you. If you cannot wear a mask due to medical reasons, please contact the administration.
* Sanitizing stations are at every entrance to the school as well as inside the school
* Students are to wash their hands frequently and use the hand sanitizing stations provided.

**Breaks**

* Breaks will be at the teacher’s discretion and will likely be in the classroom.
* **Only one student will be allowed to leave the classroom at a time.**

**Bathrooms**

* We are allowed to have three students maximum at one time in the bathroom. With the teacher’s knowledge, students are to take the Hall Pass from their classroom, take it to the bathroom and hang it on the hook outside.  If all three hooks are taken, the student is to wait outside at a 2m distance.  The student and Hall Pass return to the classroom where they sanitize the pass and then their hands.

**Lunch**

* Students are allowed to leave the school for lunch BUT they must leave the school and not enter again until five minutes before the bell and go directly to their classroom.
* Each classroom will have a logbook to track the students who leave. Students who leave for lunch will have to sign out before leaving and sign back in.
* The rest of the students are to eat in their classroom.  Supervision will be in the halls with teachers looking in to maintain student safety. Students who need to use the bathroom will follow the above procedure one at a time.

**Covid symptom reporting**

* If a student or staff member reports feeling ill, they will be brought to the office.  If they are reporting ***the sudden onset of more than 2 new symptoms***since they screened for Covid that morning, the following will happen:
* Parents will be called and asked to pick them up.  They will be kept in our isolation room until that happens.
* Our superintendent will be informed.
* Public Health will be informed and that will start their protocol.  This *may*include a Covid 19 test, delayed return to school and/or self isolation.

**Daily schedule**

* Please see the schedule attached of two 2 hour blocks followed by an independent study time.  This is a good opportunity for students to finish homework, work on assignments and prepare for tests.
* If you would prefer that your student not attend the independent classroom study period, a form will be distributed that will cover the whole semester.  Students over 18 can sign their own form.  Once signed and returned, the student must leave at the beginning of the independent study period and they **MUST**leave the school property. Any inappropriate behaviour in the community during this time will result in school consequences. This form is included with this message.