

Q and A with Mr. Michayluk (NOVEMBER 24th, 2020)

Will there be a uniform sale for second-hand uniforms?

Answer: I don't foresee there being a sale due to COVID-19 restrictions, especially with limitations to people entering the building. An online sale is also difficult in terms of setting that up and tracking people. However, there is an opportunity for parents to go to KIJJI. We also just received a notice from McCarthy, our official TLC uniform supplier, to benefit from coupons or reduced prices on uniforms in the future. We will be getting that information out to parents as soon as we have more details.

Parents are still asking about daycare options. Where can we get this information?

Answer: We will look at posting information on the council website. We have to be careful about advertising as this is not allowed on the CBE website. We will talk to the executives on the parent council to discuss how we can relay this information on the council website.

Regarding COVID19: A child was asked to isolate but is not symptomatic. Can this student still do classes through Google Classroom?

Answer: Yes, they can go to Google Classroom. However, it should be noted that in the isolation stage for in-person learners, this will not look like HUB learning. HUB learning takes a long time to set up and has nothing to do with in-person learners who isolate. In fact, the Google Classroom for an in-person student is a modified version of what is happening in the classroom. I would say that it is much better than the emergency learning that took place in March 2019 because teachers have been asked to post material in the Google Classroom in conjunction with in-person teaching. This was done as a preventive measure in case a classroom or a set of students had to go in isolation.

Please note that we do not work with D2L at Brentwood. We work with Google Classroom, which is better and more intuitive for both students and teachers. As an example, the classroom that is currently in isolation has already shifted to working with the children in an online environment. I trust that this was a smooth transition and the teacher already had Google Meet with the students.

Would the Google Classroom be available only to an entire classroom, or can it be also accessed by a few individuals who are in isolation?

The online classroom, per se, is applicable to an entire classroom. As for the individuals who are in isolation, accessing the google classroom will give them information on what the teacher has been working on in the classroom. Remember that we can't transfer a student who is in isolation in a HUB class.

Please give us more information as to what is done when a COVID-19 case is identified at Brentwood School.

When a COVID-19 case is identified, we sent information to the affected classroom and individuals (close contacts in classroom and bus). Following the guidelines and rules, we ask certain individuals to isolate. Information is sent to impacted parents to make them aware of what is happening. AHS also works on connecting with the close contacts to provide them with further information. However. The reality is that it is taking AHS longer to touch base with the close contacts because of a backlog.

What about cleaning protocols?

When we immediately shut the classroom, a CBE team of 4 people is dispatched to clean the affected classroom from top to bottom. That was done as soon as we identified the COVID-19 case in the impacted classroom. The area stays as is for a period of time until it is ready to welcome back all students on their return date. Areas of "possible close contact" are also thoroughly cleaned in the building. I know that areas of close contact in the bus are also taken care of. There is a cleaning routine as quickly as we find out about a COVID-19 case. We do everything that we can to manage the crisis. We also have extra cleaning staff at the school significantly and cleaning happens on a regular basis. I can tell you that the cleaning staff is working very hard and doing a great job. If your child has symptoms, the child will be placed in an infirmary which is close to the office. The minute that the child leaves this area, the cleaning staff immediately cleans that area.

Does Kindergarten have an online class option?

No, this is a CBE decision. The students who are currently enrolled in kindergarten do not have the option to do online learning. They will not lose their spots and will be deferred to Grade 1. The only time where there might be online learning taking place for Kindergarten students would be from January 4th to January 8th, as per the latest rules set by Dr. Deena Hinshaw and Premier Kenney. There is more information coming from CBE and we can expect more information soon.

Considering the new COVID regulations, will everything pretty much stay the same for Kindergarten and will bussing still be available?

The answer to that is yes.

Are we allowed to drop off lunches in school?

Generally, no, unless a child has forgotten. We're trying to keep traffic as limited as possible. We try to keep parents outside the building. If you need to drop off something, we will pick it up from the outside and deliver it to your child.

Are we allowed to switch to HUB if we are currently doing in-person learning?

No, the choice for that was given because we needed to make sure we had all the staff in place. There is only a certain condition that would be allowable, and that would have to be reviewed by myself, the Area Director, and the Chief Superintendent. There is a very long process to get through and your case would be subject to discussion and review.

How often do kids come in with symptoms and you have to ask them to isolate?

It varies. In the beginning there was a fair bit, but with the deeper understanding of the disease and symptoms, we take time to assess the symptoms. We chat to the student about how he/she is feeling and if the symptoms have been around for a certain period of time. This is not an automatic process and we understand that parents have limitations in terms of picking up their kids and arranging for childcare. We do follow protocol but we are very careful in assessing whether or not symptoms warrant isolation. We always encourage parents to keep the child home, even if it is a cold. It will give you the assurance that they are stable, healthy, and that they don't pass on their illness to other people in the school.

Thank you Mr. Michayluk. On behalf of the council and all parents, we would like to thank you for your hard work for keeping the staff and school safe.

We are trying so hard and we are thankful to all parents at Brentwood. They have been so good in keeping us updated and letting us know quickly when there is a suspected case within their household. Call and don't be scared if you have something to share. It's really tough but we are all in this together.