

Stayner Collegiate Institute

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# SPARTANS SPEAK

September 10, 2021

## Welcome Back Spartans – 2021-22

Hello Spartan Family,

It is my pleasure to welcome you and your child(ren) to the Stayner Collegiate Institute 2021-2022 school year. Once again, we are facing a unique and uncertain school opening. This is our third school year that will be impacted by COVID-19. Our staff are working in collaboration with health unit members to help prepare our school environment and our students for safe and effective learning. We have communicated with parents, information provided by the health unit and the school board surrounding COVID-19 and relative procedures. While many protocols (such as daily screening and face masks) remain in place, it is encouraging to see that there will be increased opportunities for students including a return to co-curricular activities and the use of lockers and the cafeteria. I am especially proud of the cooperation and determination our students have demonstrated through this challenging time.

You are receiving our newsletter and I ask that you pay close attention to this and all communications that come from the school or the school board. We, both at the school and the school board level, have had to implement many changes and these changes continue to occur as our local health department continues to advise us surrounding protocols to maintain and promote safety. For that reason, school-parent communication is essential.

We are very excited that our students have returned to our school building for learning. We look forward to an exciting year for your student.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to myself or other school staff if you have any questions or concerns.

Go Spartans  
Mark Keating, Principal

### COVID-19 Daily Self Assessment Tool

All students and staff will be required to complete the daily COVID-19 self-assessment prior to entering SCDSB schools and buildings, using the provincial self-assessment tool. Students or staff with symptoms must stay home from school. To access the COVID-19 self-assessment tool, please visit <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>.

## Coming Events

Sep 13	<b>Covid Vaccine Clinic at SCI</b> 11-3 - Students & Staff 4-7 - Open to the Community
Sep 30	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
Oct 4	Virtual School Council Meeting 6:30—8:30
Oct 11	Thanksgiving School Closed
Oct 14	Gr 9-12 Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews 5pm—7pm
Oct 22	PA Day for grades 7-12
Oct 29	Halloween Haunt (tentatively booked)
Nov 5	Gr 9-12 Midterm Report Cards
Nov 11	Remembrance Day
Nov 11	Gr 7-8 Report Cards
Nov 12	PA Day for grades 7-12
Nov 15-18	Gr 7-8 Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews
Nov 29	Virtual School Council Meeting 6:30—8:30
Dec 20-31	Winter Holidays school closed
Feb 3	Gr 9-12 Semester 2 begins
Mar 14-18	March Break school closed
June 27	Gr 8 Graduation - 6:00pm
June 28	Gr 12 Commencement - 7:00pm

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## Safety measures in schools

We want to assure you that the health and well-being of our students and staff remains our top priority. We are in regular contact with our local health authority, the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU), and we continue to take their direction on all matters related to COVID-19. Please visit the COVID-19 Return to School page on the SMDHU website at [www.simcoemuskokahealth.org](http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org) for additional information.

The following health and safety measures will be implemented in our schools.

### Masking:

- Students from Kindergarten (JK and SK) through Grade 12 will be required to wear masks while indoors.
- Staff will be required to wear masks while indoors.

### Enhanced Health and Safety Protocols:

- Hand sanitizer will be provided in each classroom for student and teacher use.
- Students will receive training on proper hand hygiene including instructions on hand washing and sanitizing.

### Ventilation

- Standalone high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter units will be placed in all schools without mechanical ventilation.
- HEPA filter units will be placed in all standalone Kindergarten classrooms.

### Enhanced Cleaning:

- Enhanced cleaning and disinfecting at least twice a day of frequently touched surfaces and shared resources such as doorknobs, light switches, toilets and faucet handles.
- Buses will be sanitized twice daily with frequent cleaning of high-touch surfaces.

### Physical Distancing:

- Directional arrows and signage will be utilized in schools to support physical distancing measures.
- Schools will have designated entry and exit doors and staggered entry and exit times.
- Acrylic shielding will remain installed in school offices.

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## No Visitor Access

As we transition into the return to school routine this fall, following the direction from our local health authority, the SMDHU, visitors are not permitted within SCDSB schools at this time. Parents/guardians may ring the doorbell at elementary schools to receive assistance. Parents/guardians will be asked to call the school's main office at secondary schools to receive assistance. School main office phone numbers will be posted on the doors of school buildings.

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## Instructions For When Children Become Sick At School

Parents/guardians will be asked to provide multiple contacts who will be available to pick up their child(ren) in the event that they become ill while at school. Children who become ill while at school will not be able to travel on a bus home for the protection of the other riders.

## IMPORTANT LINKS

[COVID-19 Daily Self Assessment Tool](#)

[SchoolCash Online](#)

[Parent Portal](#)

[What's Happening At SCI](#)

[Subscribe to our SCI website and stay up to date!!](#)

[Report Bullying, Drug Use or Vandalism](#)

[We post our Announcements to Facebook & Twitter every day!](#)

[SCDSB 2021-22 School Year Calendar](#)

[Subscribe To All SCDSB Media Releases](#)

[SCI Wellness Warriors](#)

[Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit](#)

[Educate Yourself About Covid-19 In Our Area](#)

[Ontario Universities Fair](#)

[Explore Ontario Colleges](#)

[Teen Vaping Linked to More Health Risks](#)

[What Is The Difference Between Stress and Anxiety?](#)

[Love Languages for Kids](#)

[Easing the Transition Back to Normal For Children](#)



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## HAVE YOU MET SORA?

Our digital ebook/audiobook collection contains over 4,000 titles waiting to be checked out by our SCDSB students. Students simply download the app, use their SCDSB login and start reading for free on their phone or tablet. The collection can be accessed at:

[meet.soraapp.com](http://meet.soraapp.com).

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## Procedures help keep our school safe

We have a number of procedures in place to keep our school safe. You can help your child understand and feel safe by:

- talking to them about the situations below;
  - reminding them that emergencies are rare; and,
- telling them it's important to follow staff instructions in these situations.

Parents/guardians should talk about the following emergency drills with their children:

- **Shelter in place** is used when there is an environmental or weather-related situation, like a chemical spill outside the building, or a major storm. Activities continue inside the school. Students and staff are not allowed to leave the building. The ventilation system may be shut off temporarily.
  - A **hold and secure** is used when there is a situation in the community, not related to the school, like a bank robbery nearby. Activities continue, but all exterior doors are locked. No one is allowed to enter or exit the school.
- A **lockdown** is used when there is a major incident or a threat of violence related to the school. Students and staff move to secure areas, away from doors and windows. Interior doors are locked, lights are shut off and blinds are drawn. Students and staff remain quiet. We practice lockdown drills at least two times per year. In the unlikely event of an actual lockdown situation, police ask that parents/guardians do not go to the school. Information will be communicated through the school board social media sites ([www.facebook.com/SCDSB](http://www.facebook.com/SCDSB) and [www.twitter.com/SCDSB\\_Schools](http://www.twitter.com/SCDSB_Schools)) and website ([www.scdsb.on.ca](http://www.scdsb.on.ca)), through local police and local media.

All schools have **evacuation plans** in case of gas leaks, bomb threats or fire incidents that would require everyone to leave the school. We hold drills to practice our evacuation plan. In a real evacuation, students and staff may go to the evacuation site, depending on the situation. Parents/guardians will be informed about pick-up procedures by the school, school board and local media.

When parents/guardians are at school during a drill or emergency event, they must follow direction from school staff, police, fire and/or emergency personnel. Parents/guardians may not have immediate access to their children during drills or emergencies. They may need to wait until the situation is resolved and school staff and/or emergency personnel release students into parent/guardian care.

It's important for you to know we'll always take whatever precautions are necessary to keep our school and students safe.

Please note the following:

- Elementary school main doors are locked during the school day. Visitors must use the **intercom system** and wait for assistance. **Staff may not be available to answer the door immediately, so please be patient.**
- Staff must complete a **criminal record check** before having contact with students.
- We ask parents/guardians to contact us when their child will be absent from school as part of our **Safe Arrival** program. When we don't hear from a parent/guardian and a student is absent, we will call home to find out the reason for the absence.

At least two staff members in every school are trained in **first aid and CPR**. All SCDSB schools have **Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs)**.

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## Parent Portal gives parents real-time access to attendance, grade information

The SCDSB Parent Portal is a secure online tool that provides parents/guardians (of students less than 18 years of age) with quick access to their children's attendance and grades, and includes the option to sign up for email notifications. To access the Parent Portal, parents/guardians will need their child's SCDSB Pupil ID Number, which can be found on the Student Information Verification Form, as well as an Access ID. The Access ID will be provided in a sealed letter this fall with instructions on how to create an account. If you lose the Access ID, you can visit us in the school office and we'll provide it to you after verifying your identity.

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## **Complete forms and pay for field trips, lunch days, etc. with SchoolCash Online**

We have made it easy for parents to make their school purchases from the convenience of their own home. Whether it's lunch days, field trips or school wear, we have it online for you! Follow these three steps to get started:

- Go to [www.simcoecounty.schoolcashionline.com](http://www.simcoecounty.schoolcashionline.com) or visit our school website and click on "Pay Fees"
- Register and add your child to the newly created account
- View and purchase items through bank transfer or credit card

It's safe, fast and convenient. Contact the office with any questions.

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## **Student Dress Code**

Students are expected to respect the guidelines when dressing for school. Our school is a safe space. We work to be equitable and inclusive, and understand that students may choose to express themselves through their clothing choices. Student clothing cannot pose a safety concern or conceal identity. Exceptions are granted to students who wear head coverings or other garments/objects for the purposes of religious observance, medical or sensory needs, or other reasons protected by the Ontario Human Rights Code.

The SCDSB dress code is available in the student agenda and online at [www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/dress\\_code](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/dress_code). If you have questions about the dress code, you can contact your school principal.