

June 26, 2020



AWA School Reopening Plan 2020-21

The following outlines the AWA plan for school reopening in September based primarily on the suggested document from the Ministry of Education. The Education unit that we are accountable to: Private Schools and International Education Unit, has given the authority to school operators to determine the return to school plan. AWA does not fall under the same jurisdiction as the public school boards, however, we will be using the Ministerial documentation for guidance on best practices. Additionally, this document presents 2 options; for the school to remain fully open, or to go online if schools are mandated to close.

The plans below outline a full return to class for all students every day. Our plans do not include any alternating schedules with partial attendance which is in contrast with public school boards. The physical size of the school and individual classroom in relation to our student population is very generous, and the average number of students in each class is small, which means that we can have continuous classroom learning for all students, as long as schools can remain open. We are prepared to be nimble and to move between an in-class and online model without delay. If at any point schools are mandated to close, we are ready with a robust online learning plan.

Please note that upon any new recommendations from public health authorities, some elements of this plan may be adjusted.

The health and wellbeing of the students and staff remains our top priority. We are ready to work with families to ensure that individual needs are met.

School Organisation and Timetabling



- All students attend school every day;
- We will continue with our existing maximum of 18 students per class for the following reasons:
 - At AWA, with 912 Sf per classroom, full classes of 18 students mean there is more square footage per student than a half filled class of 15 students in a typical public school;
 - Classroom floor areas in public schools typically range from 23sf to 25sf per student;
 - Limiting a class size to 15 (as suggested by the Minister of Education) means each student in a typical public school would have approximately 50sf in their classroom;
 - Our students would continue to have over 50sf per student in each classroom because our classrooms are very large;
 - Even with 18 students per classroom, AWA can meet the expectations for distancing.
- Students will have one homeroom, in which they have the majority of their classes, with teachers rotating as needed;
- Students will continue to attend specialist classes including Arts, Science, and Health and Physical Education;
- The school is considering offering dance or drama in lieu of music in the first term;
- Use of shared materials will be limited. Any shared materials will be disinfected between users;
- Use of the outdoors for classes will occur as much as possible;
- Parents and visitors inside the school will be restricted;
- Postponement of some field trips, while some outdoor trips might still be considered suitable;
 - Supplemented with digital guests in the classroom

Health and Safety



Protocols and Procedures

- Distancing of 2 m between students from different cohorts within the school building;
- Students within a cohort will not be required to distance;
- Students and staff are not currently being advised to wear PPE, although they may do so if they wish;
- Regular hand washing at scheduled times;
 - All classrooms have sinks for students to wash with soap and water;
 - Students will be educated on proper handwashing procedures;
- Personal belongings will be limited, labeled, and kept in designated area only;
- Students should drink from personal water bottles instead of fountains;
- Staggering of movement between classrooms, indoors and out, and to bathrooms will be implemented in order to limit indoor contact with children from different cohorts;
- Classroom windows remain open as much as possible, and as appropriate;
- Visual cues such as tape on the floor, corridors, bathrooms and outside areas will be added;
- Physical Education or other classes will be encouraged to be held outdoors;
- Additional cleaning protocols including:
 - Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces and shared resources such as doorknobs, water fountain knobs, light switches, toilet and faucet handles, electronic devices, students' chairs and desks/tabletops
 - Following public health advice regarding the type of cleaning and disinfectant products to use

Screening and Self-assessment

Self-assessment tools and daily checklists will be made available to staff and families to ensure awareness of possible symptoms of COVID-19. Families who suspect their child may have symptoms, or staff who suspect they may have symptoms will stay home and seek testing. Students who present at school with symptoms will stay home. Clear exclusion policies will be implemented. We are prepared for the event of a student or staff member having a positive test for COVID-19. This includes:

- A clear notification protocol to public health in the event of a suspected case and positive test result;

- The readiness to provide contact information for other students or staff who would be considered close contacts - to be able to quickly provide contact information to public health for class cohorts of a student or staff member who receives a positive test result.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

- Special meetings to be held with staff and faculty to ensure smooth transition for new students;
- Sharing resources with students and parents to support children and families;
- Ensuring the strength of the school culture and community is maintained through regular activities and special programming.

Ensuring Academic Success

- Significant diagnostic assessment will occur to ensure teachers start the year with a clear understanding of student preparedness and prior learning;
- Communication between educators will be used to determine where learning gaps may exist;
- Refresher learning will occur early in the school year;
- Assessment and reporting will continue as usual, regardless of online or in-school learning model.

Online Capacity and Technology Readiness

- AWA is ready to offer a seamless transition to at-home learning if schools are ordered to close;
- Google Classroom will be used at all grade levels throughout the year. This allows students and families at home to follow work expectations and to complete and submit work online;
- Regular online synchronous learning schedules have already been developed and are ready to implement immediately, if necessary. These include daily Google Meets with homeroom teachers, and weekly Meets with specialists;
- Curriculum delivery planning, and materials purchases have been made in preparation for a seamless shift to online learning if this becomes necessary.
- Assessment and evaluation of learning at home will take place, and regular attendance will be expected and monitored.

If You Do Not Attend School

- Parents may choose whether or not to send their children to school;
- Any students not at school will be supported in their learning, and will be expected to complete assignments and other work
- Students not at school will receive:
 - Use of Google Classroom for access to activities done at school;
 - Periodic synchronous learning and video links to the live classroom.

Communications With Parents

- Continued digital communication with parents;
- Town halls, parent meetings, and board meetings etc., will be digital, to limit the number of different adults in the school;
- Health and self screening information will be given to parents to help understand when to send their children to school, and how to support them in learning new behaviour expectations.

Before and After School Programs

- Before and after school programs will begin in the second week of school, once students have become more familiar with new school routines and expectations;
- Programming will be delivered outside as often as possible;
- Advanced monthly registration will be necessary until normal school routines resume, to allow for cohorting to be organised;
- Morning drop-off and afternoon pickup will take place outside the A4 doors (rather than inside), to limit the number of adults in the school building;
- Safety protocols and procedures from the regular school day will be followed as closely as possible in the extra-curricular programs.

Conclusion

Additional details are forthcoming, pending announcements from authorities. We will stay in regular communication with families throughout the summer as new information becomes available and/or additional decisions are made. This will include a detailed safety plan and instructions for parents and students on expectations for drop-off and pick-up, physical distancing, hand hygiene, remote learning, and resources to support learning and well-being at home.

Additional resources used to draft this document include: The [Ontario Approach for Reopening Schools 2020-2021](#), Ontario's News Release [Ontario Prepares for the Safe Reopening of Schools](#), the [Sick Kids COVID-19 Recommendations for School Reopening](#), the [Guide de retour en classe](#) from the Conseil des écoles catholiques de Centre-Est, and [Building our Schools: Building our Future](#).