

September 5, 2023

Dear families, parents and guardians,

Today marks the start of a new school year, full of possibility and opportunity for every child to learn new things, achieve new goals and form new relationships. In 2023–24, the Division will support over 114,000 students in high quality teaching and learning environments, guided by the vision and direction of our [2022–2026 Strategic Plan](#).

Safe and healthy learning environments continue to be a priority. To support the health and well-being of students, families, staff and the community, the Division will maintain safety measures to reduce the risk and spread of illness, including:

- **Staying home when sick.**
  - Staff and students with symptoms of illness are asked to stay home.
- **Enhanced steps to support air quality in schools.**
  - Portable air filtration (HEPA) units for every classroom and learning space in the Division.
- **Good hand hygiene practices.**
- **Enhanced cleaning and disinfecting protocols.**
- **Commitment to transparency by reporting general illness trends on [epsb.ca](https://www.epsb.ca).**
- **Respecting individuals who choose to wear a mask.**
  - Schools will continue to have masks on hand for any staff or student who wants to wear one but forgot to bring it.

I know we're all looking forward to a great school year and will continue to work together to keep schools healthy places for students and staff to learn and work.

On behalf of the entire Division, I want to welcome you and your family back to school for the year and thank you for your continued partnership in student success.

Sincerely,



Darrel Robertson  
Superintendent of Schools