



# Back to School Information Bulletin

## Avon View High School

225 Payzant Drive, PO Box 700

Windsor, NS B0N 2T0

avhs@avrce.ca | [www.avhs.ednet.ns.ca](http://www.avhs.ednet.ns.ca) | @AvonViewHighSchool

**Hello students and families of AVHS and welcome to our 2020-21 school year!**

**We know this is a lot of information... click the following links to listen to/watch this Bulletin:**

**Part 1 – Mrs. Dickie** [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1DAcTSKDNYQmH\\_y2vGF5-MYnxyF7hagez/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1DAcTSKDNYQmH_y2vGF5-MYnxyF7hagez/view?usp=sharing)

**Part 2 – Mr. Hanson**

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1\\_EliZzA63iwzt16vDY4il91PNGzeG7el/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_EliZzA63iwzt16vDY4il91PNGzeG7el/view?usp=sharing)

**Part 3 - Mr. Wong**

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hkX84Neu6L\\_OKy2uzOc2T4GF84bTR1MH/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hkX84Neu6L_OKy2uzOc2T4GF84bTR1MH/view?usp=sharing)

**Part 4 – Mr. Swinamer** <https://drive.google.com/file/d/13Mv-t8LbRJKYT65UcETX7fY9v6fAG9wR/view?usp=sharing>

It has been a long time since COVID disrupted our school routines and required that we teach and learn from home. Even though the effects of all of that varied from individual to individual and family to family, we have all been affected and have had a lot to deal with since March 2020. We missed our students and the interesting learning opportunities that exist every single day at school. We also, missed the social nature and the structure that school provides. We are very happy to welcome you all back!

School however, will look and feel different than in previous years. No question. But, we want to assure you that we will make it as safe and as engaging as we possibly can, within the guidelines provided to us by Public Health and the Department of Education. As you know, with COVID-19 rates in Nova Scotia at low levels, **students will return to school on September 8<sup>th</sup> following the full opening model** outlined in *Nova Scotia's Back to School Plan*. That plan can be found at [www.novascotia.ca/backtoschool](http://www.novascotia.ca/backtoschool) and is what we used to prepare AVHS for our students' return.

We know you have a lot of questions. We have many but not all the answers yet, and the answers we give now may change depending on the health of Nova Scotians. If conditions change, our approach will change, including a possible move to either a partial opening/blended learning model or at-home learning model. The direction to move to a different learning model will be given by Public Health as they assess COVID-19. Should this happen, we will follow the instructions set out by our Regional Education Center and let you know as soon as possible.

**Principal:**  
Cindy Dickie

**Vice-Principals:**  
Brian Wong  
Paul Hanson  
Tim Swinamer

**Counsellors:**  
Jan Burke  
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Our AVHS Admin team has been meeting with other school administrators, some of our AV staff and some regional staff over the past several weeks to plan and organize for September. We will have a lot of information to share with you as plans are finalized and details are available. In order to help you gain knowledge and comfort with coming back to school we intend to:

1. Give you some **basic information today** and provide an **opportunity for students** to have input into the content of our Virtual Orientation.
2. Place whatever important information we can on our **school's website** – including information on how to register new students and how to proceed with schedule related issues.
3. Send a **Virtual Orientation** to all students and families before the September long weekend. This video should give everyone a pretty good sense of what school will look and feel like this fall.
4. Offer an opportunity to have students/families join a **Grade Level Google Hangout meeting** before school starts to interact with the plans for school and clear up any questions that we can.

### Information to share today:

#### Getting to School

**Daily COVID-19 Checklist:** Please monitor your child daily for COVID-19 symptoms before sending them to school. Attached to this message is the **current COVID-19 Daily Checklist**. If a student exhibits COVID-19 symptoms throughout the day, we will call you to come and pick them up at school (students who have driven to school can leave in their vehicle as a parent or guardian advises).

**School Bus Routes and Stops:** School bus routes changed over the summer. Please make sure you check your school bus information as soon as possible before school starts. You can check online at <https://transportation.avrce.ca> and click on 'Parent Portal'. This BusPlanner Parent Portal is not connected to the PowerSchool Parent Portal, so a separate login and password is needed. You can also email [transportation@avrce.ca](mailto:transportation@avrce.ca) or call 902.538.4641 if you have transportation-related questions.

**Masks on the Bus:** All students will be required to wear a mask on the bus. The Province is providing two re-usable face masks for each student. Disposable masks will also be available on the bus and at school if a student forgets their mask or misplaces it throughout the day. Bus drivers will also wear masks. Buses will be cleaned twice a day and high-touch surfaces such as handrails will be cleaned before and after each run.

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**Drop Off/Pick Up:** We are limiting outside visitors to schools in the AVRCE, including parents/guardians. Drop offs and pick ups will be done outside in front of the school at the designated area.

**Arrival:** Buses are scheduled to arrive at school no earlier than 20 minutes before school begins. Parents/Guardians who drop their child off at school, will do so after 8:30 am. Supervision will not be available before this time. At the beginning of the day students will ensure their mask is on and then enter school in one of 4 main level entrances. Because each student coming into the building will use hand sanitizer at the entrance, and to avoid congregating of students, we are separating students entering school by grade level. More detail will be given before school starts.

### While at School

We will work very hard to help our students become familiar with new school routines and expectations. Their wellbeing is a top priority and helping them develop the required habits will be important to getting our school year started successfully.

**Handwashing/Hand Sanitizer:** Everyone will be expected to clean their hands often and regularly throughout the day. Depending on schedules and location in the building, students will wash their hands with soap and water or at the very least they will use hand sanitizer as they enter the building and every classroom. We will routinely be reminding students about the importance of good hygiene such as regular handwashing and proper coughing and sneezing etiquette.

**Masks at School:** All students will be required to wear a mask at school from the time they enter, when in hallways, common areas and when in class.

**Lockers and Belongings:** To help with physical distancing high schools will not be using lockers. Students will be travelling from class to class with their belongings so keeping only necessary items in their backpack would be advisable.

**Signage and Enhanced Cleaning:** Students will notice signage up around the school reminding them about physical distancing, handwashing, and the wearing of masks. There will be directional signage on the floors to help direct traffic flow in hallways and common areas. We are also implementing enhanced cleaning and disinfecting protocols in school and on buses.

**Bring a reusable water bottle:** Our drinking water is still currently in bottle and dispenser stations throughout the school. In order to limit congregating/line ups but still ensure students have proper hydration, we would encourage students to bring a full bottle of water with them to start school and fill as needed throughout the day.

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**Classroom:** Our students will move from classroom to classroom, following their class schedule. If a student has a study period and is staying in the building, there will be designated spaces that they can use. Classrooms will be organized to maximize space. High-touch surfaces will be cleaned throughout the day. We will not be sharing supplies. If equipment or technology is shared, it will be cleaned between uses.

### End of Day Routines

**Dismissal/After-School:** Our school will continue to dismiss 3:15 – 3:20 pm. Students who have driven to school or are being picked up by a driver, will be dismissed a few minutes early. Students who ride on the bus will be dismissed at the bell and will follow the same routine on buses in the afternoon as they did in the morning. Information related to after school activities such as club and sport opportunities will evolve as school starts and the fall progresses.

### Additional things we would like to share right now...

In addition to our wonderful returning staff, we welcome several **new staff** this year:

Ms. Alexander	Education Assistant
Ms. Rennie	Education Assistant
Ms. Malishewski	Education Assistant
Ms. Swinamer	Education Assistant
Ms. Leonard	Visual Arts 10, English 11, Academic Support
Mr. Lawrence	Core French 9, English Language Arts 9
Ms. Smith Spear	Chemistry 11 and 12
Ms. Brewster	English Language Arts 9, Citizenship 9, Science 9, Visual Art 9
Ms. Manning	Connect Center Program
Mr. Wong	Vice Principal

And **some familiar staff have new roles** within our school...

Ms. Lockhart	P. Ed. 9, Healthy Living 9
Ms. Blois	Career Access Program

We also offer a special **welcome to our Grade 9s, our Grade 10 students from Mount Uniacke, and any other new to AV students.** You are an important part of our school and we hope that you won't feel new for long! We hope the Virtual Orientation that we are planning will be very helpful in making you feel comfortable in your new school.

And to help with that...**we would love to hear from our students.** If you are able please click on this link, provide us your name and email address and complete the short survey. Your responses will help us develop an orientation that addresses the most common concerning topics for our students. <https://forms.gle/Wa161LZpAMQNeY1LA>

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We realize this message has a lot of information about new routines and changes. But, there are some things that haven't changed. We are still committed to providing the best education and support for our students. Our school will continue to be a welcoming space where we focus on positive relationships between students, staff and community. Even though things will look a bit different, with each passing day, we will get used to the changes and we will support each other to be positive and happy at school.

Don't forget to check our website, follow us on twitter if you can and please ensure your contact information stays up to date so that you receive current school mail-outs such as Alerts, Newsletters or Information Bulletins like this one.

We are really looking forward to seeing you in September.

Take care,

AVHS Admin Team

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