



November 20, 2020

Dear SHS Families,

As promised, I wanted to share with you an update from our community feedback and our own internal reflections after the first two months of this new and unusual school year. We learned today that despite the Toronto lockdown declaration, happily, schools will remain open as normal and we look forward to seeing your boys on Monday.

Following our collective reflections and data collection from the recent Parent Survey, Parent-Teacher Interviews, and consultations with our faculty, we have outlined priorities and determined next steps for program delivery, as well as pick-up and drop-off procedures. Some of these outcomes and plans have already been implemented, some will be layered on in the coming days and weeks, and some changes will take effect in January.

Below is a summary of key findings from the feedback and resulting action items.

## **Paul David Drop-Off / Pick-Up Feedback**

The survey\* showed 97% "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with current pick-up and drop-off procedures.

### **Area for improvement:**

- ◆ Safety issues with boys crossing Paul David Street

### **Request for parents, to improve safety, beginning November 23:**

- ◆ We are asking families to park **ONLY** on the **WEST** side of Paul David street, facing south, so boys do not need to cross the street. Please do **NOT** park on the east side of the street.



## **SHS Drive Drop-Off / Pick-Up Feedback**

The survey\* showed 84% "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with current drop-off and pick-up procedures.

### **Areas for Improvement:**

- ◆ Safety of our youngest boys in and around vehicles on driveway
- ◆ Reducing congestion and improving physical distancing at pick-up
- ◆ Safety of boys crossing SHS Drive from Bentworth Faculty and Staff parking lot

### **Request for parents, to improve safety, beginning November 23:**

- ◆ We are encouraging parents and caregivers to exit vehicles to assist and escort children onto the sidewalk...often boys are too small to be seen by other drivers pulling into or leaving parking spots.
- ◆ Bentworth Parking Lot will be for Faculty and Staff parking only and will be closed to prevent foot traffic across the busy SHS drive.
- ◆ For PICK-UP ONLY, the Grade 2 pick-up will be moved to join the Grade 3s at the Paul David Field Gates at the end of the day. (Grade 2s with younger siblings can continue to use SHS Drive).

## **Health & Safety Reminders:**

- ◆ Please drive safely and slowly around campus and 10km/hour along SHS Drive.
- ◆ Pick up is from 3:30 - 3:55PM. Shark tip: It is much quieter between 3:40 - 4:00PM.
- ◆ Many families commented in the survey they would feel safer if all parents and caregivers wear a recommended mask in and around campus during pick-up and drop-off, so let's all prioritize community safety with mask wearing.

## **Key Program Delivery Feedback:**

On the survey\*, 97% of the respondents rated their satisfaction with their son's weekly learning program as "satisfied" or "very satisfied."

However, 34% of respondents also noted the desire for more "live" or in-person teaching, especially with subject specialists in Intermediate grades. We are continuing to plan for modifications to the schedule, staffing and program delivery model with additional opportunities for more "live" or in-person teaching, especially among core specialists in older grades.

We also noted that 52% of respondents had accessed the remote program from between 1-14 days. We appreciate how everyone is making these choices to keep our community safe! We are also mindful, with any program delivery changes, to provide continued access for our learners at home so that we may continue to integrate remote learners into classes.

## **Actions Items and Next Steps**

- ◆ We will continue to prioritize health and safety and cohorting recommendations to minimize the number of students and teachers any individual comes in contact with, to limit community exposure to COVID-19...we will never exceed 50 contacts, in following governmental recommendations.
- ◆ Some adjustments to the schedule and program delivery will be implemented over the next weeks and some will begin at the start of Session #3 in January. We will communicate with affected grades about specific changes. These changes will include more "live" or in-person teaching and may include classroom, cohort or timetable changes in the Intermediate division.
- ◆ Sports equipment and structured recess activities were introduced over the past few weeks to great success. Cohort-specific equipment (soccer balls, footballs and Frisbees) will be delivered to homerooms next week with stringent sanitation measures in place and exclusive use by each cohort while supervised outside.
- ◆ Staffing reallocation will allow for our experienced Physical Education teachers to develop and supervise a revised Sharks Moves program each day to ensure each boy stays active and readily engaged in physical activities throughout the winter and spring months.



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Thank you for your feedback. We remain committed to partnering with our families to provide an exceptional educational experience for our students.

Our plan is to conduct further surveys as the year unfolds, in addition to scheduling an **SHS Town Hall on the evening of December 9** to share updates prior to the Winter Break and respond to any prevailing questions. We believe this will ensure transparency and open dialogue with families - aspects that will help us to improve the student and family experience while maintaining a safe and healthy school environment.

Sincerely,

Rick Parsons  
Principal

*\*The Sterling Hall School conducted an online survey among current families from October 23-30. The purpose of the survey was to gauge reaction on pick up/drop-off and to solicit feedback on program delivery after the first seven weeks of school. Parent Surveys have been a great tool for continuous improvement through this pandemic. A completion rate of over 40% was generated from across all grades.*



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12/16/2020

The Sterling Hall School Mail - Fwd: SHS | Update from Principal Parsons



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