



DeWitt Carter Public School

Dragon's Digest

September 2020 "Respect"



Mr. T. Acaster - Principal

Mr. Dave Shaubel - School Board Trustee

Mrs. M. Shaw - Secretary

School Tel. (905)834-7440

DeWitt Carter Public School Mission Statement

"Our mission is to support student learning in a safe environment where all students are motivated to learn and are willing to take risks so they can become positive contributors to our society."

A Message from Mr. Acaster

"Welcome Back Dragons!"

It has been so incredibly long since we have been able to see each other and talk together. I know how incredibly difficult this extended absence has been on so many of us. I want to assure you that we have worked diligently to put realistic safety protocols in place to help keep our children, you and our staff, safe. We welcome your questions and input. Please call us at any time with your questions. On a different note, we did have a beautiful summer. There were so many hot and sunny days! I hope you made the most of your long days and warm evenings and had many opportunities to laugh, rest and re-energize. Although we were learning new things about what re-opening would look like in the days leading up to our first day, we were all still excited to start this school year. On behalf of all of us here at DeWitt Carter, I would like to extend a special welcome to all of our new families and to those who are returning for this new school year, we are so happy to see you back with us. We know that you will be excited to be part of the 2020 Dragon Den. I am really looking forward to a terrific year with parents, students and staff. Please join me in welcoming some new staff members to our school. Mrs. S. Minor is teaching grade 7/8 with Mr. Fraipont. Mrs. H. Cooper is with us but will be working with the Virtual School for now. To our Educational Assistants team, we would like to welcome Ms. Juras and Ms. Teague. Welcome, new Dragons!

Boys and girls, remember that it is your positive attitude, cooperative manner, and high interest level that make this school such a wonderful place in which to be a teacher.

Attendance Matters

Any time you know your child will be absent from school, please call the school prior to 8:30 a.m. or send a note in advance to inform us of the absence. Our school office is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and we have an answering machine available 24 hours a day to leave a message.

All students arriving late must report to the office to sign-in before going to class! If you screen your child and suspect they may have COVID, please follow the procedure outlined in the Parental Daily Screening Agreement that is posted on our school website. These steps must be followed for the safety of everyone.

Volunteers

Although we are always so appreciative of the wonderful parent help that we receive, we are not able to accept it at the present time. Rest assured, as soon as the doors open to this, we will be reaching out to you with a volunteer form. The first **School Council Meeting** of the school year will be scheduled once we get further direction. As you are probably aware all of these decisions are made through the cooperation of DSBN, Public Health and the Ministry of Education.

Student Verification Forms

The Student verification forms will be coming home to you the week of September 14th. It is mandatory to review, make changes, sign and return the Student Verification Form to the homeroom teacher as soon as possible.

It is extremely important that we have a local emergency contact telephone number for your child at all times. If your contact information changes through the course of the year, you must contact the school and update us with the new information.

Character Matters!

At DeWitt Carter, we will always work hard to continue to assist our students in developing a positive value system. We will continue to emphasize positive character traits in class and through our Monthly Student Awards certificates.

Our character is the way we act when nobody is watching over us.

School Safety Reminders

1. We are asking all our families to refrain from bringing any pets onto the school property when dropping off and picking up your children. We do not want to risk any accidents with our boys and girls.
2. If it is necessary for parents to enter the school at any point in the day, you must call ahead to make an appointment and do a parental COVID Assessment. When you arrive, you must sanitize your hands, sign in at the front foyer and report to the office. **Please do not proceed to any of the classrooms until reporting to the office.**
3. Our staff is on supervision duty at **8:45 a.m.** Please do not send children to the school earlier than this unless you have pre-arranged something with the child's teacher. At the end of the day, children should go to their home. It is important for them to "check in with you" before they head to a friend's place, park, etc.
4. At drop off in the morning, parents are not permitted onto the school property, in accordance with Public Health regulations. At the end of the day, parents may be on the tarmac, in socially distanced spacing, to receive their child. All students from Grades 1 to 8 are to proceed onto the school yard through either the gate on Davis Street or the

gate to the north side of the school. The south side entrance is now our new outdoor Kindergarten area.

Electronic Communications

Please check out upcoming information on our DeWitt Carter school website. We will be communicating information more and more through this avenue.



Supervision

Teachers are on duty from 8:45 a.m. until 9:00 a.m. and again during the Fitness/Nutrition Breaks. Students are instructed to remain within their designated play areas, under the supervision of staff at all times. These areas allow the class communities to keep separated and to give enough room for mask relief. Please assist us in stressing this information to your children. Students who eat lunch at school eat in their own classroom under the supervision of Lunchroom Supervisors and DeWitt Carter Staff.

Students must stay on school property at all times, if they remain at school for lunch.



Anaphylaxis and other Medical Concerns

All parents should be aware that there are children in our school with life threatening food allergies to peanut butter which can cause an anaphylaxis reaction. This is a medical condition that causes a severe reaction to specific foods and is potentially life threatening.

If your child has any allergy or requires medication, please tell us. With your help, we can complete the appropriate forms and do our very best to make sure all our students are safe, healthy and able to concentrate on learning. We thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Please make sure that you are sending foods to our school that are free from peanuts, nut oils or nut products.