

VICTORIA PARK HIGH SCHOOL



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Principal

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COVID 19 NEWSLETTER VIII – back to school Grade 8

Dear Parents

We have applied to the Education Department, and received permission, to phase in the return of the Grade 8 groups. This will be done on the dates of Monday 20 July and Tuesday 21 July.

Parents are instructed to keep learners at home if they display any one of the following symptoms:

1. Constant headaches
 2. Persistent cough
 3. Fever
 4. Sore throat
 5. Shortness of breath
 6. Diarrhoea
 7. Body aches
 8. Nausea and loss of taste &/or smell
 9. Unusual tiredness
2. or if they have been in contact with a COVID-19 positive person.

Learners returning must wear a three-layered cloth mask and carry a little bottle of sanitizer. They will each receive 2 more cloth masks upon their return. Learners are to wear conservative “civvies” to school, until further notice.

COVID CHANGES TO TIMETABLE AND SCHOOL DAY

We are operating with half a grade at school per day, to ensure maximum social distancing. **Learners will attend school for a day and then have the next day at home** to consolidate the work that was taught. The school lessons will be intensified with teachers maximizing actual teaching time and giving the necessary consolidation work.

Each of the Grade 8 register classes will be split into two groups – Group 1 and Group 2, so as to enable social distancing. **These class splits will be communicated to learners on their English WhatsApp groups and on the school webpage.** The group they are allocated to, will determine the days they attend school.

The programme for Grade 8 learners returning is as follows:

Monday 20 July	Grade 8 Group 1 – Day 1 of timetable
Tuesday 21 July	Grade 8 Group 2 – Day 1 of timetable
Wednesday 22 July	Grade 8 Group 1 – Day 2 of timetable
Thursday 23 July	Grade 8 Group 2 – Day 2 of timetable

The above pattern will then be repeated daily and this will be explained, in detail, on their first day back at school.

Learners opting to stay at home for **medical reasons must furnish the school with certification from a doctor and contact the school for documentation required by the Education Department.** For these learners the work will be posted on ITSI, WhatsApp groups and the school webpage, as was being done during lockdown. Tests and assignments will be done at home, under test conditions, and be fetched and carried from the school. A declaration, committing to honesty, will be signed. Parents will be responsible for fetching and returning the tests and assignments. More specific detail will be communicated as the school becomes accustomed to a new routine.

LEARNERS ARRIVE AT SCHOOL

- The school gates will open at 07:15 and screening of learners will take place from 07:15 - 07:50.
- Grade 12 – Entry will be through the vehicle entrance gate on the western side of the school.
- Grade 11 – Entry will be the front of the school through the door closest to the park.
- Grade 10 – Entry will be through the Thorp Hall foyer on the eastern side of the school.
- **Grade 8 - Entry will be through the vehicle entrance gate in 1st Avenue.**
- The temperature of each learner will be taken and the relevant Covid 19 questions will be asked of each one of them. Only then will entry into the school building be allowed.
- Learners who do not meet the screening criteria will be isolated and strict protocols will be followed to ensure they do not pose any risk to other learners and persons on the premises. Learners answering “YES” to any of the questions will have to be fetched, for their own safety and for the safety of others.
- Masks to be worn at all times and social distancing (about 1.5m) to maintained at all times.
- A queuing officer will be present to ensure that this happens during screening in the mornings.
- Once on the school grounds, masks to be worn at all times and social distancing protocols must be strictly adhered to.

THE CLASSROOM

- All classrooms will be sanitised each day.
- Every attempt will be made to maintain social distancing in the classroom.
- Masks to be worn at all times in the classroom – **COMPULSORY.**
- Face shields may be worn, both in and outside of the classroom if learners wish to do so, in addition to masks.

- Entry into classrooms as well as the exiting of learners from classrooms will be controlled in an attempt to maintain social distancing.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in all classrooms, but we **strongly recommend that each learner carries a small bottle of hand sanitizer on them or in their school bags.**

MOVEMENT AROUND THE SCHOOL AND DURING BREAK

- Masks to be worn at all times when moving between classes and at break time.
- Social distancing protocols to be adhered to as far as possible when moving between classes and during break.
- Masks and face shields may be removed when consuming any form of food, while at the same time maintaining a safe social distance.
- Social distancing in the bathrooms must also be maintained as far as possible.
- Learners are encouraged to wash hands during break when visiting the bathroom.

PROCEDURE WHEN LEARNERS LEAVE SCHOOL

- Masks to be worn at all times.
- Social distancing protocols to be adhered to at all times.
- Exit through the same gate you entered through in the morning.
- Once the school day ends, learners must exit the school buildings and premises and make their way home, either privately or by means of public transport. **Learners will NOT BE ALLOWED TO “HANG AROUND “ AFTER SCHOOL.** They need to make their way home straight after school. **This is NOT NEGOTIABLE.**

GENERAL

- **Hair may be longer, as a result of wearing “civvies”, but may not be cut into any fashionable styles. Learners must shave, as normal.**
- **There will be no extramural activities.**

We trust that all goes as well as possible upon return and that we stay safe. It is a time when all of us are learning together. Please stay positive and let us work together to do the best for all our teachers and learners.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M J Vermaak'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'M' that loops back.

M J Vermaak

Principal

15 July 2020