



Friday, 8 May 2020

Dear Park Ridge Parents and Guardians,

Thank you for our ongoing support during the COVID-19 situation. I can imagine how stressful this has been on your families, especially in light of the variety of information that you are coping with on a day-to-day basis.

Unfortunately I am adding to that list today. Earlier in the week I provided information to parents of senior students and our senior student cohort. The information was around the return to school of our year 11 & 12 students next Monday.

I realise that, although you may not be a parent of a senior student, or if you are a parent of a senior student and have other children in lower year levels, there is a need to clarify return to school information for everyone.

Our Premier has made the decision to allow Year 11 & 12 students to come back to high school starting Monday May 11, 2020. Students of essential workers, or 'at risk' students are already permitted to return to school.

All other children must continue to work from home. This process allows:

- A two week window for the government and schools to assess the risk of having a slightly larger cohort of students back at school.
- A staggered return to school to ensure effective social distancing and effective (as a result of COVID-19) hygiene strategies and routines are well established.
- The ability to put minimal social distancing measures in place for students returning to school on Monday.

We still have a large number of teachers who profile as 'at risk' or vulnerable. These teachers will not be returning to school and will continue to work remotely. Students in the classes of these teachers will continue to work on a remote platform, despite being back at school. However, there will be a supervising teacher to support them in the classroom.

Students who are exhibiting cold or 'flu' like symptoms must stay at home to reduce the spread of any illness during this time.

Students attending school must be in full school uniform, prepared for the school day and engaging in all learning tasks. New COVID-19 social distancing rules must be adhered to and it is more important than ever to focus on keeping our school clean and tidy.

School areas that promote higher levels of social contact will remain closed. This includes the oval, basketball courts and gym.

There will be no assemblies, or large group gatherings.



Classrooms will be cleaned three times a day and areas reduced to ensure that cleaners can stay on top of the rigorous cleaning regimes.

The canteen will be available to students attending school from Monday, however, this will be a reduced service. Students must order and pay the day prior. If possible, it is recommended that student use the eftpos facilities available over money transactions.

All these strategies are designed to reduce the potential of the spread of COVID-19. Queenslanders have been particularly diligent in supporting each other resulting in a great outcome so far. Continuing to be diligent ensures that when we do resume normal operations, we can all feel confident.

We are missing seeing our students. I have spoken to countless teachers who long to see their students face-to-face. Our passion as educators is to support the development of every child. This way of operating does not sit well with us, but we know that we are all in this together. If we do the work now, our future is looking bright.

Thank you again for your support.

Warm Regards,

Sharon Amos
Principal
Park Ridge State High School