

Frances Kelsey A Block Discussion Guide



GOALS:

- Introduce and connect students to each other as a cohort;
- Reduce anxiety about safety;
- Share health and safety plan for our site so students know what to do;
- Model a calm, caring, and polite way we will all be together in our school.

Icebreaker Ideas to connect students

Icebreaker: seat students in a circle and welcome them back to school. Introduce yourself and explain how you are here to support. You could give them something fun and short. (For example, did you know that if you “ask Siri” to tell you a joke, you will get some (mostly) funny snappy one liners? Or you can play a short game.

Example- 2 Truths and a Tale

“Think for a couple of minutes about two facts that are true about you. Think of one thing that is NOT true, or a ‘tale’. Take a few minutes and jot your ideas down on the card. Turn to the person next to you, find out their name, and read out. See if they can discover what is true and what is a ‘tale’.” (Switch)

If students are comfortable, you can ask them to go around the circle and just say their name to the group, one thing they are looking forward to at school, etc., or one “truth” about the person next to them. Tip: Tell students to mix up the order when they read their items (e.g., don’t always read the “tale” last). Teachers can play this game with the group as well!

Reduce Anxiety

Acknowledge: Please remember some students have been completely at home, and out very little. Some are anxious about being back at school. They may have older family at home. Others may have different levels of involvement in the community and may be working too. Every child could have a very different experience, and acknowledging this to and with the group, about how we need to first respect others is important. You set the tone of caring. State that your goal today is for everyone to feel safe and to understand the basics of what we are doing in school to stay as safe as we can, for everyone’s sake, not just here but also in our community.

In order to really engage students and orient them, ask them what they know as members of the group:

What are some of the things you know about COVID and about staying safe in the community?

Depending on the age, you could brainstorm the ways we will stay safe in the school and record what students say, and record their ideas as they share them, up on the white board. This makes it a community plan and goals that come from the students, which validates student voices. STAR all the things we are doing at school, Discussion is good. If there are disagreements, simply state, “this is what we know now and this is how we are doing it based on what we know.”



Key Safety Points to review with students:

SCHOOL BUILDING SAFETY PLAN

- 1. You are part of this class cohort.** You are also part of a SCHOOL COHORT. You can wear a mask in class if you wish to. You are not required to wear a mask if you are in our cohort/class. In the halls you must wear a mask because there are other students.
- 2. Hand sanitizing** - as you enter /exit: sanitize. All classrooms also have sanitizers. You can have your own as well for your personal use. Keep it in your back-pack.
- 3. Portable hand washing stations (12-15 in number)** and additional hand sanitizing stations will be placed throughout the school. Soap works really well to kill viruses.
- 4. Look for and obey the signs.** You do not go into the office, for example, but there is a marked point outside of the office. Keep your 2m distance from folks not in your class cohorts.
- 5. Follow the flow of the arrows in the hall,** even if there are not people many around. We need to be in the habit. People also come out of doorways and expect you to be where you should be. We will remind you if you forget!
- 6. Self-check. Even if you have the slightest sniffle or sore throat you feel before school, you must stay home.** Call in the absence and connect with your teachers online. Your teacher will make sure you get the work you need to finish. When you are free of symptoms (runny nose, cough, etc.) you can return. If you do start to feel ill at school, as usual, you are to let your teacher know and we will help. Family will need to bring you home.
- 7. Absolutely No hallway meet and greets.** GO DIRECTLY to class (No meeting or grouping in any hallway). Outside and safely distanced is fine.
- 8. Lockers are not available:** Remember to pack ALL you need in your backpack. Bring your water bottle for the water station.
- 9. Two Reusable Masks have been given to you.** You can wear your own as well. Masks are required to be worn by staff and students in hallways at class change, when heading to a washroom, or when outside of School Cohorts.
- 10. Limit contacts:** Our timetable for now follows the Quarter system. Most students will be grouped with the same students over 10 weeks. Class Cohorts at the junior level are no more than 30, while a small group of senior cohorts may need to be more because of course availability. These Class Cohorts are each part of their own larger but discrete School Cohort. All School Cohorts will physically limit student groupings to no more **than 120 students**, for example when released for a group meeting outside of class time. An example is our upcoming Photo Day September 15. Classes are numbered on the timetable, into 19 School Cohort groups.
- 11. Lunch is outside the building.** You are responsible to physically distance from others outside of your family “bubble” or cohort. You can eat on the field, the benches, around the school property. We recommend you do not go off site unless a family member is picking you up for lunch or you live close by.
- 12. Lunch on rainy days:** Please make sure you have a raincoat/ umbrella so you can still go outside. We are working on cohort locations for bad weather, which may include remaining in your classroom to eat but still getting some fresh air afterward.
Your SCHOOL Cohort is _____
Your Morning, Lunch, and After School entrance/exit is _____

SCHEDULE

1. We will operate on a Quarter system. This means students will change every 10 weeks. There will be 4 Quarters, 8 courses completed over the year.

Sept- Nov 13// Nov 15- January 29// Feb 1- April 23// April 26-June 24

2. Every day each student will have only 2 courses. The majority of class cohorts are the same group of 30 for both the morning and afternoon class. There will be one subject in the morning, and another in the afternoon. See the schedule below.

3. Unfortunately, due to the need for limiting contacts, some classes cannot operate this year. **1st Quarter classes also cannot be adjusted as students must remain together.** We have to do this to follow the directions of the Public Health Officer.

4. There will be no "Q" block. Careers, Health, and Capstone will be in your schedule. Some senior courses may have to expand on the single class cohort of 30.

5. All grade 8 will stay together all year with their class cohort.

6. After 1st Quarter (10 weeks) Grade 9-12 courses will change. Students will move into a new grouping, or cohort, as this will be a new set of 2 subject/classes every quarter. The class cohort for 9-12s will then also change so students will be part of a "new" set of students. Grade 8s will stay with the same group.

A Quarter runs 10 weeks: two courses only daily. Full time schedule starts Monday Sept 14.

Time	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI
9:00 - 11:45	A	A	A	A	A
11:45 - 12:30	LUNCH				
12:30 - 3:15	B	B	B	B	B

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10th GRADE 8 & 9 Only

9 - 3:15 pm Attendance this day is only for grade 8 and Grade 9 students

Meet and Greet, Safety Discussion, overview of course and any introductory activities.

Administrators will visit all cohorts on Day 1 as part of our Welcome and Orientation Safety plan.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11th GRADE 10, 11, 12s Only

9 - 3:15 pm Attendance this day is only for grade 10- 12 students

Meet and Greet, Safety Discussion, overview of course and any introductory activities.

Administrators will visit all cohorts on Day 1 as part of our Welcome and Orientation Safety plan.