

Grade 6 & 7 Handbook  
Ms. Plank's Class, 2020-2021

*Dear Students and Families,*

Welcome to our learning community! Although school will look very different for everyone this year, I am optimistic that we will make the best of these circumstances. I am looking forward to an exciting school year with you, filled with new learning opportunities, projects, and assignments that will give us the opportunity to explore, experiment, have fun, and grow.

*Students*, it is my hope that you will find this year a positive and rewarding experience and that, together, we will build a strong classroom community. *Families*, I look forward to meeting all of you and am so pleased to have the opportunity to get to know your unique student.

Please do not hesitate to contact me by phoning the school at (905) 476- 8369 or by emailing me at [carmen.plank@yrdsb.ca](mailto:carmen.plank@yrdsb.ca). You can also keep up with classroom learning and news by visiting our Google Classroom. *Students*, please access your Google Classroom at home to show your parents what we are doing in the classroom.



Together, we are a team that is committed to making our time together a safe, valuable, and exciting learning experience. I can't wait to see what this year will bring!

Best Regards,

Ms. Plank

## Things to Know:

### *Masks:*

It is School Board policy that students from grades 4-8 are to wear masks throughout the day. This means that everyone in our class will be required to wear masks in the classroom. We will have "designated mask breaks" as we build our "mask wearing stamina". We will discuss this more in class. You are not required to wear masks during recess, at lunch (while eating), and during designated physical education activities. When not wearing a mask, you will be provided with a clean container to place your mask in. If you have a bag/ container from home, you are welcome to use this instead.

### *Washroom Routines*

Throughout the day, our class will have "designated washroom breaks" to ensure COVID- safe protocols are followed and to limit contact with other students in the building. However, if you feel that you need to use the washroom, please do so. Always remember to follow the appropriate bathroom pass routine so that we stay safe and that I am aware of where you are. We will discuss this in class.

### *Food & Beverages*

You are invited to keep a water bottle with you in the classroom, and are encouraged to bring nutritious snacks with you to eat before recess. Please remember to keep your water bottles off the desks at lunch and at the end of the day so that desks can be properly sanitized.

### *Unfinished Work/ Homework and Assignments*

Homework is for the purpose of practicing skills, consolidating knowledge, and/ or preparing for the next class. School board policy stated that students in Grade 6 and 7 may receive a maximum of 40 and 50 minutes of homework per night, respectively. If there is work assigned during class and that work remains unfinished, it becomes homework unless otherwise discussed. Students are reminded that reviewing for quizzes and tests will be an at-home responsibility; although we will also complete reviews in class.

Many assignments, especially culminating/ final projects, can not be worked on at home as they are evaluated for final marks. You will have time to complete the work in class, and otherwise will finish these assignments during assigned recesses.

### *Class Library*

While we will be doing most of our assigned reading using technology. However, there will be an opportunity for you to read novels during independent reading times. Over the years, I have purchased and collected many novels for my classroom library. You are encouraged to sign them out to read during class time, following the safety routines we will discuss in class.

### *Agendas*

You are responsible for updating your agenda on a daily basis at the end of the day. Please refer to the Agenda board to find out what assignments/ daily work/ social events are approaching and/ or due. In order to remain organized, you are required to bring your own agenda to school each day.

### *Technology*

Technology, like chromebooks and laptops, are wonderful educational tools. At Lakeside, we are fortunate to have these tools in the classroom. It is requested that you leave your personal technology, including cell phones, at home on a regular basis. Keep your technology safe at home and use the school device! Please remember that technology is a privilege and must be used respectfully and safely. We will discuss the guidelines in class.

### *Online Classroom Platform (Google Classroom)*

Google Classroom is the main way that I will be communicating with families on a weekly basis. Google Classroom will be a virtual learning environment. On it, you may find lesson overviews, learning goals, homework assignments, test reviews, and collaborative work spaces. Take the time to become familiar with our Google Classroom- you will be seeing and adding to it a lot.