

Celebrate Valentine's Day Safely in Classrooms

Valentine's Day is a day to show you care about your friends, but this February 14th, it's important we make sure love – and not COVID – is in the air. As we celebrate under the latest health and safety protocols, the district would like to share some recommendations for having a safe and sweet Valentine's Day!

Valentine DO's & DON'Ts

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♥ DO wash hands regularly, especially before and after activities. ♥ DO ensure each student uses their own set of supplies like glue, scissors and markers during craft time. ♥ DO maintain physical distance whenever possible – including within your cohort. ♥ DO go outside whenever possible. ♥ DO dress up! Wear Valentine themed clothing or a pajama party! ♥ DO share paper Valentine's cards. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♥ DON'T share food or treats even if they are wrapped. ♥ DON'T host student dances. ♥ DON'T organize baking classes– even if prepared by the teacher and students are provided with individual kits. ♥ DON'T have activities where students face each other <u>unless</u> a physical distance of two metres can be maintained. ♥ DON'T share gifts such as pencils, erasers, candies or any other items. |
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Valentine Cards: Students and staff may exchange paper cards within their cohorts while taking a few precautions.

- This year, it's paper over plastic – items wrapped in plastic or made of plastic are off limits for safety purposes. Stick to paper!
- Be mindful not to have students congregate in one area during card exchanges. Maintain physical distance whenever possible, including within your cohort.

Handing Out Goodies In-Class: Valentine's Day may be sweet, but leave the sweets at home this year.

- Treats are not allowed in the classroom, including chocolates, cupcakes and candy, even if individually wrapped and handed out by the classroom teacher.
- Events such as pancake breakfasts, hot chocolate carts and staff potlucks are also off-limits.
- Sharing of food of any kind is not permitted. This means no communal donuts, chocolates and cookies left out for all to share.
- Activities involving baking and creating of edible items must only take place in foods labs or teaching kitchens at secondary schools, not in classrooms.

Activities: Here are some tips to make your Valentine's Day activities fun and safe for everyone!

- Take part in 'heart healthy' outdoor activities by organizing outdoor games and activities that minimize physical contact and maximize physical distance outside of cohorts.
- Kindness Rocks! Have students paint rocks with messages of support and friendship. These can be placed in areas where the whole school community can enjoy!
- Have an outdoor scavenger hunt within your cohort and have each student find items that they love/appreciate or hide clues that will help them solve a problem or riddle!
- Make Valentine cards and find a special place to mail them to – like a senior's care facility or a homeless shelter. Please call the site in advance to ensure they are accepting cards and follow all safety protocols outlined by organizations.
- There are so many great books about friendship, kindness and sharing. Ask your librarian to recommend a few and organize a Valentine's Day reading party!

