

Amsterdam, March 3, 2021, | Principal Letter 20-21- # 7 - Reopening VO [This letter has three attachments]

*Er is ook separate Nederlandse versie van deze brief.*

Dear parents/guardians and students of DENISE VO,

We have a plan voor re-opening. We know which class will come to school, when, and how often. As agreed, the DENISE team has been working hard on a corona-proof plan. A plan that allows us to receive as many of our 24 VO classes safely in school within strict guidelines. From March 8, 15 classes come to school three days a week; 5 classes come four days and 4 classes all week. You will find the overview in Appendix 1.

### **What are our main principles for the choices made?**

1. A class as one group will come to school on fixed days during the week. This creates routine, clarity and we work on the group bonding. We think that this is a good idea for the students and the teachers.
2. At school, the classes are kept separate from each other as much as possible. We do this to act quickly to contain further spread in the event of contamination. See more information about quarantine in appendix 2.
3. According to the Dutch government's new guidelines, a maximum of 18 students can fit in our classrooms. With a larger group, we ensure that students work in a double classroom or larger space.
4. Pairs are formed in each class. These couples sit next to each other for each lesson. The other students keep a distance of 1.5 meters between each other and the teacher/employee inside and outside the classroom.
5. The exam- and language classes and group 10c have had lessons at school five days a week for the past few months. Based on the students' feedback and in consultation with their teachers, I have decided that from March 8th, those classes will also work online for 1 or 2 days. The teachers have made a plan for this.
6. Gym classes take place outside as much as possible. Music is given in smaller groups as much as possible.
7. March 8th, we will return to the 50-minute schedule. We are working on a new class schedule so that all subjects are discussed during school days. Of course, there is also attention for the well-being of the students. Fewer classes are scheduled during the online days due to screen time (except for 13h / 14m / 14h).
8. We create as many staggered start and end times as possible for class days to spread student flows in the timetable. Students immediately go to the classroom upon arrival. Arriving earlier is not possible, and staying in the building is no longer allowed. Students leave school immediately after the last lesson.
9. The long break is in lesson hour 5. That lesson lasts 60 minutes (12.10 - 1.10 pm). The big break is 30 minutes. Half of the classes in school have the mentor lesson first, and the other half have a break. There is a change at 12.40. We do this to avoid crowds. The short breaks take place in the classroom.
10. There is no more emergency shelter. An arrangement will be made for students who cannot work at home.

### **How can you help keep the school open?**

Appendix 3 explains our ten DENISE guidelines. Only if everyone follows these agreements will we keep the school safe. Please adhere to these guidelines. We hold the students accountable for compliance.

Please share your feedback via [info@denise.espritscholen.nl](mailto:info@denise.espritscholen.nl) or [our survey](#). In the week of March 15, I will organize an online coffee morning for parents of secondary. We then exchange our experiences. I also keep in touch with the student council and the MR. Together with all employees of DENISE, I am looking forward to reopening secondary.

Kind regards,  
Luc Sluijsmans | Principal

## Appendix 1: when is a class at school?

This schedule starts on Monday, March 8, 2021. The yellow blocks are the online days. The days at school are green. Please know that adjustment can be made, see Appendix 2. The new time table will be available on the school website from Friday afternoon, March 5, 2021.

Group	At school	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
GR09a	3 days	online		online		
GR09b	3 days		online		online	
GR10a	3 days	online		online		
GR10b	3 days	online			online	
GR10c	4 days			online		
GR11a	3 days	online		online		
GR11b	3 days			online		online
GR12a	5 days					
GR12b	5 days					
GR13ha	3 days		online			online
GR13hb	3 days		online			online
GR13i	5 days					
GR14ha	3 days		online			online
GR14hb	3 days		online			online
GR14i	4 days			online		
GR14ma	3 days		online		online	
GR14mb	3 days		online		online	
GR15a	3 days	online			online	
GR15b	3 days		online	online		
GRT01	5 days					
GRT02	4 days					online
GRT03	4 days				online	
GRT10	4 days					online
GRT11	3 days	online			online	

## Appendix 2: scenarios and strict guidelines, when do we intervene?

The team leaders, coordinators, teachers, and other school staff do their utmost to deliver the school's lessons as planned. We prefer to teach as we designed it, but unfortunately, we have to skip some unique features of DENISE, such as the assemblies, extensive collaboration, trips, and entry/exit points differently. Reopening the school to as many students as possible is the most important thing for now. This is only possible if everyone continues to feel safe. It is therefore crucial that everyone adheres to the guidelines and national agreements, see appendix 3. As you probably know, school management works with three scenarios. We have gone through all the scenarios since the start of the school year. As of March 8, we will mainly work in scenario 1 and some classes for part of the week in scenario 2. Of course, we hope that we will soon be back in scenario 0: the school week as it was. See table below.

<b>Scenario 0</b> Normal.	The school is open to everyone with the classes and activities as envisioned. No additional guidelines are required.
<b>Scenario 1</b> There are strict guidelines.	The school is still functioning quite normally. All students come to school and follow the activities/lessons as planned. School camps and field trips in the coming months have been canceled. There are strict guidelines such as disinfection, wearing masks (in VO), and minimizing movements in the school. The guidelines can be intensified at any time if necessary. The steps may differ between primary and secondary education.
<b>Scenario 2</b> <i>Partial distance learning.</i>	<i>The school makes choices about which classes come to school on which day or part of the day. The class is taught online (part of the week). The guidelines in school remain as they are. An exception is made for students with parents who have a vital profession or an unsafe home situation. The number of days in/out of school can be adjusted based on the situation. The choices may differ per class in primary school and per class in secondary education.</i>
<b>Scenario 3</b> <i>Completely distance learning.</i>	<i>The school is closed for classes in the building. All classes are taught online. An exception is made if a specific learning environment is required to achieve a learning objective (such as science or visual education locally). There is an emergency situation for students with parents who have a vital job or an unsafe home situation.</i>

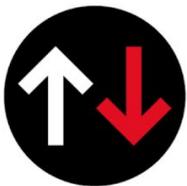
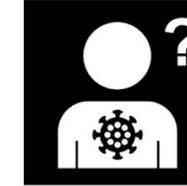
### When and how do we intervene?

There is a limit to how we will now open the school to more students. The school management hopes that the following guidelines will allow the school to remain open to all students. However, it will happen that sometimes a class has to stay at home, will start later, will end earlier, or lessons will be canceled. For the time being, this is ad hoc and in the short term. The school management intervenes in the following situation (s):

- for the class concerned, too many teachers are absent from school for a long time, which makes the class schedule for that class unsustainable; the school management determines when that number is reached;
- for the class concerned, too many students are absent for a long time, which makes it more useful to provide the lesson entirely online for the entire class; the school management determines when that number is reached;
- an employee and/or student has been tested positive, and the contact investigation shows that there is a good chance of further dissemination; the relevant classes and parents will receive an email about this;
- if too many students do not keep to the agreements and/or enforcement is untenable;
- the government advises or obliges to limit the number of students in the school drastically.
- students and staff go into quarantine if they have been in close contact with someone infected with the coronavirus. By close contact is meant: longer than 15 minutes at less than 1.5 meters.
- If the government offers more space and compliance goes well, we can receive more students.

## Appendix 3: ten strict guidelines to keep the school a safe place

The summary of our ten guidelines is shown in [the picture](#) below [in Dutch]. Read the explanation below carefully.

				
1. Elke klas werkt in stamlokalen en we werken in vaste duo's	2. Draag een mondkapje (ook tijdens practica en beeldende vorming)	3. Ontsmet bij binnenkomst je handen en raak weinig aan	4. Houd je aan de looprichtingen en houd 1,5 meter afstand	5. Bij klachten blijf je thuis en laat je je testen, ook bij zieke huisgenoten
				
6. Kom niet te vroeg naar school en na de laatste les verlaat je de school	7. Kom op tijd naar de (online) lessen en heb je werk op orde	8. Let op de pauzetijden, vermijd drukte en denk om jouw ontspanning	9. Blijf werken aan jouw leerdoelen, houd je planning op orde	10. Positief getest? Of huisgenoten? Informeer altijd en snel de rector!

### 1. Each class has its room (stamlokaal), and we work with regular pairs

To minimize the number of movements in the school, each class is given its classroom and each duo their own set of tables. An overview of the classrooms will be included in the 'dagrooster.' The teachers will come to the classroom.

### 2. Wear a mouth mask and change it regularly

A mouth mask can help to stop the virus from spreading further. So wear a mouth mask at school and change it regularly. If you stay in place and can keep your distance from the teacher, you can remove the mouth mask during class. Your mouth mask will remain on in the library and foyers. As soon as you start moving, put on your mouth mask. Are you leaving the classroom? Put on your mouth mask IN the classroom! During practicals and art, wearing your mouth mask is necessary throughout the lesson.

### 3. Disinfect your hands upon arrival and touch as little as possible

The virus could be on your hands. That is why you disinfect your hands upon arrival. Also, disinfect your hands during the day. Please use the taps at the toilet, disinfection spray in the classroom, or pillars at the entrance.

### 4. Stick to the walking directions and keep 1.5 meters distance

We try to keep as much one-way traffic in school as possible. That way, we can better keep our distance. It has been made clear in the school how you are allowed to walk. Pay attention to the no-entry signs. Stick to that. Therefore, a distance of 1.5 meters also applies between students. We see how difficult it is for you but... try to do it as much as possible. This applies in any case to the teachers and other employees in the school.

Piet Mondriaanstraat 140  
1061 TN Amsterdam

tel +31 20 4802700

mail [info@denise.espritscholen.nl](mailto:info@denise.espritscholen.nl)

web [www.denise.espritscholen.nl](http://www.denise.espritscholen.nl)

**5. If you have complaints, you stay at home and get tested, even with sick housemates**

It remains essential that you stay at home in case of complaints (cough, sore throat, fever, etc.) and have yourself tested as soon as possible. If you have tested positive, you **MUST** report this. Please do this [by emailing](#) the principal. Please state in your email when you were last at school and with whom you were mainly in contact. See also guideline 10.

**6. Do not come to school too early and go home after the last lesson, do not linger in and around school**

Are you out of class at school? Then leave the building. Please don't stay around the building either. Only if you have an hour in between are you allowed to work in foyer C and D at a distance of 1.5 meters from each other. The four study rooms on the C and D levels are only available to the teachers (online lessons). Please note: it is strictly enforced whether you are working. If you are not at work, you will be sent home.

**7. Come to the (online) lessons on time and view the tasks in the google classroom**

Check your timetable (see website). Every teacher also manages a google classroom. The overview can be found in the DENISE Curriculum Book see: <http://bit.ly/curriculumboek>. If the teacher is not available, the class may continue online. We will then try to arrange a substitute teacher. If the lesson does not take place online, assignments will be ready in this digital classroom. View the ['dagrooster'](#) every evening and morning. Note: the changes are not in your Magister.

**8. Stick to the new break times**

The small breaks (10.10 - 10.30 and 14.50-15.00) take place in your classroom. The canteen is closed at those times. Please note that additional cleaning has already been hired during the day. That costs a lot of money. Please keep your classroom clean. That helps a lot. The big break IMYC & Taalklassen is from 12.40 to 1.10 pm. Mentor lesson for these classes is from 12.10 to 12.40 and takes place in the classroom. The big break of the (pre) DP & Career is from 12.10 to 12.40. The mentor lesson is from 12:40 pm to 1:10 pm. The canteen is open during the long break. Avoid crowds and go outside as much as possible (don't hang out in the neighborhood!).

**9. Keep working on your learning goals; the parent meetings will be online**

Despite this time of crisis, you continue to work on achieving the learning goals and the PTA. You will receive another report (report) on March 25. Read [this document](#) for more information. The students from the MAVO and HAVO diploma programs work towards the completion of their school exams. This also applies to group 14i. The parent meetings with the mentor about the report card and progress will take place online in April. More info will follow.

**10. Communicate with the principal if you have tested positive (or roommates)**

I repeated a vital message in several mailings: good communication from school stands or falls with good communication from you. The general appeal is: stay at home and get tested if you have mild complaints. For a test appointment call: 0800-1202. In the unlikely event that the student and/or housemate is tested positive (also with distance learning), send [an email](#) as soon as possible to the principal Luc Sluijsmans. So not through the group teacher, mentors, teachers, reception, or otherwise. The better, more transparent, and faster, the better the principal can inform you and the DENISE team and decide what is not allowed. Unfortunately, a positive infection is not always emailed directly to the principal. That slows down our communication and approach. The principal is in close contact with the GGD. Sometimes the school receives a notification from the GGD that has not yet been reported by email. Sometimes the report via the GGD is anonymous. This makes source and contact research impossible.