

To Duke of Connaught Administration:

We understand that the lunch period was changed to limit transitions and have more supervision for the students. However, Duke students and parents have identified a number of concerns, including but not limited to:

- Hot Lunch – Grades 1-8 are now required to line up at the same time for hot lunch. Older grades are waiting 20 minutes or more to be served. This large lineup when children are hungry is leading to increasingly frustrated children, and the older grades are intimidating the younger grades. We're also aware of students opting out of the once popular hot lunch program to avoid this line and behaviour.
- Woodfield Gym has no tables – Grades 4-6 are eating on the dirty gym floor, instead of being provided tables. The gym is also a mess after lunch.
- Grade 7/8 lunch room – The grade 7/8 students do not have enough space in the small lunchroom beside the main cafeteria; often left to wander the neighbourhood while waiting for outdoor supervision before they can come back to the school grounds.
- All grades playing outside at the same time seems to have led to an uptick in aggression. There are too many students, and too large of an age gap, to have Grade 1 students playing in the same areas as students in Grades 6+. Usually, schools with such a large age difference, and even some that end at Grade 6, have separate school yards for the younger and older kids (in addition to kindergartners).

The Duke SAC and parents are presenting this petition because, based on feedback from our children, this new lunch system does not seem to be working. We would like to work towards a better solution for the upcoming school year. If we cannot return to the previous year's lunch system, which seemed to be working better, we would like to form a new committee to explore options, such as:

- Staggered hot lunch pickup
- Separate yards for primary and junior/intermediate
- Tables in the gym
- Providing intermediate grades with a dedicated space
- Staggered lunches, but shorter intervals
- Eating outside in nice weather (wasps are an issue even when kids aren't permitted to eat outside)

Thank you,

Duke of Connaught SAC and Petitioners

Attached: petition asking for a change to 2018/2019 lunch system

cc. Jennifer Story, TDSB Ward 15 Trustee