

# September 2020 Return to School Summary Info for Families

## District's priorities:

<b>1. Health and Safety</b>	<b>2. Communication</b>	<b>3. Connection</b>	<b>4. Continuity of Learning</b>
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### **A. Important Info for First Week of School**

- **No school for students on Sept 8th and 9th** (staff planning days)
- Thursday September 10th:
  - **Kindergarten orientation:** Group A= 9:00-11:00; Group B=13:00-15:00 (individual emails have been sent to families) \*\*Families cannot change group.
  - Thursday September 10th: **Grades 1-7 students do not attend.** Families will receive an email letting them know which division their child has been assigned to.
- Friday September 11th:
  - Grades 1-7 health and safety orientation with classroom teachers:
    - Students with **last names A-L** attend 9:00-11:30 (line up outside at yellow division markers)
    - Students with **last names M-Z** attend 12:30-15:00 (line up outside at yellow division markers)
    - Kindergarten students do not attend. Families will receive an email letting them know which division their child has been assigned to.
- Monday September 14th onwards:
  - Kindergarten students begin progressive K entry schedule ((individual schedules have been sent to families)
  - Grades 1-7 students attend full day in their classes
- Monday September 21st: Professional development day: **Students do not attend**
- Tuesday September 22nd: First full day of kindergarten

### **B. Health and Safety Items as per PHO Guidelines**

#### **Same as June**

- Daily assessment for all staff and students; staying home when sick (checklist due to school in Sept for both staff and parents)
- Staff and students wash/sanitise their hands when entering the school
- Washing hands before eating and continuing to encourage proper hand hygiene
- Continue to encourage students to socially distance as much as possible
- Teaching and modelling respiratory etiquette
- Only staff and students are permitted in the building. Other visitors can request an appointment through individual staff members or the school office. Appointments will be

limited for essential school business and emergencies only. All other meetings should be done by phone or virtually.

- Classrooms will have minimal furniture and maximise space between desks
- Classes are encouraged to go outside as much as possible
- General cleaning and disinfecting of school premises at least once per day
- Cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces at least twice per day
- Students sit with their “learning group” on the bus. Students will receive assigned bus seating
- If a child develops symptoms during the day, he/she will be sent home immediately and isolated until parent/guardian arrives
- If a staff or student in a school is tested and confirmed by public health as positive for COVID-19, public health will directly notify contacts who have potentially been exposed as well as work with the District and school administrator to determine what actions, if any, are needed.
- *“Schools must not provide notification to staff or students’ families if a staff member or student becomes ill at home or at school, including if they display symptoms of COVID-19, unless directed to by public health.”* (BCCDC)

### **New in September**

- Students must stay in their learning groups except when outside, including on the bus
- Staff and grades 6-7 students must wear masks when inside and not in their classrooms (ie in the halls, the library, the bus, etc.)
- Reusable masks provided to all staff and students. Staff/students write their initials on their mask and are responsible for cleaning them
- Physical distancing (2m) when interacting with people outside of one’s learning group
- Ventilation: school windows will be open when possible, even when it’s cold outside
- School HVAC systems will be set to increase the intake of outside air
- Schools will minimise the number of adults working with each class

## **C. Learning and Curriculum**

### **Same as June**

- Students will receive report cards in both January and June
- IEPs will continue as with regular schedule
- All Divisions will have a Teams’ page to ensure continuity of learning in case we progress from one stage to another

### **New in September**

- Students will attend full-time, 5 days a week in their learning group
- Learning will focus on all areas of the curriculum, with a continued focus on social emotional learning, health and whole-child approach
- Music lessons will take place for some classes, in a very different format with limited access to instruments
- The library will be open for circulation with some restrictions
- PE classes will take place outside or in the gym, trying as much as possible to choose non-physical games and games without equipment

## **D. Drop-Off and Pick-Up Routines**

### **Same as June**

- Students line up outside at their yellow Division marker
- Teachers will pick up students outside for entry to the building
- Divisions will be assigned a specific door to enter the building
- Late students report to the office, not their classroom

## **E. Lunch and Recess Routines**

### **Same as June**

- Students eat in their classrooms at their desks
- Students must bring their own lunch; we are not able to offer Hot Lunch or any outside food at the moment
- Recess/lunch recess will be outside, rain, snow or shine
- No sharing of food, drink; students cannot bring homemade food for sharing, birthdays, fundraisers, etc.
- We will have staggered recess/lunch to minimise the amount of students outside at the same time and maximise sink utilisation

### **New in September**

- Students can socialise with a friend in a different learning group if they are outside and if they are socially distancing. Inside they will stay in their learning cohorts.

## **F. School Supplies**

### **Same as June**

- Students are encouraged not to share any items (materials, equipment, manipulatives, etc.) and to label their own supplies
- All personal items must be labelled
- Water fountain are turned off so students must bring their own water bottle

## **G. Athletics, choir, band and field trips**

### **Same as June**

- In person assemblies and concerts are not possible at this time
- All meetings should happen virtually or by phone
- All VSB inter-school sports and clubs are cancelled for the Fall

### **New in September**

- Extra-curricular activities can continue if physical distancing can be maintained between members of different learning groups
- Reducing physical contact is practised by those within the same learning group