



# AGASSIZ ELEMENTARY SECONDARY SCHOOL

PO BOX 1100  
AGASSIZ, BC V0M 1A0

PHONE: 604-796-2238  
[new.agassizsecondary.com](http://new.agassizsecondary.com)



August 21, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The Ministry of Education Five Stage Framework for K-12 includes comprehensive COVID-19 health and safety measures. Based on new public health guidance for K-12 schools from the Provincial Health Officer, the Five Stages have been updated to outline expectations for the 2020/21 school year.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/covid-19-return-to-school/five-stages-framework>

In September 2020 all schools in British Columbia will start up in Stage 2 with the goal of maximizing in-class instruction for all students within the revised public health guidelines to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

B.C.'s Back to School Plan is built on three core principles to ensure everyone's safety:

- New health and safety measures,
- Increased funding for protective equipment like masks
- New learning groups to help keep everyone safe.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/covid-19-return-to-school#our-plan>

## Start Date(s)

All of our staff will be returning on Tuesday September 8, 2020. Our Grade 7-9 students will attend on Thursday September 10<sup>th</sup>. Grade 10-12 students (along with ACE students) will attend on Friday September 11, 2020. On these days we will be teaching students the new routines and safety protocols to ensure everyone's safety. All students/staff will attend on Monday September 14, 2020.

## Learning Groups/Cohorts

We are organizing students into Learning Groups to help limit contact and potential exposure. Within a Learning Group minimized physical contact is required, but physical distancing does not need to be maintained at all times.

Due to the size of our school population we are able to arrange our Learning Groups by Grade level and be below the threshold number of 120 students per group. Locker assignments will be based on these groupings.

Some of our Sr. classes – especially electives-- have students in Gr. 10/11/12 and the Gr. 11/12 students will need to social distance within the classroom from the Gr. 10's as they are in a different Learning Group.



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## **Agassiz Centre for Education (ACE) Students:**

Currently there are only 5 students registered for this program. These students will follow all of the same health and safety precautions as our AESS students. They will undergo their own training on Friday, Sept. 11.

## **Student Supports**

Students on Individualized Educational Plans who require learning support will continue to be supported by our Special Educational Assistants (SEA's)/Inclusion Teacher either in the classroom or in a socially distanced setting.

Our Indigenous students will receive ongoing support from our teachers, counselling staff, First Nations Support Workers and our new Aboriginal mentor.

Our Counselling Staff will be available as always to support our students who require emotional support.

## **Safety Measures**

We are starting the school year with health infection and control measures including: physical distancing, minimized physical contact, hand hygiene procedures, as well as frequent cleaning and disinfection of the school.

The school will have a custodian sanitize frequently touched surfaces like door handles, toilet handles, tables, and desks once during the school day. In the evenings the school will be cleaned as well. Hand sanitizing stations and/or sinks with hot water and soap will be available for use in all classrooms that are used by students.

We will also have floor markings and posters setup to ensure proper traffic flow. Classrooms will have "Entrance" and "Exit" doors. Physical barriers will be placed where required. Our bell schedule will be changed slightly to stagger the number of students in the hallway at the start of the school day, during breaks, at lunch and the end of the school day. Our Gr. 7-9 students will start and end classes/lunch/breaks 5 minutes before our Gr. 10-12 students.

Students will need to bring their own school supplies as sharing of supplies/resources is not permitted between students/staff. We suggest they bring a backpack that stays with them in class for the day. To ensure social distancing in the hallway, lockers will not be available at break so students will need to ensure they have their morning or afternoon class materials with them.

The Ministry of Education is requiring under the updated health and safety guidelines (August 17) that masks will be required for staff, teachers and students in middle and secondary schools in common areas like hallways, buses, or anytime safe, physical distancing cannot be maintained. Every student will be given two masks. Masks are not required by students while in classes in their Learning Groups.



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## **Arrival/Departure/Lunch hour**

Parents need to assess their children daily for symptoms of the common cold, influenza, COVID-19 or other infectious respiratory disease prior to sending them to school. Students with symptoms should not come to school. The Ministry of Health has developed a Self-Assessment tool that can be used--  
<https://bc.thrive.health/covid19/en>

Staff/Students/Visitors will enter the school through the Main Entrance only. Everyone will be required to wash their hands using the Hand Sanitizing Station when they enter the school. Upon entry everyone must wear a mask until they begin their first class. Students will go to their lockers to drop off any items they do not need for morning classes.

Hallways and staircases will flow with traffic keeping to the right. At the start of lunch and at the end of the day students/staff will be able to exit the building from any of the doors. Hand sanitizing stations will be available at the exits. This will help us avoid congestion in the hallways at the end of the day. However, re-entry to the school will be through the front doors.

At lunch time students are encouraged to stay on school grounds. Specific classrooms will be made into Learning Group lunch rooms. Students should try to only socialize with students in their own Learning Group unless they can maintain social distancing. This is also required if students leave the building during lunch. Students who are unable to maintain social distancing from other Learning Groups will be asked to stay on the school site at lunch hour.

## **Bussing**

School busses will have more than one Learning Group of students. Therefore, students riding the bus are required to wear a face mask for their own and others protection.

## **Infection Prevention and Control**

Students and staff with cold, influenza, or COVID-19 like symptoms should stay home, self-isolate, and be assessed by a health care provider. Testing is recommended for anyone with these symptoms. All staff/students who have travelled outside of Canada are required to self-isolate for 14 days.

Our secretaries—Mrs. Deschenes and Mrs. Dennis -- will be contacting all parents/guardians next week to ensure you have received our plan. Please let us know if you have any concerns about returning when they contact you. Mr. Johnson--our Vice-Principal-- and I will be available next week as well to answer any questions you may have.

We hope you and your family are safe and well as we navigate the start of the school year.

Sincerely,

Greg Lawley, Principal

Gord Johnson, Vice-Principal