

# Boston Bar Elementary Secondary School

47632 Old Boston Bar Road  
Boston Bar, BC V0K 1C0  
604.867.9222 604.867.8855 Fax  
Principal: Mrs. Lisa Oike



Home of the Griffins Since 1917

Friday, August 21, 2020

Dear Parents, Families, and Students,

I write to provide an update on our school start-up and opening procedures for September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020. I will also be contacting each family by phone to discuss your plans for your child/children's attendance at school this September and if they will be requiring bus transportation. I would request that if we have not connected by August 31<sup>st</sup>, you contact the school by phone 604-867-9222 or e-mail [lisa.oike@sd78.bc.ca](mailto:lisa.oike@sd78.bc.ca) and [renee.aldrige@sd78.bc.ca](mailto:renee.aldrige@sd78.bc.ca) to advise of your plans.

Our new Superintendent Balan Moorthy's welcoming update letter ([Parent and Student Letter for Reopening](#)) was sent on Aug. 17<sup>th</sup>. He emphasized the need for students to be back in school to support emotional health, loss of learning, lack of social connection, economic stress, pressure on parents, lack of access to technology and inactivity as some of the primary reasons to get our students back into school. Public Health provides detailed school info.

[http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID\\_public\\_guidance/Guidance-k-12-schools.pdf](http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID_public_guidance/Guidance-k-12-schools.pdf)

The 3 core principles from the Ministry of Education and Public Health for us to focus on are:

- 1. New Health and Safety measures;
- 2. Keeping schools safe and clean with funding for protective equipment; and
- 3. Small cohort learning groups to reduce the possibility of transmission and keep everyone safe.

All staff and students will be provided with face masks. Staff will also be provided with face shields. For staff who will function outside the specific Cohort group they are attached to, these will be required if the 2m/6ft separation cannot be maintained. The headings in Appendix A will hopefully answer questions parents and students have about the September start-up at BBESS. While the information may not be specific to your child, I hope the depth of this plan will give you some comfort as we plan to return to school. After you receive the school start-up information, as noted above please contact me with your plans to return to school if I have not reached you by phone. If you still have questions do not hesitate to e-mail ([lisa.oike@sd78.bc.ca](mailto:lisa.oike@sd78.bc.ca)) or call me at any time. I am confident we will be able to effectively manage the Health and Safety requirements, that the school will be cleaned/disinfected regularly and that the small cohort groups will keep students safe. We have missed all of our students and truly look forward to teaching them soon. Thank you.

Mrs. Lisa Oike

Principal Boston Bar Elementary Secondary School



### Daily Health Assessments

**Staff:** all staff are required to do daily health assessments. If they have symptoms of a cold, flu, COVID-19 or other infectious respiratory issues they must stay home. In the rare event. they have symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, dry cough, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain or diarrhea) they are required to be assessed for COVID-19 and are required to stay home until the assessment clears them to return to school. If they are positive for COVID-19 they are required to contact Public Health and the principal. Public Health will direct contact tracing and protocols.

**Students/Parents:** parents are required to do daily health assessments of their child(ren) and if they have symptoms of a cold, flu, COVID-19 (fever, dry cough, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain or diarrhea) they are required to stay home until the assessment clears them to return to school. As above in the rare event a person/student is positive for COVID-19 they must contact Public Health and the principal. Public Health will direct contact tracing and protocols.

### Hand Washing, Hygiene and Masks

**Staff:** all staff are required to wash or disinfect their hands upon entering the school, and sign in, to confirm their daily health assessment. Staff are encouraged to wear masks and/or face shields as well as maintain the 2 meters/6 feet of separation from others. Staff are limited in small areas (photocopy room, staff room) so they can maintain the 2m/6ft separation.

**Students:** all classroom have sinks and hand washing supplies, all students are required to enter in the front doors at the beginning and end of the day only. They will use their designated entry school doors for all other movement in and out of the school (map and information attached). Students are to go directly to their classroom and wash their hands, teachers will supervise this. Students are to also wash their hands on each transition (recess, lunch, going home). All students will exit and re-enter their classrooms from outside using their designated exit door.

### Entrances to the school building (see Appendix B)

All **staff** will enter through the main entrance and complete a daily health confirmation and wash/sanitize their hands.

**Students** – we will use the front entrance at the start and end of the day for students. Students will have a staggered entrance off the bus moving front to back, supervised by staff. Students being dropped off will remain in or near their vehicles until called to enter by supervising staff. Once they have entered the building they will check in with Mrs. Aldridge and following the social distancing rules use the right-hand walking path to their classroom for hand washing and sanitizing.

### **Learning cohort arrangements**

We will have 2 cohorts of students at Boston Bar Elementary-Secondary, all which are less than 30 students. **One Primary Cohort** - Cohort 1 (Kindergarten – Grade 3 class and Grade 4 – Grade 6 class) and **One Intermediate/Senior Cohort** - Cohort 2 (Grade 7 – Grade 9 class and Grade 10 – Grade 12 class).

### **Support for vulnerable learners**

We will arrange individual supports and arrangements for students who require extra support.

### **Support for Indigenous Learners**

We will work together with our First Nations Support Worker to provide additional support for Indigenous students.

### **Altered bell schedules and Staggered recesses and breaks**

At this time, we do not anticipate the need to alter our bell schedule or breaks. We will separate the playground into primary cohort areas and intermediate/secondary cohort areas. We will provide microwaves (kettles supervised via intermediate/senior classes) to each classroom and after sanitization of each work area the students will eat lunch in their rooms to ensure social distancing and less movement throughout the school.

### **Supervisory arrangements**

Supervision schedules will ensure that there is supervision for each cohort on breaks.

## **Transportation arrangements**

Transportation is making arrangements for physical separation of students on the bus. Students in the same family may sit with each other and there will be physical separation of non-family students on the bus. Seats will be assigned and labelled based on pick up to load the bus back to front. Once we know who will be requiring bus transportation there will be a finalized schedule, seating plan and arrangements determined and shared with families.

## **Food services**

We will continue to provide breakfast daily and the occasional lunch for all students. Food will be prepared following food safe guidelines, individually wrapped when required and delivered to the classrooms.

## **Technology Support**

As last year, we will provide technology (as needed) and technology support if the Ministry changes from the “in person” learning model.

## **Switching from in-person to remote learning if necessary**

In the event that the Ministry of Education moves from full “in-class” instruction to remote learning or to a modified system of partial “in-class” and partial remote learning, we will adapt and deliver instruction and instructional programs to meet the needs of our students.

We look forward to connecting with you in person soon!

