



Kent Elementary School  
7285 McCullough Road, Agassiz, BC V0M 1A2  
Phone: (604)796-2161 Fax: (604)796-3966

August 21, 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians and Students,

I write to provide an update on our school start-up and opening plans for September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

We are requesting that you contact the school (preferably by e-mail [kim.stanway@sd78.bc.ca](mailto:kim.stanway@sd78.bc.ca) and cc [stan.watchorn@sd78.bc.ca](mailto:stan.watchorn@sd78.bc.ca)) to advise of your plans for your child(ren's) attendance at school this September. Please also indicate if they will be require bus transportation. If e-mail is not possible, please phone 604-796-2161. School secretaries will return to work on August 31<sup>st</sup> and return phone calls at that time.

Our new Superintendent Balan Moorthy's welcoming update letter is linked here ([Parent and Student Letter for Reopening](#)). He emphasized some of the primary reasons for students to be back in school: support emotional health, loss of learning, lack of social connection, economic stress, pressure on parents, lack of access to technology and inactivity. Public Health provides detailed school info (see link below).

[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:

- Health and Safety;
- Keeping schools safe and clean; and
- Small cohort learning groups to reduce the possibility of transmission.

All staff will be provided with face masks and face shields. For staff who will function outside the specific cohort group they are attached to, masks/shields will be required if the 2m/6ft separation cannot be maintained.

The headings in Appendix A will hopefully address questions parents and students have about the September start-up at Kent Elementary. While the information may not be specific to your child, the depth of this plan should give you some comfort as we plan to return to school.

Again, please contact Kim Stanway our school secretary and cc me your family's plans to return to school.

If you still have questions do not hesitate to e-mail ([stan.watchorn@sd78.bc.ca](mailto:stan.watchorn@sd78.bc.ca)) or call me. I am confident we will be able to effectively manage the SD78 Health and Safety guidelines, that the school will be cleaned/disinfected regularly and that the small cohort groups will keep students safe.

Best Regards

R. Stan Watchorn  
Principal Kent Elementary

### 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 school 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 school 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 classrooms have sinks and hand washing supplies, all students are required to enter through their designated entry school doors (Appendix B). 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 outside classroom door. Only 4 classrooms do not have an exterior door, these classes will use the exit closest to their classroom.

### 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 all 3 entrances at the start of the day for students. Initially, for September 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> students will enter by grade – Gr. 5 & 6 - East Entrance, Gr. 3 & 4 - Main Entrance, Gr. 1 & 2 - West Entrance. Entrances will be supervised by staff. Once the classes are organized students (Monday Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>) students will then line up by **cohort** to enter the school as such:

**East Entrance** (intermediate end) Gr. 5 & 6 students will enter here, plus one Gr. 2 class (who will line up separately on the ramp entrance). The Gr. 6's (cohort #6) will line up on the stairs east to the basketball court. The Gr. 5 and Gr. 4-5 class (cohort #5) will line up along the fence keeping 2m/6ft away from other cohorts.

**Main Entrance** (office) Gr. 4 & Gr. 3 will enter here (cohort #3 & #4). Cohort #4 will line up towards the east side of the parking lot towards the intermediate end of the school and Cohort #3 will line up along the school's primary end.

**West Entrance** (primary end) – Kindergarten (cohort #1) will not start until the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of school. Gr. 1 & Gr. 1-2 classes (cohort #2) will line up along the ramp to the primary entrance.

### **Learning Cohort Arrangements**

We will have 6 cohorts of students at Kent Elementary all which are less than 60 students. There are **three Primary Cohorts** and **three Intermediate Cohorts**

- Cohort #1 (Kindergarten – 2 classes) - 36 students
- Cohort #2 (two Gr. 1 classes & Gr.1-2 class) – 59 students
- Cohort #3 (Gr. 2 & 3 classes) – 42 students
- Cohort #4 (Gr. 3 & 4 class) – 46 students
- Cohort #5 (Gr. 5 & 4-5 class) - 51 students and
- Cohort #6 (two Gr. 6 classes) - 52 students.

### **Support for Vulnerable learners**

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

### **Support for Indigenous Learners**

We will provide support from our First Nations Support Workers 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 Primary Playground into 3 areas and allow the primary cohorts #1-3 to rotate through these areas on separate days to maintain the separation by cohorts. We will do the same for the Intermediate Playground to the intermediate cohorts #4-6 will also rotate through the areas on separate days. This will permit the separation of students by cohort.

### **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 when possible. Students in the same family may sit with each other and whenever possible there will be physical separation of non-family students on the bus. Once we know requirements for bus transportation there will be a finalized schedule and arrangements determined.

### **Food Services**

We will continue to provide breakfast and or lunch for those students in need. Food will be delivered to the classroom rather than have students from different cohorts coming to the kitchen.

### **Daycare Arrangements**

Melissa Weed has run after school care at Kent last year. She may be able to offer after school care this year. Contact [harrisonpreschoolandchildcare@shaw.ca](mailto:harrisonpreschoolandchildcare@shaw.ca)

### **Technology Support**

Should the Ministry revert back to Stage 3, technology (and support) will be provided on an “as needed” basis.

### **Switching From In-Person to Remote Learning if Necessary**

If 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.

## Appendix B



**West Entrance** (primary end) – Kindergarten (cohort #1), Gr. 1 & Gr. 1-2 classes (cohort #2) will line up along the ramp to the primary entrance.

**Main Entrance** (office) Gr. 4 & Gr. 3 will enter here (cohort #3 & #4). Cohort #4 will line up towards the east side of the parking lot towards the intermediate end of the school and Cohort #3 will line up along the school's primary end.

**East Entrance** (intermediate end) Gr. 5 & 6 students will enter here, plus one Gr. 2 class (who will line up separately on the ramp entrance). The Gr. 6's (cohort #6) will line up on the stairs east to the basketball court. The Gr. 5 and Gr. 4-5 class (cohort #5) will line up along the fence keeping 2m/6ft away from other cohorts.



0 10 20 40 m