



Coquihalla Elementary School

School District No. 78, Fraser Cascade
P.O. Box 969, Hope, BC V0X 1L0



August 21, 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians and Students,

Happy late August to you!

I am writing to provide an update on our school start-up and opening plans for September.

First of all, I would like you to contact the school, preferably by email, to advise of your plans for your students' attendance at school this September and if they will require bus transportation. (peter.flynn@sd78.bc.ca, or linda.bailey@sd78.bc.ca) If email is not possible, please phone us at 604-869-9904. We really look forward to hearing from you!

Our new superintendent, Balan Moorthy, sent a welcoming update letter on August 17. It is on the school's website and FaceBook page. 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.

Please look at his letter and the site attached to it for more information.

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

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

All staff will be provided with facemasks and face shields.





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For itinerant staff who may function outside a specific cohort group, masks/face shields will be required if the two-metre separation cannot be maintained. I understand masks will be issued to students if needed.

Health and Safety Measures

Daily Health Assessments

All staff will be 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 rare events, 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 me.

Public Health will direct contact with tracing and protocols.

Parents are required to do daily health assessments of their child(ren). 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 event, a person/student is positive for COVID-19, they must contact Public Health and me. Public Health will provide directions for contact tracing and protocols.

Hand Washing, Hygiene and Masks

All staff are required to wash or disinfect their hands upon entering the school. Staff are encouraged to wear masks and/or face shields and maintain the two-meter separation from others. Staff is limited in small areas, like the staff room and photocopy room, to maintain physical distancing.

Students will enter the school through their classroom's outside doors. Once in class, they will wash their hands, which will be supervised by teachers. Students are also to wash their hands on each transition (recess, lunch, going home).





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Each class will be assigned a specific washroom to use. Students will use restrooms one at a time. I see washroom use as the only time students need to use the hallways in our school. Transitioning to places like the library or multi-purpose room will be through outside doors.

Cohort Groups

It is challenging to arrange cohort groups when I don't have a completely accurate picture of how many students are coming back to school in September. (This is why it is important to let the school know what is happening in this area! Refer to my first long paragraph above!)

However, in my initial planning, Cohort Groups will be arranged along grade lines. Students will still be attending class and will be taught by a single teacher. Within the cohort group, minimized physical contact is required, whereas contact with someone outside the cohort group requires physical distancing. Contact between cohort groups will be as minimal as possible to reduce the risk of transmission. I believe cohort groups will support better contact tracing if there is a confirmed case in a school community.

To minimize the contact between cohorts, we are staggering recess and lunchtimes, as well as designating specific play areas outside for the cohorts during break times. This process will be expedited if we see how many students are coming back to school. (Again, please refer to my first long paragraph above!)

General Cleaning

A custodian will be in the building while students are in class. In June, the janitor continually cleaned while students were in the building, and we expect that this will continue in the fall. A deep clean is to happen every day.

Support for vulnerable learners

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

Support for Indigenous Learners





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We will continue to support our First Nations Support Workers to provide additional support for Indigenous students.

Supervisory arrangements

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

Transportation arrangements

The school district's transportation staff is making arrangements for the physical separation of students on the bus. Students in the same family may sit with each other, and there will be a physical separation of non-family students on the bus. Once we know who will be requiring 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 who do not have either. Food will be delivered to the classroom rather than having students from different cohorts eating together.

Daycare arrangements

If you are interested in after school daycare (Club Child,) please contact the recreation centre at 604-869-2304.

Switching from in-person to remote learning if necessary

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

Finally

Time and time again this summer, when watching the news, Dr. Bonnie Henry and Ministers Fleming and Dix have mentioned how schools are going to look different this September. As I plan for the fall, I feel this is true! Things are going to be unique. However, we are fortunate to have a highly flexible,





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resourceful, and talented staff committed to student education and, more importantly, student safety during these times.

Thank you for reading this letter. Most likely it will engender further questions, so please don't hesitate to contact me!

Very sincerely,

Peter Flynn
Acting Principal

P.S.
Have a look if you want!

<https://www.worksafebc.com/en/about-us/covid-19-updates/covid-19-returning-safe-operation/education>

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



Telephone: 604-869-9904
Fax: 604-869-2434