

September 1, 2021

Dear Apex families,

We are looking forward to welcoming everyone back to school in a safe, controlled manner.

We have worked under the guidance of public health authorities and the Ministry of Education to develop a plan so that students and staff can learn and work together safely.

We will proceed with our new normal routine of meeting initially via Microsoft Teams or via a phone call with you to set up SLPs (student learning plans) and set goals for IEPs as needed.

Below is a brief summary of some of the actions taken to safely restart school this September.

Health and Safety

- Students in Grades 4-12 must wear a mask when they are in all indoor areas of the school and on school buses.
- All staff must wear a mask when inside school.
- Although physical distancing (2m apart) is no longer mandated, students will be encouraged to minimize involuntary contact. Classrooms will be set up to maximize space usage and decrease student physical contact.
- Daily health screening check for students (completed by their parents) and staff before arriving at school. You can find the Daily Health Check on the district and provincial websites:
 - [http://www.sd43.bc.ca/covidresponse/Pages/default.aspx#/="](http://www.sd43.bc.ca/covidresponse/Pages/default.aspx#/=)
 - <https://www.k12dailycheck.gov.bc.ca/healthcheck?execution=e1s1>
- Students who are ill (cold, flu or [showing Covid-19 symptoms](#)) must stay home. If a child becomes ill during the school day, they will be isolated and the parents contacted to come and pick up as soon as possible.
- Hand hygiene (hand washing or sanitizing) upon arrival at school and throughout the day.
- Signs posted throughout the school to help control the flow of foot traffic within the building.
- There will be cleaning protocols for high touch points (door knobs, faucets, etc.). These surfaces will be cleaned once every 24 hours.
- Students will no longer be organized into Learning Groups or Cohorts as we did last year.
- Teachers will be encouraged to take their class outside more frequently.
- Windows and doors may be left open more regularly to increase ventilation.
- There will be no large gatherings (assemblies, special events, open house) or fieldtrips at this time.
- No sharing of food or drink.
- Parents and visitors should make an appointment to meet with staff. There will be limited and controlled access to the building by parents and visitors. All visitors must sign in for the purpose of contact tracing and acknowledge they've completed the Daily Health Check. Visitors must wear a non-medical mask inside school.
- We also ask parents to respect other people's personal space when on school grounds. This is for your safety and good modeling for our students.

Educational Programming

- Our school will continue to provide biweekly tutorials via Microsoft Teams
- We are planning to proceed with our plans for Wednesdays in-class instruction beginning in October – if changes are required, we will advise.
- Student well-being will be guiding educators in planning and supporting the successful return of students to school.
- Students with disabilities/diverse abilities will continue to be supported by the goals outlined in their IEP.
- Regular health and safety practices (frequent hand washing) will take up some instructional time.
- Students will continue to receive report cards.
- Parents of children who are medically diagnosed as immunocompromised by a physician should contact me by Friday, September 3rd. The following link is provided for your reference:

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/covid-19-and-children/children-with-immune-compromise>

Sometimes teachers need to leave material for you to pick up at Vanier Centre.

Please make specific time appointments with your child's teacher, park in the back parking lot off of Haversley and wait in the undercover area/ side door marked for parents, where your teacher should be waiting and expecting you.

Visitor sign in procedures:

You must wear a mask, do the daily health check and sign in on the contact tracing sheet to help keep all of us safe.

We look forward to welcoming students back to another school year!

Part of school-start up is determining student enrolment so please also contact the school principal if you have moved, your child is registered elsewhere or is not returning to the school.

Please email me with any questions that you have. I look forward to working with your family this year.

Sincerely,

Lisa Dubé
Principal
Apex, Encompass, S.W.I.S
Vanier Centre