



3700 Hastings Street, Coquitlam, B.C. V3B 5K7

Telephone: (604) 464-8581

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September 1, 2021

Dear Maple Creek Families,

Our school is getting ready to welcome students back to school in a safe, controlled manner. The Ministry of Education announced that BC schools will be open and students are expected to attend full time. The first day of school is Tuesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>. You can read more here: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021EDUC0058-001663>

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 are ready to welcome your child back to school. 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.
- We may need to adopt a staggered schedule approach to reduce crowding at drop off/pick up; and recess and lunch times. Each school will determine if a staggered schedule is necessary.
- 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 only provide in-class instruction.
- 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>

#### **Start Up Information The First Days of School**

A more detailed email will be sent to you later this week with the specific details for the first week of school including arrival times and protocols

#### **Tuesday September 7<sup>th</sup> (A shortened day)**

- Grade 6 Students attend school for an orientation (a.m.) Duration 2 hours
- Grades 7 and 8 Students attend school for a welcome and enrolment count. Times to be communicated on Thursday. Duration 45 minutes.

#### **Wednesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> (first full day)**

- First full day of school from 8:40 am to 2:54 pm. On September 7<sup>th</sup>, staff will provide the students with the details of what the first full day will look like.

**As mentioned above, we will provide detailed information by Friday the latest.**

**PLEASE NOTE: students do not need to bring a lunch or school supplies on Tuesday.**

**PARENT ACCESS TO THE SCHOOL:** Due to COVID-19 and to ensure a safe start to the school year, we are only allowing parents access to the building with an appointment. Please call the school to make an appointment if you would like to speak with a school staff member.

Another email will be sent to families on Thursday will more detailed instructions.

We look forward to welcoming students back to school on Tuesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>.

Part of school-start up is determining student enrolment so please endeavor to contact the school if your child is unable to attend on September 7<sup>th</sup> and have their attendance counted. Please also contact the school principal if you have moved, your child is registered elsewhere or is not returning to the school.

**If you know someone who has school aged children and has moved into our neighbourhood, please encourage them to contact (phone or email) the school as soon as possible to arrange registration.**

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

Sincerely,

Andrew Graham - Principal  
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604-464-8581

*“We don’t just go to School, we go to Maple Creek”*