

## Eagle Mountain Middle School – Health and Safety Protocols

September 1, 2021

Hello again Eagle Mountain Community!

As mentioned last week (if you missed the email sent, we place our previous ‘updates and newsletters’ [on our web site under documents](#)), Eagle Mountain 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>. **Please note: I will be sending a second email to all parents with specific information on our first day / week.**

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 at middle school (in Grades 4-12 province wide) must wear a mask when they are in all indoor areas of the school. Similarly, 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 will continue. We will set up sinks outside each day, and provide hand sanitizing as students enter the building.
- Signs posted throughout the school will help control the flow of foot traffic within the building. We have created a traffic flow plan for students to move to/from explorations and the gym to minimize congestion.
- 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, that said, we will not be mixing classes during the school day. Homeroom divisions will be going to explorations and PE as a group. Students in a homeroom will need to not enter other homeroom classes, if a different teacher is seen for a subject, it will be the teachers that will rotate to start the 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 will not have a staggered schedule for different teams. We will be asking school teams to enter and exit the building each day through designated entrances.
- There will be no large gatherings (full school assemblies or open house) or fieldtrips at this time.
- No sharing of food or drink and food should only be consumed while sitting at a students' personal desk.
- 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. Although many teachers will post homework on Teams / One Note this will not be an option for 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>

We look forward to welcoming students back to school on Tuesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>. As noted, a second email is being sent specifically around our first day / week procedures for students!

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 neighborhood, 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. I look forward to working with your family this year.

Sincerely,

Darren Macmillan

Principal