

SCHOOL START PLAN FOR KINDERGARTEN – Gradual Entry

SEPTEMBER 2 – September 12



Welcome to the Birchland School Community!

It was great meeting everyone at our Connecting to Kindergarten Event. It is our sincere hope that your child is even more excited than before about starting Kindergarten in September. As mentioned earlier, to best welcome kindergarten learners, the Ministry of Education structures the kindergarten hours of instruction to be 25 less hours than children grades 1-5. This allows schools to create learning opportunities for children in smaller groups and gradually increase their time. Additionally, each family will have the opportunity to participate in a Welcoming Conversation with one of our kindergarten teachers. Our first meeting, on the first day of school – Tuesday, September 2 – is a quick hello and confirmation of your enrollment. Welcome tables will be set up outside the front of the school.

Children should not attend if they have any sign of illness.

Please inform the office for all absences.

Gradual Entry Schedule

Here is the gradual schedule for all Kindergarten students during the first 2 weeks of school (extending the length of stay each time), from **September 2 – September 12**. Please note the dates for the welcoming conversations. You will have the opportunity to indicate your preferred day and window of time when you check-in on September 2. Teachers will use this information and provide confirmation of your Welcoming Conversation Date and Time later that day.

Thank you for your patience.

Please see the Gradual Entry schedule below.

If your child is unable to attend on any given day – please let the office know. The preferred method is to complete an online [absence report](#) – or call the office 604-941-3428.

Tuesday, September 2:

9:15 – 9:30

Check-in with Birchland staff at the tables in front of the school.

Please be prepared to indicate your preferred Welcome Conversation day and window of time.

Wednesday, September 3:

1 hour 9:00 – 10:00

Kindergarteners are in session without families.

**Please meet outside the front doors of the school.
Welcoming Week Classrooms will be assigned.**

Welcoming Conversations scheduled during hours
of 10:15 – 2:30

Thursday, September 4:

1 hour 9:00 – 10:00

Kindergarteners are in session without families.

**Please meet outside assigned Welcoming Week
Classroom for the remainder of Gradual Entry.**

Friday, September 5:

1 hour 9:00 – 10:00

Kindergarteners are in session without families.

Welcoming Conversations scheduled during hours
of 10:15 – 2:30

Monday, September 8:

1 hour 9:00 – 10:00

Kindergarteners are in session without families

Tuesday, September 9:

1.5 hours 9:00 – 10:30

Kindergarteners are in session without families

Please send a small snack for your child.

Wednesday, September 10:

2.5 hours 9:00 – 11:30

Kindergarteners are in sessions without families.

Please send a small snack for your child.

Thursday, September 11:

2.5 hours 9:00 – 11:30

Kindergarteners are in sessions without families.

Please send a small snack for your child.

Friday, September 12:

3.5 hours 9:00 – 12:30

Kindergarteners are in sessions without families.

Please send a small snack and a packed lunch for your child – all utensils needed must be brought from home.

Monday, September 15:

Full Days Begin

8:45 warning bell

8:50 class begins

2:38 dismissal

Please send a small snack and a packed lunch for your child – all utensils needed must be brought from home.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email me at dshannon@sd43.bc.ca.

Enjoy your summer. We are looking forward to learning with you all soon!