

September 4, 2020



Dear **École Kilmer Elementary** Parents & Guardians,

I am providing you with a brief update and will forward more information at the beginning of next week.

### **Learning Groups**

The classroom will be the learning group for each student. Students will remain in their learning group throughout the school day and will not interact with other groups.

Staff members who are not part of the class learning group, will physically distance and wear a mask when interacting with the class. Staff members who are not part of the learning group will include the: principal, student services teachers, counsellor, librarian, teachers covering preps, education assistants and teachers/EAs on call when required.

### **Bell Schedule**

At this time, we are not staggering start and dismissal times. All students will follow the bell schedule. All classrooms have individual classroom doors and those doors will be used for students coming in and out of the building.

<b>8:40 am</b>	<b>Welcoming Bell</b>
8:45 am	Instruction begins
10:35 - 10:50 am	<b>Recess</b>
10:50 - 11:45 pm	Instruction Time
11:45 - 12:00 pm	Student eat lunch under teacher supervision
12:00 - 12:44 pm	<b>Outside playtime</b>
12:47 - 2:40 pm	Instructional time
<b>2:40 pm</b>	<b>Students dismissed</b>

Each class will be assigned a gathering spot where they will line up at the beginning of the day, after recess, and after lunch.

At the end of the day, students who are being picked up by a parent/guardian, will wait with the teacher in the class gathering spot. We ask that parents coming onto the school grounds to pick-up their child, physically distance from others and leave the school grounds immediately after connecting with their child/children.

The school playground will be divided into 13 zones. Each classroom will be assigned a zone where they will play with their classmates. Students are not allowed to go into the zone of another class. Each class will play in a zone for a determined number of days and then they will rotate to a new zone.

Students will eat their lunch at 11:45 pm under the supervision of their classroom teacher. This will ensure that students are not touching others' desks or sharing food.

### **Hand Washing**

Students will wash or sanitize until they can wash their hands:

- Immediately upon entering the building
- Immediately upon re-entering the building
- Before and after eating
- After using the washroom
- Anytime it is necessary

**In the classroom the students will:**

- only sit at their own desk and in their own chairs.
- only use their own supplies
- keep their belongings with them at their desk (coats will hang on the back of their chair as cloakrooms will not be used)

***Students are not to bring personal items such as plush toys or stuffies to school.***

All unnecessary furniture and equipment are being removed from the classroom to allow for maximum physical distancing. Every effort will be made to take students outside as much as possible. Parents need to ensure that students come to school daily with the necessary clothing to be outside.

### **Thursday September 10<sup>th</sup>**

Students come to school for an attendance check that should only take 10 minutes. Teachers will be outside in the undercover area. Parents and children will line up along the walkway in front of the school for the attendance check. There will be signage and staff there to ensure social distancing and to direct parents and students to the assigned check-in spot. **Students who ordered supplies through Creative Children will collect their supplies during their check-in.**

The schedule for the attendance check-in is:  
LAST NAME

A – E	8:45 – 9:30 am
F – L	9:40 – 10:20 am
M – S	10:30 – 11:10 am
T – Z	11:20 – 12:00 pm

### **Friday September 11<sup>th</sup>**

Students will come to school for 1 hour to review the required health & safety protocols. The students will be put into small groups for the lesson. You will receive information next week informing you of the name of the teacher who will instruct your children and where to line up outside the school until the teacher comes to get them.

### **School-Based Gradual Transition Supports (K-8)**

Some parents are asking for information and clarification on the School-Based Gradual Transition Supports option. I am including the information that was sent out to parents with the survey that went out to parents on August.

I would like to add some updated information to the information below. This option will continue beyond September 30<sup>th</sup> if parents want an extension.

We understand that some families are concerned about the restart of school and want their child to return to face to face instruction but need some time to gradually return their child to school.

While we would like to all students to meet their classroom teacher on Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup> and to be in attendance, we understand some families may want more time or will be more comfortable with a slower, more gradual start. While schools are unable to provide the same level of flexibility as they did in June (all school-based teachers will be working with students face to face 5 days a week), we do want to provide families the flexibility to start at a pace that matches their family's needs.

School principals will work with families to provide a gradual restart for this September as families require.

The school district is dedicating resources to develop some grade-level learning supports and tutorials that schools can send home to support their child while they transition back into in-class learning. While the materials will not be teacher-specific or necessarily in pace with your child 's classroom teacher, they will help support a child's learning

Parents will need to be able to support their child's learning while they are at home. Your child will retain their school-based classroom placement; and, on the days and times that your child attends school, they will participate in the classroom/learning group. The amount of parental time needed to support your child is proportional to the amount of time your child attends classes.

The goal will be to increase your child's classroom time as families' situations evolve. While this is a short-term solution, it does provide families more time to transition back to regular school or to make other educational arrangements that better match their family needs. Supports would be mostly in English and based on the B.C. Ministry of Education curriculum. Therefore, parents in language-based programs would need to ensure that their child's language skills regarding the program of choice they are in, are fostered while they are learning at home. A gradual return will not impact a child's language skills but a long-term prolonged absence from a program of choice would require families to reassess enrolment in a program of choice, as language acquisition is the core foundation of the program. Parents would work with their school principal and classroom teacher to develop a timeline for their return. Families would need to inform the principal of this approach and their desire for a gradual return to maintain their classroom placement.

This approach is not a remote learning program but is rather a way to support a student's self-paced return to regular in-class instruction.

These curricular supports will take time to establish but we hope to have things up and running in mid-September. You would however still inform your school principal now of your plans so we could begin planning.

Looking forward to seeing you soon!

**Laurie**

Laurie Birnie, Principal

[www.sd43.bc.ca/kilmer](http://www.sd43.bc.ca/kilmer)

Office 604 941 3401