

Dear Families,

Our school is getting ready to welcome students back to school in a safe and controlled manner. The Ministry of Education announced that BC schools will open in Stage 2 where students are encouraged to attend daily as schools will not be able to provide the remote learning options that we did in June.

The first day of school for students is Thursday, September 10. You can read more here: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/kindergarten-to-grade-12/safe-caring-orderly/k-12-education-restart-plan.pdf>.

On Tuesday, September 8 and Wednesday, September 9, staff will be reviewing and implementing safety procedures within the school.

The Ministry also has a site with information for parents:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/covid-19-return-to-school>

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. We will strive to keep learning as the focus, but school *will* look different as health and safety are critical factors in our planning. Below is a brief summary of some of the actions taken to safely restart school this September.

### **Health and Safety**

- Daily health screening check for students (by parents) and staff before arriving at school.
- 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 from their Learning Group/class and the parents contacted to come and pick up as soon as possible.
- Families arriving from outside of Canada must self-isolate for 14 days before entering school.
- There will be enhanced cleaning protocols especially focused on high touch points (doorknobs, faucets, etc.)
- Teachers will be encouraged to take their class outside more frequently.
- A staggered schedule may need to be adopted to promote physical distancing at drop off/pick up; and recess and lunch times.
- There will be no large gatherings (assemblies, special events, open house) at this time.
- Elementary students are welcome to wear a mask, but it is not mandatory at this time.
- No sharing of food or drink.
- Parents and visitors must make an appointment to meet with staff. There will be limited access to the building by parents and visitors. All visitors must sign in for the purpose of contact tracing. Virtual meetings will be an option for staff and parents.
- We also ask parents to also practice physical distancing (staying apart 2m) when on school grounds. This is for your safety and good modeling for our students.

## **Learning Groups**

- A [Learning Group](#) is defined as a group of students and staff who remain together for an extended period of time and who interact primarily with each other.
  - In the Coquitlam School District, the Learning Group will include your child's classmates and any staff assigned to work with the students on a regular basis, like your child's teacher.
  - Within the learning group, while there will be less opportunities to physically distance, physical contact will be discouraged.
  - The learning group will stay together. Students will learn, eat and play together.
  - Class size limits have not changed, therefore a kindergarten class will have no more than 22 students along with the staff who work regularly with the classroom; a primary class with no more than 24; and an intermediate class with no more than 30 students in the group.
  - The Ministry of Education has stated that Learning Groups cannot exceed 60 people at elementary school. Therefore, our Learning Group sizes are well under the provincial limits outlined in Stage 2. In most cases our Learning Groups will be kept well below 60.
- Morning, recess, lunch and afterschool schedules and routines will be adjusted to keep Learning Groups apart as much as possible.
- If children interact with students or staff from other learning groups, they will be expected to practice physical distancing wherever possible and not engage in physical contact. In some cases, specialist teachers who work with children from different Learning Groups (i. e., Learning Assistance or English as an Additional Language) will wear a mask if physical distancing is challenging.
- Parents and students will learn who their child's teacher and Learning Groups/class is before school begins on Monday, September 14. We expect Learning Groups to be finalized and students attending full days beginning September 14.

## **Educational Programming**

- Our school will be focused on in-class instruction during Stage 2.
- Students will spend most of their educational time in their classroom, as there will be reduced movement of students between learning spaces.
- 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.
- There will be an adjusted Welcome to Kindergarten schedule. Further information will be communicated soon.
- Students will continue to receive report cards.
- Parents of children who are medically diagnosed as immunocompromised by a physician should contact me by Tuesday, September 1. The following links are provided for your reference:

<http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID-19-IS-Children-FAQ-BCCH.pdf>

<http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Professionals-Site/Documents/COVID19-easing-social-distancing-IS-children.pdf>

## School Schedule Details

In order to minimize crowding and enhance health and safety for all students and staff at RVP, we have an adjusted schedule for the upcoming school year and have implemented many additional safety measures to support safe student movement in and around the building:

- Division of the school into 2 Cohorts for the year (Cohort A, Divisions 1-5 and Cohort B, Divisions 6-11)
- Division of the school into 11 Learning Groups this year -- each Division is its own Learning Group
- Staggered start and end times by Division to reduce crowding at drop-off and pick-up; additional staff for supervision during drop-off and pick-up times; visual cues and supervision of students to ensure physical distancing for line-ups at back door classroom entrances
- Staggered recess and lunch times to reduce crowding; students will remain in their Learning Groups during recess and lunch and will be designated a play zone that is separated from other play zones; zones will be rotated daily to give students alternate play experiences
- Staggered return to class at the end of recess and lunch to reduce crowding
- Eating to take place in classrooms (washing hands before and after) and under classroom teacher supervision; students will take all food related leftovers and wrappers home each day
- Supervised outdoor play time at all times
- Additional instructional time spent outdoors as much as possible
- Reduced movement of students throughout the building, throughout the day -- the primary learning space for students will be inside their classroom
- Clearly marked pathways throughout the school, including one-way directional arrows and divided hallways
- Enhanced spacing in classrooms and hallways (extra furniture and unnecessary items have been removed to allow for additional space)

The specific school schedule for the day will be as follows:

<b>Cohort A (Divisions 1-5)</b>	<b>Cohort B (Divisions 6-11)</b>
8:45 AM Arrival Time	9:00 AM Arrival Time
8:45 to 10:10 AM Instructional Time	9:00 to 10:35 AM Instructional Time
10:10 to 10:30 AM Recess (10:25 to 10:30 AM Staggered Return to Class)	10:35 to 10:55 AM Recess (10:50 to 10:55 AM Staggered Return to Class)
10:30 to 11:45 AM Instructional Time	10:55 to 12:20 PM Instructional Time
11:45 to 12:00 AM Eating Time	12:20 to 12:35 PM Eating Time
12:00 to 12:35 PM Lunch (Outdoor Play Time) (12:30 to 12:35 PM Staggered Return to Class)	12:35 to 1:10 Lunch (Outdoor Play Time) (1:05 to 1:10 PM Staggered Return to Class)
12:35 to 2:33 PM Instructional Time	1:10 to 2:48 PM Instructional Time
2:33 PM Dismissal Time	2:48 PM Dismissal Time

We look forward to welcoming students back to school on Thursday, September 10. Following is the district plan for elementary students on Thursday, September 10 and Friday, September 11:

- Thursday, September 10: Students attend school for a welcome and enrolment count. Duration: 10-15 minutes. Schedule to follow.
- Friday, September 11: Students will attend safety orientation sessions. Duration: 60 minutes. Schedule to follow.
- Timelines for Kindergarten students will be communicated separately based on the gradual entry plan.

I will be sending out additional information regarding the times that students will attend on Thursday, September 10 and Friday, September 11. We will be reconnecting with children and completing an important health and safety orientation with them.

We need to know how many students are returning to school or what your plans are if you are choosing an alternative educational plan. There is important information in the survey. ***It is critical that you complete the survey to provide us this information.*** If you are choosing an alternate educational program, such as distributed learning or homeschooling, we cannot guarantee that your child can return to our school if you re-evaluate your plans later in the year. Please contact me if you are undecided.

I have included the link for the survey

here: [https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=74xI2ZICUkKZJWRC3iSkSzgNWRs3o9tBuGXHH2tkG\\_NUQUpTMVhKNUNIMlhNVUUsS1VGSU05U0YzMy4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=74xI2ZICUkKZJWRC3iSkSzgNWRs3o9tBuGXHH2tkG_NUQUpTMVhKNUNIMlhNVUUsS1VGSU05U0YzMy4u)

**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 note that the Provincial Health Officer and the Ministry of Education may decide to move to different stages in response to the Covid-19 situation in British Columbia and we will inform you should this occur, advising next steps.

Please find attached a document for your review titled 'Stage 2 Health and Safety Protocols: K-12 – Parents'.

I will be following up with more information early next week.

I look forward to working with your family this year.

Sincerely,

Anita Young  
Principal, Riverview Park Elementary