



SEAVIEW COMMUNITY SCHOOL

School District No. 43 (Coquitlam)

1215 Cecile Drive, Port Moody, BC V3H 1N2

Phone: (604) 936-9991 Fax: (604) 937-8039

September 2, 2021

Dear Parents,

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 7th. 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.
- Students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 are strongly encouraged to wear a mask at school. Teachers will be reminding younger student when it is a good time to put their masks on if they have them.
- 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. Some floor markings will also still be used.
- 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, however we will still work to allow students space from other classes when practical and avoid putting students into crowded situations.
- 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) at this time.
- No sharing of food or drink.
- Parents and visitors should 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 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-school instruction, there will not be a gradual transition program this school year.
- 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.
- Welcome to Kindergarten will continue as scheduled. 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 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>

Seaview Specific Information

When establishing the guidelines and organization structures for Seaview this year I attempted to create a school schedule that we will be able to stick to and use throughout the year. I believe we have created enough flexibility that we could use the same schedule if the COVID situation in our province improves and also use if the COVID situation gets worse. To start the year, I have kept relatively strict COVID safety protocols in place, with the belief that it is much better to start this way and gradually increase the level of interaction rather than start with few protocols and suddenly need to move to strict protocols. It is my sincere hope to see the situation gradually improve in our province and be able to slowly pivot the operation of our school closer to a pre-COVID situation by the end of June 2022.

Recess, Lunch and Start/End times

- Part of the Provincial guidelines involve reducing the chance of students having “unintentional physical contact” with other students, especially those outside of their classroom.
- In order to help us create some space between the students at recess and lunch time we will again be running two lunch periods this year. As this will shorten the length of the lunch period from 40 to 30 minutes we have adjusted our school bell schedule as follows, **please note the dismissal time of 2:39 which is a change of ten minutes from the schedule that was originally sent out.**
 - 8:55 Warning Bell
 - 9:00 School Starts
 - 2:39 End of day Bell
- To start the year each class will have their own play area at recess and lunch, just like they did last year. It is our plan to switch to having students share a play area with one or two other classes and then switch to students sharing the entire playground with the other students they share a recess/lunch break with as we move through the year. The timing of these changes will be dependent on my judgement of how the students are doing with keeping some space and not crowding together (pushing while waiting for slides, keeping appropriate numbers in washrooms, etc.), the current COVID situation in our province and any changes to the guidelines / protocols governing our operation.

Distancing during pickup and drop off

- At Seaview we are very fortunate to have a large campus with many outside doors. Our teachers will continue to work to help students space out as they enter and leave the classrooms. Please assist them with this by allowing your child to stand in line while waiting to enter their classroom and stepping back to allow space for other students to walk up to the classroom.

Parking Lot

- Our parking lot tends to get busy at pick up and drop off times.
 - When dropping off:
 - You may let your child get out of the vehicle at the front of the school if they are able to do so quickly.
 - Please be very aware of where other children are and drive very slowly in the parking lot
 - When picking up:
 - You may stop at the front of the school let your child in the car if they are waiting for you and can get into the vehicle quickly
 - If there are no spots available please circle around the loop of the parking lot rather than stopping in the round about to wait for them
 - **DO NOT** get out of your vehicle while it is in the roundabout. If you need to exit your vehicle to pick up your child please wait for a parking spot to be available to do so. If there are no parking spots available and you need to exit your vehicle to assist your child please have them wait until a parking spot is available for you to use.
- If your vehicle is parked, please turn off the ignition to help reduce our impact on the environment and keep the air around our school clean!

On September 7th:

- Students in grade 1 – 5 will attend school from 9:00 – 9:30. Returning students will enter their last year’s classroom from the exterior entrance they used last year. Students who are new to Seaview will enter the school library through the exterior library door in the interior courtyard (Staff will be available to assist you in finding this door).
- Kindergarten students will attend from 9:40 – 9:50 for a brief welcome and attendance. Neighbourhood students will enter room 140 (Mrs. Duncan’s Room) through her outside door and Montessori students will enter room 143 (Mrs. Parotta’s Room) through her outside door. Staff will be available at the front of the school to help you find your way.
- Kindergartens will then follow their gradual entry schedule for the first two weeks. If you have not received your Gradual Entry Schedule or can’t find it please contact the school office.

Visitors to Seaview

- As noted above visitors are only permitted inside the school with prior permission at this time. If you need to meet with a staff member or have a reason to be inside the school please contact the office ahead of time. All visitors to the school **MUST** enter through the front doors of the school to complete a health check and sign-in for contact tracing purposes.

Breakfast Program

- Our school Breakfast program will be running again this year. We are aiming for a September 20th start and the program will run Mon, Tue and Wed each week. More details on what this program will look like will be sent out closer to the date.

District Lunch Program

- Our district continues to run a lunch program. This is available for a cost of and can also be subsidized if providing a health lunch is difficult financially for your family. Please contact the office for more information.

Community School Programs

- We are currently planning to run our regular slate of programs beginning some time in October. We will hold off on confirming this until school is up and running so that we can determine if the progress of the pandemic allows us to do this safely and within PHO orders.

Thanks for taking the time to read through all of this above information and attempting to process it. It’s a lot, I know! As always if you have any questions please feel free to contact me, during the next week or so this is probably best done via e-mail or if you see me standing out in front of the school!

Have a wonderful weekend and I look forward to seeing everyone next week!

Sincerely,

Frank Pearse
Principal