



TERRY FOX SECONDARY SCHOOL

1260 Riverwood Gate
Port Coquitlam BC
V3B 7Z5

Phone: 604-941-5401
Fax: 604-937-8059

September 1, 2020

Dear Fox families,

Please find below answers to some of the most common questions we've had over the last few days.

Why isn't Fox staggering its start and end times?

Many of our students take transit or they get dropped off by their parents. In particular, a large number come down from Burke Mountain on the 188. The bus schedule doesn't align with a reasonable staggered start and end time, so we would either have a long wait between start times or we would have a large number of students waiting outside for their start time, and staff would have to ensure they are physically distanced. We also don't want siblings split up by staggered start times.

We are a large building with a significant number of doors into the building. Students and staff will be directed to use the doors closest to their classroom, limiting the number of students entering at any given location. These doors will be clearly marked. Also, the building will be clearly marked with routes in, out and within the building. Students with a class in a portable, for example will not enter the main building but will go directly to the portable.

When can my child see their timetable?

Returning grade 10-12 students are now able to access their schedule through the [student portal](#). Please click on this [link](#) if you have forgotten how to access the portal. It will walk you through the steps.

New grade 9 students will be given a paper copy of their timetable when they arrive for their school orientation

When is the orientation?

Students will be coming in small groups on **September 10th and 11th**. Students will be receiving phone calls on the September 8th or 9th. These calls will tell the student what time to arrive and what entrance to use. Students must wear masks when they come into the building for their orientation. If they do not have one a mask will be provided. This orientation will provide the traditional 'welcome/welcome back' info as well as information on the enhanced safety measures. If you or your student did not receive a call Tuesday or Wednesday please email the school at terryfox@sd43.bc.ca

What is the timeline/process for course changes?

The ability to change courses is exceptionally limited. We are not changing courses for the first quarter (A, B and E block) unless the student took the course in the summer or online or they do not have the prerequisites. For all course change requests we have moved to an online form. You can access the form [here](#).

How exactly does the quarter schedule work?

The daily bell schedule can be found [here](#). In short: Each semester is divided into two quarters of approximately 9 weeks each. Most students will take two classes per quarter, although some may take 3. Explanation below.

We start the year with **A Block** being our Learning Group. A link to Learning Groups can be found [here](#). A block runs from 8:30-11:00am and will look like a traditional class. The last half-hour of A block is Flex time. This time will be used for a variety of reasons including CLC 12, Digital Learning, online assemblies and tutorials. For the most part, students will remain in A block for Flex. Flex will look different for students depending on their grade and their subject.

We start the year with **B Block** being a remote/hybrid. B block runs 11:30-2:00pm. Like A, the last 30 minutes is also dedicated to Flex. All students will receive online remote instruction on Wednesdays. They will not physically be in the building for this instruction, and will be given time to get home to prepare for online. On Mondays and Thursdays, students with the last names A-L will attend in-person in small physically-distanced groups. On Tuesdays and Fridays students with the last names M-Z will be in the building for their small groups. When students are on their 'off days' the expectation is that they use that time to work independently. We have flexibility to adjust these groups. For example, blended families who have students with different last names. If this is your case we are asking you to contact the teacher directly to make adjustments.

Halfway through the quarter, A block will become the remote/hybrid block and B block will become the five days a week in-person class. The time of these blocks does not change. We are making this flip to allow for equity of instruction and subject experience. Some classes, like Tech Ed and Foods are much more 'hands on' and we want all our students to have equal face to face time with the teacher and to give students equitable time in labs, shops and gyms

E Block. E block runs for the entire semester. E block starts at 2:10 and ends at 3:25. E block will be a socially distanced/hybrid block for the entire semester.

What supplies should my student bring?

For the first couple of days little more than a backpack and a binder. Individual teachers will tell students what they need for their class.

What about lockers?

We are not assigning lockers this year. With only two subjects and students not being full-time in the building, we are expecting students to bring what they need in their backpacks. The only possible exception to this would be for PE- we will be working with the PE department to ensure students' personal supplies are kept safe while they are in the gyms or outside.

Bring your own device?

Should any family not have a laptop we do have loaners. A form to request one can be found [here](#). We highly recommend a laptop or tablet as a smart phone may not have all the capabilities to do the work.

School Calendar

We will be updating the school calendar to reflect changes to the quarter system soon

Parent intention survey

This is vital information for us as we plan for the year. If you haven't completed the survey yet please do so [here](#).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DS' followed by a horizontal line.

David Starr
Principal, Terry Fox Secondary