



Birchland Elementary School

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birchland@sd43.bc.ca

Ms. Elspeth Anjos, *Principal*

September 3, 2021

Dear Birchland Community,

Welcome to the 2021-22 school year! On behalf of the staff of Birchland we would like to welcome all of our returning and new students as we begin this new school year. We hope you and your family enjoyed a wonderful summer break.

I sent out information on Wednesday letting you know the details about what our start up will look like in terms of health and safety protocols. This email is intended to focus on the details for the first week of our school year.

Opening day for the 2021- 2022 school year is **Tuesday, September 7, 2021. Students in grades 1-5 will attend from 8:57-9:40 AM and should return to last year's classroom.** New students in grades 1-5 will meet outside at the front doors and a staff member will guide them enter through our foyer to go to our multi-purpose room. Attendance this day is very important for the school to confirm enrolment and staffing. If your child will be attending Birchland School next year but will be absent on Tuesday, September 7, please let us know by completing an [online absence report](#), by emailing the school at [Birchland@sd43.bc.ca](mailto: Birchland@sd43.bc.ca) or by phoning the school at 604-941-3428, so that we can ensure your child's space at Birchland.

For our kindergarten students for next year, please come to the outside of the front door of the school on Tuesday, Sept. 7 at some point between 8:57 – 9:40 a.m. to indicate a day and time for your “Welcome Conversation” with our kindergarten teachers. You will not know your child's teacher on the first day, that will be determined during the first week, and we will share classes once the district approves our school organization for this year (usually we can do this Monday Sept. 13). You have already received an email outlining your child's schedule for the first two weeks of school. If you have not received this email, please let us know at birchland@sd43.bc.ca

September 7 will be a busy day in the Birchland office as we expect to receive many new registrations. We appreciate your patience as we work hard to get our school and classes up and running as quickly as possible.

The first full day of school will be Wednesday September 8, for grades 1-5, between 8:57 AM – 2:45 PM. Students will need to bring a snack, lunch and a water bottle, and be dressed for active learning, both inside the school and out. Students will be stay in their last years classes (new students will be added) and will be taught by a variety of teachers. Students will be actively learning about school routines, school goals, priorities, health and safety protocols and themselves as learners. Students can expect to interact with a number of different teachers in the first three days, Wednesday, Sept 8 – Friday, Sept 10.

Depending on when we get the go ahead from the School District, students should be moved into their new classrooms on Monday, September 13. New school supplies are not needed at school until students are settled in their new classrooms. Pre-ordered school supplies from Creative Children will be into students' classes once students are in their new divisions. Kindergarten students will order and pay for their supplies this year through the School Cash OnLine in September. Our school supplies lists are located on our [website](#).

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 hope this information helps you to prepare for that busy first week of September. We wish you all the best for our final weekend of the summer!

Warmly,

Ms. Elspeth Anjos

Elspeth Anjos

Principal, Birchland Elementary