

Principal's Update –April 9, 2021

Exposure Notifications:

With the number of cases in the community being so high, and just coming off of Spring Break, it is inevitable that we are going to have some students returning to school who have unknowingly been exposed to Covid. We are doing our best to continually emphasize safety protocols around masks, distancing, and hand hygiene. Please help us out by doing the same at home and also ensuring that your kids are aware of the restrictions mandated by the PHO around socializing, etc... Much appreciated.

Schedule Change for the next 2 weeks:

As per the message sent home on March 16th:

**In order to maximize instructional time for those 2 weeks, since there are Pro-D days on the 16th & 23rd, we will be using the following schedule which includes the 2 Wednesday as 'regular' days:

Apr 12-23:

Monday/Thursday hybrid groups will attend Monday/Wednesday instead.

Tuesday/Friday Hybrid groups will attend Tuesday/Thursday instead.

Vaping:

During non-pandemic times, administration would meet with each grade group a couple times during the year to talk about how things are going, review expectations, etc... I really miss being able to do this. Vaping would be one of the issues we touch on. So here is my annual rant on Vaping, one of my least favorite topics. Please discuss with your kids if you feel it is necessary.

Vaping does not seem to be in the news as much these days and I am glad to say that we have seen fewer instances at school.

However, we are aware that some students continue to Vape at school, particularly in the washrooms, despite knowing that these devices are not allowed on school property, a District-wide policy.

**Our students have been told many times that they are not to enter the washroom in groups and there is to be no socializing in the washrooms. If we find groups in the washrooms, parents will be contacted.

Students also know that because of their age, that they are prohibited from purchasing these devices by law and that vaping/smoking is banned by law on school property, let alone in the building. Yet a relatively small number of students continue to push the boundaries anyway. This is beyond frustrating for us and for the students who respect our school community's expectations.

**Sharing a Vape during the Pandemic is another obvious concern that affects the safety of everyone in the building, but again it shouldn't be happening in the first place, so....

To be clear. We see this issue as direct defiance. The students know the expectations but choose to ignore them. When we do encounter students Vaping, the consequence is confiscation and immediate suspension. If the same students repeatedly ignore the expectations, then discipline will escalate accordingly.

Thank you for ensuring that your children understand these expectations.

The vast majority of our kids are incredibly respectful and follow the rules. Let's get everyone on board!

As per School and District Codes of Conduct:

*Smoking (tobacco or e-cigarettes) is not permitted on school grounds. E-cigarettes/Vaporizers are not permitted on school grounds as they present a safety risk (making their use at school also prohibited).

As per the Provincial Government website:

“What about smoking or vaping on school property?”

All public and private kindergarten to Grade 12 schools in B.C. are tobacco and vape-free under the Tobacco and Vapour Products Control Act and Regulation. This ban extends to all school property 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, regardless of whether or not school is in session. The ban also includes vehicles, parking lots, sports fields, driveways, courtyards, and private vehicles parked on school property.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/keeping-bc-healthy-safe/tobacco-vapour/requirements-under-tobacco-vapour-product-control-act-regulation/tobacco-vapour-free-places>

Thanks for your support,
Todd Clarkson
Principal