

Important Information – Please Translate

這是一份重要資訊 — 請找人為您翻譯 這是一份重要信息 — 請找人为您翻译

Mahalagang Impormasyon - Paki salin sa sariling wika

Thông tin quan trọng - Xin tìm phiên dịch

ਮਹੱਤਵਪੂਰਨ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ-ਮਿਹਰਬਾਨੀ ਕਰਕੇ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ਕਰੋ/ਕਰਵਾਓ

महत्वपूर्ण जानकारी - कृपया अनुवाद करें

중요한 정보 - 번역 부탁드립니다

Información importante - Por favor traducir

معلومات مهمة - الرجاء الترجمة

重要な情報-翻訳してください

اطلاعات مهم - لطفا ترجمه کنید

August 28, 2020

Dear Minnekhada Families,

Please take a moment to read the email below. There is a lot of important information provided in this email. The link to the Return to School survey is at the bottom of this email. It is very important that all Minnekhada families complete this survey and that one survey is complete for each child you have attending Minnekhada.

Our school is getting ready to welcome students back to school in a safe and controlled manner. The Ministry of Education has announced that BC schools will open in Stage 2 and 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 10th. 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 8th and Wednesday, September 9th staff will be reviewing and implementing safety procedures within the 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.

Some of the many actions taken to safely restart school this September include:

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 approach will 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.
- Masks are expected in hallways and common areas at the middle level. The only exception is for staff and students with a medical condition that precludes them from wearing a mask.
- 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 ask parents to practice physical distancing (staying apart 2m) when on school grounds. This is for your safety, the safety of staff and students and is 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 grade 6-8 classes will have no more than 30 students in the group.
- The Ministry of Education has stated that Learning Groups cannot exceed 60 people at elementary and middle school. Therefore, Learning Group sizes will be under the provincial limits outlined in Stage 2.
- 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. In some cases, specialist teachers who work with children from different learning groups (i.e. Learning assistance or English as a Second Language) will wear a mask if they cannot maintain physical distancing.
- Parents and students will learn who their child’s teacher and Learning Group/ Class is before school begins on Monday, September 14th. We expect Learning Groups to be finalized and students attending full days beginning Monday, September 14th.

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.
- Explorations teachers will continue to offer programming, but this will look significantly different. 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 be part of the educational program.
- 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 1st. 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>

INFORMATION SPECIFIC TO MINNEKHADA MIDDLE
Start/End times

In order to reduce group size, we will be organizing our students into two start and end time groups with three of our six teams in each start/end time group.

Group 1 will come at 8:40 and will leave at 2:42.

Group 2 will come at 9:00 and will leave at 3:02.

In addition to reducing congestion, this staggered start and end time allows us to more smoothly follow hand-washing procedures.

Teams will also be assigned an entrance and exit specific to their team or class (location map to come). This is the same process we followed in June and we found it effective in getting students to class quickly and efficiently.

You will be given your child's start and end time, and their assigned entrance, when you are informed of their permanent learning group for the year. As stated above, you will receive this information prior to your child returning to school on Monday, September 14th.

Recess/Lunch Times

Students will still be receiving a short recess. As we are not able to stagger recess breaks, students will remain in the classroom during this short recess break but will be able to have a snack and socialize with their learning group. Teachers will be encouraged to take students outside at other times in the day.

Lunch will be staggered into three 30-minute periods. Two teams will have lunch at the same time. Entrances and exits will also be assigned to individual teams during lunch hour to facilitate a smooth transition outside and to support handwashing. Structures will be in place to reduce group size outside.

Lockers

At this time, lockers will not be assigned.

School Tours

We are in a unique situation in that many of our students, and of course most of our incoming Grade 6 students, have not seen the new building. Please reassure your child that we will be providing a tour for student groups either during the orientation on Friday, or their first full day the following Monday. They will wear their mask on this small group tour, and we will structure tours in a way that reduces hallway traffic. We are very much looking forward to sharing our amazing new building with our students.

Construction Update

The demolition of the old building has begun. I will be providing a more detailed construction update next week.

Drop off and Pick Up

Information around drop off and pick up will be provided next week with our construction update.

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

- Thursday, September 10th: Students attend school for a welcome and important enrolment count. Duration: 10-15 minutes. Schedule to follow.
- Friday, September 11th: Students will attend a safety and school orientation session. Duration: 60 minutes. Schedule to follow.

Students will be provided with a mask and will be asked to wear it when in common areas. If a student already has a mask, we ask that they wear it both Thursday and Friday.

I will be sending out further information regarding the times that students will attend on Thursday, September 10th and Friday, September 11th.

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 this 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. **If you know someone who has school-aged children and has moved in to our neighbourhood, please encourage them to contact (call or email) the school as soon as possible to arrange registration.**

I have included the link for the survey:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=74xl2ZICUkKZJWRC3iSkSwrVSAy7_5ZPsXoegVHS20dUQjZMVVZMREY3MkxTMU5VUkNRTVZDV0dYNC4u

Please note that the Provincial Health Officer and the Ministry of Education may decide to move to different stages in response to 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 – For Parents'.

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

Wishing you a wonderful weekend and please email me with any questions that you have.

Pam Becker