

August 26th, 2020

Re. Welcome Back

Dear parents and guardians,

Our staff are so excited to be welcoming students back into the building on September 10th, for the 2020-21 school year.

We know that you have been eagerly awaiting news regarding how school is going to be organized and structured. We also appreciate your patience and understanding as the district took some time to ensure that we have strong [Health and Safety Protocols](#) in place for students and staff. These District Protocols have been created based upon the [Provincial COVID-19 Health and Safety Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#).

For Cheam students and parents, we have created a one-page document that outlines our [COVID-19 School Restart Plan](#). Here you will find important information regarding: cohorts/learning groups, recess/lunch time structures, entrance/exit protocol, mask usage, busing, before/after school protocols, as well as helpful links.

For Kindergarten students, the gradual entry plan shared with you earlier will be very similar. Essentially, the entire schedule has been moved back by two days, with the first full day for all kindergarteners now being Wednesday, September 23rd. You will receive updates on your individual meetings with the teacher as soon as possible.

For Grade One-Five students, the following is what you can expect our first week back:

Wednesday Sept. 9th

You will receive an email from the teacher of the class that your student has been assigned to for the first week. This email will detail what items your student needs to bring with them the first two days as well as where they will enter and exit the school. As in the past, if our enrollment has changed from what we planned for, further adjustments may be required. If we do need to adjust our classes, we should be able to communicate this by Friday.

The majority of instructional time will be spent within their assigned class, as normal. However, every class will have a buddy class with whom they may be able to work at various times (same or similar grade/age-group). Where the learning group will be able to spend more time interacting with each other is during recess and lunch.

Thursday Sept. 10th (8:14-10:14 am)

Upon arrival, Grade One-Five students will report to their designated areas, as per the email you received yesterday. All students will wash their hands under the teacher's supervision prior to entry. In class, the teacher will review the daily expectations, explaining why it is so important everyone adheres to these guidelines: proper hand-washing, how to maintain physical distance in different settings around the school, coughing/sneezing etiquette, and daily health checks. Students will also learn who their learning group 'buddy class' will be. All students will wash their hands again prior to dismissal.

Please note that in an effort to reduce congestion, we ask that parents remain in the parking lot, by their vehicle or on the sidewalk, both at arrival and dismissal. We will have staff out to help direct students safely. All adults at school are expected to maintain 2-metre physical distance from one another.

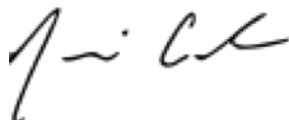
Friday Sept. 11th (8:14 am-2:14 pm)

Grade One-Five students will be in attendance for the full day. To minimize congestion around the washrooms and on the playground, we will hold two separate recess and lunch breaks. We will schedule learning cohorts to be on break together. We anticipate that after the first week of school we will be able to solidify cohorts for the remainder of the school year.

Parents, we are asking that you spend some time going over the [Daily Health Check Screening Tool](#). Collectively, to stop the spread of COVID-19, we need to understand the signs and symptoms. It is extremely important that when your child is not feeling their best, that they remain home. Remember, we are all in this together, and the decisions we make individually will affect many others.

As we enter into this school year we know that we are going to need to be flexible and ensure that our lines of communication are open. If you have questions about our plan, please reach out and connect over the phone (604.792.1416) or by email (iain_gardner@sd33.bc.ca).

Thanks very much.



Iain Gardner, Principal