



RIDGEVIEW ELEMENTARY

1250 Mathers Avenue
West Vancouver, BC
V7T 2G3
Phone: 604.981.1250
Fax: 604.981.1251
westvancouver.schools.ca/ridgeview
-elementary

September 2nd, 2020

Hello Ridgeview Families,

Further to last week's communication email, here is a quick [Welcome Back to School video](#) with some Health and Safety tips and information to start the year.

The following information will provide families of students in Grades 1 - 7 with new and up-to-date details to start the 2020/21 school year during COVID-19. **Please note, that families of Kindergarten students have been emailed specific details for gradual entry in June and those plans will not change.**

As schools open, we will be operating at Stage 2 which will include the following elements of our Return to School Plan.

Learning Cohorts

Students will be in a *learning cohort*, which is defined in West Vancouver as the child's class plus their teacher and a designated EA if required. The idea of the *learning cohort* is to limit exposure to others. Students must minimize physical contact in the classroom, and students need to follow existing Health & Safety protocols that we set out and established in June. We will minimize adult contact and when other adult educators visit or work with a student in this *learning cohort*, they must keep 2m physical distance or wear a mask.

Staggered Schedules

We will have staggered starts, recess, lunch and dismissals. Each grade will have a designated entrance/exit, much like in June. These entrances will be reviewed during the orientation sessions.

Grade	Start Time	Dismissal
Kindergarten, 2, 4	8:40 am	2:40 pm
1, 3, 5	8:50 am	2:50 pm
6, 7	9:00 am	3:00 pm

Daily Health Assessment and Illness

As a part of their daily routine, it is expected that families complete the daily health assessment ([BC COVID-19 Self Assessment Tool](#)) before dropping their child(ren) off at school each day. Please do not send your child to school showing any symptoms of illness. Keep them home and consult your family doctor or call 811. If children or staff develop any symptoms during the day, they will be isolated.

immediately from their class and parents will be expected to pick them up right away. They can then follow up with the correct medical professional.

Masks

It is a personal choice at elementary if a child wishes to wear one. With that being said, students will be provided with two reusable cloth masks for them to use as needed. Adults in the building will be wearing masks in high traffic areas, when working with students from different learning cohorts when physical distancing cannot happen.

Hand Hygiene

Our stringent health and safety protocols will continue to be in place in any “stage” to maintain the calm and safe environment that we have established at Ridgeview with this past June’s reopening. Students must arrive on time for handwashing which is structured into routine and staffed at the start of the day - we need your continued support with this please. Students will complete hand hygiene procedures before and after eating, as well as before and after anytime they leave their classroom.

Dates to Note:

Tuesday, September 1st – School offices open. Please email slytle@wvschools.ca for any registration questions or to submit documents.

ORIENTATION WEEK:

Tuesday, September 8th & Wednesday, September 9th – Health and Safety training for all staff and classroom set up for stage 2 – no students in attendance.

Thursday, September 10th & Friday, September 11th – Student Orientation. Times slots will be emailed to families, Wednesday, September 2nd. All students will be invited for a 105 minute Health and Safety orientation session.

SECOND WEEK OF SCHOOL:

Monday, September 14th – We will continue to use a staggered entry start based on last June’s success (see below). Students will line up (physically distanced, 2m) at this year’s grade entry door. We ask that parents stand back if they are on site or remain off the property to help with physical distancing. Teachers will come out and greet the students and call out their new class list. This is the final *learning cohort*. You will know who your child’s teacher is then or at the end of the day when the teachers walk the students out. Your new child’s teacher will also be sending a greeting email on Monday with information to start off the year. School supplies that were ordered in the spring through Creative Children will be handed out on Monday – or bring your own purchased school supplies on this date.

By Monday September 14th, we will have completed class designs and honoured any parent request made before May 31, 2020. We cannot make any changes once students are inside their *learning cohort*. If a student has friends in the other class, they are able to connect with them during recess and lunch; however, our protocols still ask that students remain physically distant outside – and as Dr. Bonnie Henry

has guided us – outside presents as a safe environment. Though, once the *learning cohort* returns inside, we need to follow strict guidelines to ensure student safety and help with contact tracing.

Monday, September 14th through to Wednesday, September 16th – students will have 3 early dismissals as teachers will remain with their new *learning cohorts* for the 20 minute eating time at lunch, to help establish health and safety protocols. For these 3 days the staggered start and end times are as follows to accommodate this:

Grade	Start Time	Early Dismissal
2 & 4	8:40 am	2:20 pm
1, 3 & 5	8:50 am	2:30 pm
6 & 7	9:00 am	2:40 pm

*Note again that on the morning of Monday September 14th, – students return to their grade entry door as outlined during the Student Orientation in week 1. Your child will exit from the same door they entered through in the morning.

Thursday, September 17th – The everyday start and end times are:

Grade	Start Time	Regular Dismissal
2 & 4	8:40 am	2:40 pm
1, 3 & 5	8:50 am	2:50 pm
6 & 7	9:00 am	3:00 pm

Remember, students returning from outside of Canada from any summer family trips, must follow health guidelines to self-quarantine for at least 14 days before returning to school. Please plan accordingly and contact the office to let us know if this will delay your arrival back to school.

Lastly, we will continue to be using technology moving forward and all students will have a Google student account. This year at Ridgeview, we have expanded “Bring Your Own Device” to now include Grade 4. Only students in Grade 4 – 7 will require a device at school.

Our calendar requires adjusting for some scheduled events and you will be given these details soon. For now, note that September 25th is a Professional Day and no classes are in session.

Thank you for your continued patience and understanding. We want to start off on a safe foot to keep our schools open and available for students.

Mr. W. Zerbe

Ridgeview Principal

Mr. C. Parslow

Ridgeview Vice-Principal