

Chalmers Elementary

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September 8, 2020

This information is for parents / guardians regarding student return to school on a full-time basis at Chalmers Elementary School.

Students must not attend school if they demonstrate any signs of illness.

Dear Parents / Guardians:

Please read the following information carefully as it contains important details on how Chalmers Elementary School will be working to keep our students, staff and community safe during this school year. The BC Center for Disease Control, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education provided guidance for these measures. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding.

A. Helpful Resources and Links

[Delta School District's Stage 2 Covid 19 Health and Safety Plan](#)

[UBC Faculty of Medicine video](#) - teaches kids more about Covid 19

[BC Children's Hospital's Tips on helping prepare kids for back to school](#)

B. Student Orientations

On Thursday, September 10 and Friday, September 11 students will attend two orientation sessions (one each day) as per the following schedule:

Time	First Letter of Child's Last name	Line-up/ Dismissal Location (Grades 1-4)	Line- up/ Dismissal Location (Grades 5-7)	Line up/ Dismissal Location (Kindergarten)
9:00-10:15	A to Gi	Intermediate Grass Field (NE side of school)	Intermediate Gravel Field (N side of school)	Outside Kindergarten Doors (Front of School)
10:45-12:00	Go to M	Intermediate Grass Field (NE side of school)	Intermediate Gravel Field (N side of school)	Outside Kindergarten Doors (Front of School)
1:15-2:30	N to Z	Intermediate Grass Field (NE side of school)	Intermediate Gravel Field (N side of school)	Outside Kindergarten Doors (Front of School)

Students are to attend at the same time on both Thursday and Friday. During these orientations students will be learning about the safety rules and routines needed to keep our school environment safe and healthy for everyone. Students should bring a pencil bag/box to the sessions that includes a pencil, eraser and colours.

C. Beginning the Week of September 14th

- Beginning the week of September 14th, students in Grades 1 - 7 will attend full time. We will be implementing staggered entry/exit times for all transitions (morning entry, recess, lunch, and dismissal). Parents will be informed of the staggered entry and exit times for their child's class at the end of the day on Thursday, September 10 via an email from your child's teacher.

- Kindergarten students will follow the gradual entry schedule for the week of September 14th - 18th that was sent home last week. Kindergarten students will begin full time attendance on Monday, September 21st. If you have any questions about the Gradual Entry Schedule please contact the office at 604-594-5437.

D. Before Coming to School Everyday

1. Assess your child daily

- Parents and caregivers must assess their child daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other infectious respiratory disease before sending them to school and not send them to school if they are sick. Please refer to this [Daily Health CheckTool](#). If you answer yes to any of the questions, your child must stay home from school. This form is to be completed at home and does not need to be sent to the school. Please ensure that you have completed the Daily Health Check form on Parent Connect before Thursday, September 10.
- Anyone who is sick will not be allowed in school and should be assessed by a doctor. If you are unsure about sending your child to school, please refer to the [BC COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool](#), or contact 8-1-1, or the local public health unit to seek further input.
- If your child does become sick while at school, they will be isolated and you will be called to pick up your child right away.

2. Review proper hygiene and physical distancing

- Remind your children about physical distancing and to keep their hands to themselves at all times.
- Please review [proper handwashing technique](#) with your child and ensure your child washes his/her hands before coming to school
- If your child will be wearing a mask (not required), please review [mask etiquette and safety](#)

3. Ensure your child comes fully prepared for the day

- Clothing & Sunscreen - Please send your child with proper clothing for all kinds of weather, as we will spend time outdoors. Sunscreen should be applied at home. Only send sunscreen if your child is able to apply it independently (teachers will not be permitted to apply sunscreen to your child). Due to restricted access to the building, and needing to limit items being dropped off throughout the day, you are also encouraged to send an extra set of clothes, in a sealed plastic bag, labelled with your child's name
- Food & Water - Please ensure your child brings sufficient water for the day (minimum, 2 water bottles), as school water fountains have been turned off and we need to limit traffic in the hallways as much as possible.
- Students must also bring their snacks and lunches with them in the morning (once they are in classes full days) as lunch drop offs at school will not be permitted. Should a student forget his/her lunch, they will not go hungry. We will have some pre-packaged food supplies on hand for emergencies. Students will not be permitted to share food with one another (also, please do not send treats on your child's birthday).
- The school will not be handing out utensils to students. Send food in containers that your child can open independently. If your child cannot open the container, please use an alternative.

4. Other Items

- While masks are not required, some families may feel more comfortable if their child is wearing one. Feel free to make the choice you are most comfortable with. Parents can send a small bottle of hand sanitizer with their child, for personal use if desired.

E. Arriving at School

1. Important Reminders

- Parents, we need your assistance to keep our morning entry procedures safe and orderly. If you are accompanying your children to school, please ensure you are also practicing social distancing.

- Please arrive on time (not too early, not too late) for your child's scheduled entry.
- For the safety of our students, and the courtesy of our neighbours, parents are asked to respect the municipal parking laws and regulations in and around our school. Also, please do not drive through the roundabout at the front of the school unless you are a registered daycare provider or need to use our accessible parking stalls.
- Parents are asked to say goodbye to their children from a distance. Parents are not permitted to come into the school. Should you require assistance, please call the office.

F. During the School Day

1. Safety Procedures

- For those students who did not return in June, they will see that we now have new ways of entering, navigating and exiting the school. Some areas of the school are off limits and access to our building is restricted to staff and students. All of these changes are put in place to ensure the safety of our students, staff, and families. We ask that everyone please adhere to these protocols.
- Students will wash their hands frequently throughout the day, including:
 - when they first arrive at school
 - before and after they eat
 - before and after going outside
 - before going home
 - and more!
- Students will wash their hands in the bathroom or in their classroom and be asked to wash again when they arrive in the classroom (this guarantees handwashing).

2. Entering the School Building

- Students will need to maintain physical distance from one another when entering the building. Teachers will help students learn this. Coming inside will take a bit longer than usual, as not everyone can come in at the same time. Starting the week of September 14th, we will be using a staggered start to assist with this. Class line ups will also be located further away from the building than what we are used to. This is to ensure that there is a clear path around the perimeter of the school. Your child's teacher will let you know where they are to line up.
- When students arrive in their classrooms, they will be instructed to wash their hands.
- After washing hands, students will go to their desk/table in the classroom and wait there until all of the students are ready (activity to do while waiting).

3. Learning Cohorts

- There has been much talk about "learning cohorts", which might sound confusing. Simply put, a "learning cohort" is a group of students/teachers who remain together.
- Within the cohort, students do not need to maintain the 2m physical distance. Although, minimal close physical contact is still the expectation.
- At the elementary level, learning groups may include up to 60 students, however at our school, your child's learning group will essentially be his/her classroom.
- A learning group would be larger (up to 60 students) only in certain circumstances such as two grade 6/7 classes who take band together.
- Just as you have certain people in your "family bubble", at school your child's class is his/her "bubble".

4. Classrooms

- For students who did not return to school in June, the classroom may look different from what they are used to. Classroom routines will help students to minimize close contact.
- The classroom may look emptier than students are used to seeing

- Teachers will be putting away items that aren't needed right now and arranging desks/tables in a way that allows for as much space as possible
- We need to limit the things that we touch
- Students will not be sharing their supplies, food or other personal items. Sharing ideas is great, though!

5. Hallway Traffic

- There will be directional flow markers for students to follow in hallways so that physical distancing can be observed.

6. Washrooms

- Students will learn new procedures for using the washrooms.
- Some stalls may be closed and only 1 student will be in the washroom at the same time
- We need to limit the things that we touch and keep it clean.
- There will be signage and other visual indicators to help students with social distancing
- Washrooms will be cleaned more often
- Students should also make sure they've used the washroom before coming to school

7. Playground

- Students will still be going outside to play during recess and lunch. Please ensure your child is dressed for the weather.
- To help ensure that your child remains in their learning cohort, classes will be assigned an area on the playground for their class and one other.
- Our school yard has been divided into 6 zones and a schedule will be created so that students know which zone they can play in on any given day. There will not be more than 60 students/staff in any zone.
- With our staggered start/end times for recess and lunch, only half of our students will be outside at any once.

8. Dismissal

- Beginning Monday, September 14 students will be dismissed as per the staggered dismissal schedule your child's teacher will share with you on Thursday, September 10.
- If picking up your child, please be on time and don't plan for your child to wait at the office. Consider setting a meeting spot on the school grounds, away from the building, to connect at the end of each day.
- Please remember to observe physical distancing and leave the school grounds promptly.

G. The Custodians Will Work Hard to keep our School Clean

- Students will be reminded to respect how we use all areas of our school.
- Students/Staff can make their job easier by making sure that we clean up after ourselves and leave our desk/table spaces clear.
- Our school will be cleaned more frequently throughout the day, including classrooms and high touch areas.

Sincerely,

Jeff McCallum

Principal

