



# Coast Meridian Elementary School

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September 2, 2020

Dear Coast Meridian families,

We are very much looking forward to welcoming you back to school and we are happy to be sharing more start-up details with you. This is both an exciting and a challenging time as we begin preparing for the safe and supportive return for our students, many of whom, have not been with us in our buildings for quite some time. Returning to school may lead to heightened anxiety for students and staff so this will be a time for us to look after one another. We will be discussing how we can support staff as well as strategizing how to welcome students in the early days in a calm, caring and connected way in order to build a sense of belonging and community.

## Opening Week Information

Welcoming students back during the first week of the school year requires careful planning as we adhere to the Provincial Health & Safety Guidelines and we organize students into learning cohorts for their first day of regular classes on September 14.

## Guidelines:

1. September 8 and 9 are days for teachers to meet with the Health & Safety Committee, review Health & Safety Guidelines, discuss and understand how these guidelines apply to our school site and context, discuss the details of orientation plans for students, solidify student numbers, and prepare for weeks 1 and 2. \*\*No students are in attendance on September 8 and 9.
2. Student Orientations will occur on September 10 and 11, with regular classes beginning on September 14.
3. In order to adhere to the Health & Safety Guidelines, on September 10 and 11 students need to remain physically distanced. This physical distance will need to be maintained until classes and cohorts are formed and in place for September 14. This will require many staff to be involved in the orientation process, as students will be spread throughout the school in small groups. September 10 and 11 orientations will be an opportunity to reconnect and share Health and Safety information, including discussions around the following: physical contact guidelines; procedures for entering and leaving the school; common area guidelines (walking on the right side of hallways); learning cohorts; recess/lunch; hand hygiene etc.

Students will attend orientation at the following times:

September 10 & 11 – Orientation (not including students who registered for the Elementary Transition Program)

•9:00 – 10:00 Grades 1, 2, 3, 4 \*\*Signs will be placed behind the school to show meeting areas

•11:00 – 12:00 Grades 5, 6, 7 \*\*Signs will be placed behind the school to show meeting areas

September 10 & 11 Kindergarten Orientation – Gradual Entry (not including students who registered for the Elementary Transition Program)

\*the school will send out information to inform you if your child is in Group A or B shortly

•12:30 – 1:30 Group A – Sept. 10

•12:30 – 1:30 Group B – Sept. 11

As large numbers of students will be arriving at once we will welcome students in a way that spreads them out. Grades 1-4 (9:00-10:00 am) and Grades 5-7 (11:00 am -12:00 pm) will meet in the back of the school. Staff will have signs to indicate where you should line up. Students will gather in a manner that maintains physical distancing from each other, as well as other families and staff. These groups will be the same for both Orientation days.

Kindergarten (12:30-1:30) will meet in the front of the school. The teachers will have an A or B sign to indicate where to line up.

In order to stagger entry on the first full day of classes on September 14 and ease any congestion, we will again meet behind the school and will be using the following schedule:

- Grade 1, 2, 3 - 8:30-2:30

- Kindergarten 8:45-10:45 Group A and 12:15-2:15 Group B

- Grade 4, 5, 6, 7 - 9:00-2:30

Grade 1-7 students will be dismissed from the back of the field on the first day, and from their regular classroom on remaining days.

Some additional considerations for this year:

Students must come with their recess snack, lunch and water bottle. To ensure WorkSafeBC procedures are followed, only students and staff are permitted in the building. Parents will not be able to enter the school to drop off lunches or other items. Thank you in advance for your understanding.

Students can bring some basic school supplies for the orientation days. The School Start and grade level supply lists were posted on website. For those that ordered, we will send home the kits once they arrive. For those who are using past supplies or purchased new supplies, please bring those to school September 14.

We are grateful for your support and understanding as we work together to provide a safe and welcoming back-to-school experience for your child.

Thank you,

Amber Flanagan

Principal