



Coast Meridian Elementary School

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May 26, 2020

Dear Coast Meridian Families,

As you have heard on the news, as well as through the videos Jordan Tinney has sent home to families, we will be starting back at school on June 1. The District sent the plan to the Ministry for approval and we are finally able to share those details with our school community. The district wide schedule is as follows.

The return to face-to-face instruction is optional and parents may opt out and choose for their child to continue with at home, on-line learning at this time. K-5 students are invited to attend 50% of the time; Grade 6/7 students are invited to attend 20% of the time; and children of Essential Service Workers (Tier 1 and Tier 2) are invited to attend 5 days per week, as staffing allows, if they do not have access to daycare. Our Integration Support Teachers will reach out to families of students they work with to discuss the needs of each student during this time. For those students who do qualify for and opt to attend 5 days per week, please know that our teachers will not be at the school on Wednesdays, but supervision will still be available for the children attending.

Each classroom has been divided into two groups - Group A and Group B.

Grades K-5

Group A: 50% invited to attend Monday, Thursday.

Group B: 50% invited to attend Tuesday, Friday.

*(*Grade 6 students in a Gr. 5/6 class are on the K-5 schedule and will be invited twice a week.)*

Grade 6

Group A: 50% invited to attend Monday.

Group B: 50% invited to attend Tuesday.

Grade 7

Group A: 50% invited to attend Thursday

Group B: 50% invited to attend Friday

Classroom teachers will email all families today to inform you if your child is in Group A or Group B. Every child will be added to a group at this time, as mentioned however, it remains optional for parents to send their children to school. A school survey link will be in that email. We are asking families to complete one survey per child to let us know if you are sending your child to school or not. The survey also asks if you are a Tier 1 or Tier 2 Essential Service Worker, and if so, if you would like your child to attend 5 days. If your child works with the Integration Support Teacher, please complete the survey to let us know if he/she is coming to school and as mentioned above, the IST teacher will also connect with you.

The **at-home remote learning will also continue** at this time, so families will be asked to continue with that work and communication with the teacher, even though children may be coming to school. Teachers will likely need to decrease the video conferences/meeting times in June, as they will be working with students in the school face-to-face. In-class instruction will be different from what students are used to given the smaller groups, the strict health and safety guidelines and the balance and integration of online learning at home and in-school. Wednesdays will be a day for teachers to connect with students continuing to learn at home, as well as a deep cleaning day in the school.

If your child has a loaned iPad or laptop at home, they may keep it for now and continue to use it, although individual teachers *may* ask them to bring it to school to support them in their work while students are here.

As mentioned by Education Minister Rob Fleming, we will do our best to ensure your child is with their usual classroom teacher, but there may be some circumstances that will prevent that. Depending on numbers and staff availability, we may need to create mixed grade groups and students may not be in their own classroom.

Just to give you all a friendly heads up, at the recommendation of Dr. Henry and our Health Minister, we will *be asking parents NOT to enter the school through any of the classroom doors or the front doors*. Our front doors will also be locked, but please know this is not because we don't want to talk to you! Please call the office and we will assist you over the phone, or can come out front to help you if needed. Right now, we are trying to limit the number of people entering the building so that we can keep up with the cleaning protocols. We really appreciate your cooperation as we work to find the systems that will keep us all healthy and allow us to get back to some semblance of normal life.

We are asking that parents please *send lunches with your child in the morning*, as we will not be able to accommodate lunches being dropped off mid-day. Please make sure your child is able to open the container you send lunch in independently and that your child has the required cutlery. We will also be getting students to bring home all leftover food, waste and wrappers. Whatever they bring in, will go back out each day.

We are continuing to develop Health and Safety protocols for our school, including, but not limited to;

- our isolation policy for children demonstrating any 'COVID' like symptoms
- staggering recess and lunch time, which means students will be outside in small groups and may not be with their friends from other classes
- strict guidelines around walking in hallways and throughout the school
- scheduled bathroom breaks
- socially distanced desks/tables
- putting all toys/shared items away
- scheduling deep cleaning of classrooms and high touch surfaces throughout the day.

More details about our health and safety protocols, including morning drop off and end of day pick up locations will be sent out later in the week once we have a clearer idea of how many students will be in our school each day and which classrooms they will be in.

As Jordan Tinney mentioned in his last video, teachers will be pausing on-line learning Thursday May 28 and Friday May 29 to have time to work through Health and Safety training and prepare classroom spaces for face-to-face instruction. We will also be inviting parents to pick up student supplies on Thursday and/or Friday this week as even for students returning face-to-face, we need to clear all classrooms to make it easier to clean. Students attending school for in-class instruction will bring school supplies back and forth each day. Teachers will email more details about the classroom supply pick up plans later in the week.

As always, thank you so much for all you are doing to support your children's learning at home, and for keeping the communication flowing with the teachers. This has been a difficult time for many, and the cooperation we have experienced with all of you has helped make the remote learning aspect of school as successful as it has been. We look forward to seeing some happy faces soon.

Please keep an eye out for the email from the teacher and the survey link, which will be sent to you today.

Sincerely,
Amber Flanagan
Principal