



April 16 2021

Dear Kwantlen Park Families,

As we wrap up Quarter 3 and head into the final quarter of our school year, we thought it was an important time to update students and families on the most current information we have for the remainder of this school year and looking ahead to next year.

Health & Safety Updates

The Ministry of Education, Provincial Health Office, and BC Centre for Disease Control have provided school districts with amendments to the K-12 health and safety guidelines.

The detailed amendments can be found in the following two documents:

- [Provincial COVID-19 Health and Safety Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#)
- [BCCDC Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools](#)

These amendments have been introduced as an extra layer of protection in response to recent increases in COVID-19 cases, variants of concern, transmission rates and more severe cases in B.C., in particular, in the Lower Mainland and in our health region, Fraser Health.

Summary of Amendments to the K-12 Health and Safety Guidelines

Effective immediately all K-12 staff and all students in Grades 4 to 12 are required to wear a mask or a face shield (in which case a non-medical mask should be worn in addition to the face shield) indoors in schools and on school buses – both within and outside of their learning group. Mask use will be encouraged through positive and inclusive approaches.

The guidance outlined above regarding mask requirements does not apply to staff, students and visitors in the following circumstances:

- To a person who cannot tolerate wearing a mask for health or behavioural reasons;
- To a person who is unable to put on or remove a mask without the assistance of another person;
- If the mask is removed temporarily for the purposes of identifying the person wearing it;
- If the mask is removed temporarily to engage in an educational activity that cannot be performed while wearing a mask (e.g. playing a wind instrument, engaging in high-intensity physical activity, etc.);
- If a person is eating or drinking; or
- While providing a service to a person with a disability or diverse ability (including but not limited to a hearing impairment) where visual cues, facial expressions and/or lip reading/movements is important.

As mentioned previously, all of our schools have reviewed their health and safety plans and are using the government's [School Health and Safety Checklist Tool](#) to ensure consistent implementation of the recommended measures.



In addition, we ask for your support in the following ways:

- Please send your child to school with a clean mask that they are used to wearing, and a spare mask. Schools will have disposable masks available if students forget their masks.
- Please share this Health Canada [video](#) and [poster](#) with your child(ren).
- Please remind your child(ren) that they should not remove their masks to eat or drink while walking through common areas of the school. Masks should only be removed for the purposes of eating and drinking where a person is relatively stationary (e.g. sitting in their classroom).
- Out of school, please ensure your child avoids gathering with anyone indoors from outside of your household and limit outdoor gatherings to the same group of 10.
- Keep your child at home if they don't feel well. Complete the [daily health check](#) every day.
- Remind your child to maintain at least two metres physical distance from others when outside of their cohort, and to wash/sanitize their hands frequently.

These are simple measures, but together they provide valuable layers of protection and help to make a huge difference in preventing the spread of COVID-19.

Early Dismissals

The Surrey Board of Education has approved early dismissal days to provide an opportunity for school-based health & safety committees and school staff to review and revisit health & safety plans, discuss recommendations, and implement or adjust any COVID-19 mitigation strategies. Students at Kwantlen Park will be dismissed at 1:35 on the early dismissal days.

The following one-hour early dismissal dates for 2020-2021 were approved:

April 30, 2021

May 14, 2021

June 7, 2021

An additional change to our early dismissals this year is as a result of the change from semesters to quarters. The previously scheduled early dismissal on **April 22nd** for the purpose of Semester 2 Parent/Teacher Conferences has been moved to **May 20th** for Quarter 4 Parent/Teacher Conferences.

Grad 2021

Unfortunately, we are unable to safely hold our traditional Kwantlen Park Secondary grad activities this year. We are currently in the planning stages for our Grad 2021 Commencement Ceremonies during the day on Saturday June 19th.

We will be scheduling times for students to attend within their Q4 cohorts over the duration of the day. Students, and families, should plan on holding that day open until we are able to distribute a final schedule of the time individual students should arrive and the guidelines around who will be able to attend with the student. As of right now we are awaiting further direction from Fraser Health on how many individuals we will be able to invite into the ceremony.



2021-2022 School Year

Planning is well underway for the 2021-2022 school year at Kwantlen Park. We are working closely with the school district as well as the district's educational partners in government as we build plans based on where we are right now as well as contingency plans for both an improvement or decline in the COVID pandemic in our community.

At this time our planning is for a school year that looks much like this year from an organizational perspective. We are building a schedule based on the quarter system again with students and teachers in learning cohorts. There will likely be changes to our bell schedule and daily organization based on student, staff, and family feedback from our current year.

Grade 8/9 Blended/Transitions (Online) 2021/2022

Kwantlen Park Secondary will once again be offering a fully online option for grade 8 & 9 students in the 2021/2022 school year who are not comfortable returning to face-to-face instruction. We will be looking to collect registrations for this program in the coming weeks so please keep an eye on your email inbox.

- Full year commitment (September to June)
- All students will receive the same 8 courses
- May be a regional model depending on registration numbers
- Instruction will primarily be synchronous online through TEAMS

Student Learning Survey

The B.C. Ministry of Education Student Learning Survey is open for parents until April 30th. Students in Grades 4, 7, 10 and 12, their parents and all staff in B.C. public schools are invited to participate in an annual online satisfaction survey about their school experience. The survey takes about 30 minutes to complete. Parent surveys are available in 18 languages.

Complete the survey [here](#)

Thank you to all members of our school community for your ongoing commitment to keeping each other safe, healthy, and learning. Unprecedented times require the collective to be united as we build creative and thoughtful solutions to the obstacles in front of us. I feel very lucky to be working and learning in such a committed, caring, and creative community!

Please reach out at any time if you have questions, comments, or concerns kilpatrick_m@surreyschools.ca

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Kilpatrick', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mike Kilpatrick
Principal