



September 14, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Thank you to parents for your understanding as we have worked through our grade group rotations to create balanced classrooms. Every year, we follow this process to ensure we have accurate student enrollment numbers, and that staff have had an opportunity to meet and work with all the children in their grade group before class placement decisions are finalized.

We are excited to confirm that our school will have 26 divisions this year, with almost 600 students. We will continue to have a separate recess and lunch for our Primary and Intermediate students. This ensures students have a lot of playground access and room to play.

We are sending out finalized classroom placements for Grades 1-7 through email (via MyEd) today for our families. You should expect an email by 4:00pm today. The email contains division and teacher assignment information for your child(ren). If you did not receive an email, please know we will have staff outside the office area at 8:15 am with division/class assignments (look for the adult in the orange vest). We will be able to direct your child(ren) to where they are to line up. Starting Tuesday, your child will have a designated spot where the class will line up every day for drop off and pick up (teachers today took time to show students where to line up for Tuesday). In addition, please note our Kindergarten classes will be finalized on Wednesday.

We are requesting that you please be patient and give placements an opportunity to be assessed. After a few days, students usually end up loving their teacher and the class they are in. Children need their parents to reassure them that everything will be OK. Some children are excited about being in a new class, but for others the change to a new class in September can be challenging. We appreciate your support in talking with your children and helping them adjust as they go through the "settling in" period during the first few weeks of school. We find that children soon become comfortable in their new classrooms with their new classmates, as they learn the classroom routines.

We ask that you please be respectful and do not call the school immediately this week requesting a change in classes as NO classroom changes will be made during this transition time.

Key points to keep in mind about class placements:

- It is not appropriate to request a specific teacher. The focus should always be on placement based on the most appropriate learning environment
- Combined classes are not inferior learning environments. In fact, research suggests that students in combined classes do just as well, if not better, than students in straight classes
- In many cases, students are either placed together or apart depending on dynamics observed by previous teachers, and this rotation process
- From year to year, teachers communicate essential information regarding a student's ability in numeracy and literacy, as well as work habits and behaviour. This information guides teachers in the formation of classes

- We look forward to working with your child and you in a partnership of growth and learning this year

Thank you for everyone's patience as we worked through the process of orientation and prepared for finalized classes to start on Tuesday. As a staff, we have been very appreciative of the kind words, messages of support and understanding from our parent community as we work through our September start-up. We have a wonderful group of students, parents and staff who always come together. While some procedures and practices will look different this year, what will not change is our commitment to keeping your children safe and our joy in learning. We will continue to work closely as partners with our parents to support students, and each other.

Change in District wide calendar

The Surrey District calendar has been updated to include The National Day of Truth and Reconciliation on September 30. The school will be closed this day and students don't attend. The updated calendar is included at the end of this newsletter.

Ms. L. Paredes and Ms. B. Scott

Sunnyside Principals

Covid Protocols

Thank you to all our families for your support as we continue to practice new ways of ensuring safety for students and staff.

K-12 Health Check

Just a reminder that every parent is responsible for monitoring the daily health of your child(ren) before sending them to school.

The Ministry of Health has also provided families with an additional resource, the online [K-12 Health Check](#).

Visitors are required to:

- Perform a health check prior to entering the building
- wear a mask
- Sign in with contact information at the front office (do not enter the school except from office doors)
- Wash/sanitize hands upon entering the building
- Respect others' personal space
- Visitors are to only access areas required for the visit

Masks:

- All staff visitors, volunteers and students in Grades 4-12 are **required** to wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status, while indoors and on school buses.
- We encourage parents, while on school grounds, to wear a mask at drop-off and pick-up times.

Cleaning and Disinfecting:

- Frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected at least 1x/day

If a Student Develops Symptoms of Illness at School

The student will be asked to wear a mask (their own or we provide them one). They will wait in a designated spot until they can be picked up. They will remain in a designated room and supervision will be provided. Arrangements will be made for the student to go home as soon as possible. The area where the child was will be disinfected. The student/family is encouraged to seek assessment by a health-care provider.

Fraser Health will be responsible for notifying any families if there is a confirmed case of Covid, or if it becomes necessary to self-isolate to monitor symptoms.

If parents in the community are carpooling:

- Spread out occupants as much as possible
- Travel with the same people whenever possible
- Masks recommended for those 9 and older
- Hand hygiene before and after
- Open windows
- Clean high touch surfaces
- Set ventilation to bring in the fresh outside air, not recirculate

We will update our Sunnyside community as we receive more information regarding safety protocols.

REMINDERS FOR PARENTS:

Students should be arriving at school with all the items they need such as snacks, lunch, water bottles, etc. **Please do not drop off items for students at the school once classes are in session.** It is disruptive to both classrooms and the office. We appreciate your support and understanding with having students prepared for their day. We want to build and encourage habits of independence and being organized for the day ahead.

Construction and Parking

Our construction is well under way for our new 10-classroom addition. The expected completion date is June 2022. We have a lot of fencing up to keep children safe as our building is being worked on.

Our cement foundation is being worked on this week. Today we will see several cement deliveries as our foundation is poured. **To ensure safety, the middle parking lot currently being used as a walkway is closed today from 8:40 am – 5.00 pm.** Students and caregivers will need to enter the school grounds from the front of the school or the lower gravel field. It will be an exciting day for our students, as they will see the trucks pouring throughout the day.

As work continues throughout the year, there will be changes in parking and foot traffic access. Our front drop-off loop is unaffected; however, this remains a staff parking lot so please do not park in this area. Children must be able to enter and exit the vehicle independently for this drop-off zone. If your child requires assistance, please park in the lower lot or on the street and walk in. This ensures the drop zone does not become backed up as we need to keep it moving freely. Children should exit their vehicle and walk along the sidewalk, not through the parking lot and driving lanes. **Drivers please “crawl at a snails’ pace” through our parking lots always to ensure student safety and to prevent accidents.**

We are strongly encouraging families to prioritize walking to school this year. Our parking will continue to be limited as we work through construction. Our middle **Staff Only parking lot** will be used to accommodate foot traffic from 8:15am-2:45pm every day until our construction has been completed.

Parents are permitted to park in the lower lot. Student safety is a top priority, and we encourage parents to ensure they are parked in designated areas only and not double parked illegally. If you must drive,

please park in the neighbourhood, and walk in rather than get caught in the traffic congestion that will be near the school. Your attention to this is appreciated.

Bell Schedule 20/21

8:30 am	First Bell
8:35 am	Classes Commence
10:15 am	Recess Begins (Primary)
10:30 am	Recess Ends (Primary)
10:30 am	Recess Begins (Intermediate)
10:45 am	Recess Ends (Intermediate)
11:50 am	Lunch Begins
	<i>Primary Students Eat (20 mins)</i>
	<i>Intermediate Students Outside (20 mins)</i>
12:10 pm	<i>Primary Students Outside (20 mins)</i>
	<i>Intermediate Students Eat (20 mins)</i>
12:30 pm	Bell
	Classes commence
2:30 pm	Classes Dismissed

Updated school calendar

Sunnyside 2021 – 2022 calendar	
7 September 2021	First Day of School
27 September 2021	Non-Instructional Day – school not in session
29 September 2021	Orange Shirt Day
30 September 2021	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – school closed
11 October 2021	Thanksgiving – school closed
21 October 2021	Interim report cards go home Early Dismissal 1.30 pm
22 October 2021	Non-Instructional Day – school not in session
11 November 2021	Remembrance Day – school closed
12 November 2021	Non-Instructional Day – school not in session
14 December 2021	Term 1 Formal reports go home
17 December 2021	Last day of school before Winter Break
20 December – 31 December 2021	Winter Break
3 January 2022	First day of school after Winter Break
19 January 2022	Early dismissal 1.30 pm - Assessment, evaluation and curriculum planning
10 February 2022	Interim report cards go home Early Dismissal 1.30 pm
21 February 2022	Family Day – school closed
23 February 2022	Anti-Bullying/Pink Shirt Day

25 February 2022	Non-Instructional Day – school not in session
8 March 2022	Term 2 Formal reports go home
11 March 2022	Last day of school before Spring Break
14 March – 18 March 2022	School Closure Days
21 March – 25 March 2022	Spring Break
28 March 2022	First day of school after Spring Break
15 April 2022	Good Friday – school closed
18 April 2022	Easter Monday – school closed
6 May 2022	Non-Instructional Day – school not in session
23 May 2022	Victoria Day – school closed
30 May 2022	Non-Instructional Day – school not in session
23 June 2022	Term 3 Formal reports go home Early Dismissal 1.30 pm - Assessment, evaluation and curriculum planning Last day for students to attend
24 June 2022	Administrative Day – students do not attend