

**May 25, 2020**

Dear Parents and Students,

Below please find the schedule of attendance for students as of June 1<sup>st</sup> as well as the summary of the Discussion with Russ and Alex from May 20.

**Schedule of Attendance**

Starting on June 1<sup>st</sup>, the students in each grade will have the option to return to school for in-person learning. The choice to come to school is a family one and all instruction and class activities will continue both via Zoom and in the classroom. Please ensure you have notified the school if your child(ren) will be attending school on their designated day. Space is limited and we will only be able to accommodate those who have indicated they will attend.

For those coming to school, please ensure you arrive at school in time to start Block I at 9:30am. All classes will follow the current schedule.

On Thursday June 18<sup>th</sup>, the school is open attendance for students to come to school and return textbooks, pick up belongings and say goodbye for the summer.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week of June 1	Grade 12	Grade 11	Grade 10	Grade 9	Grade 8
Week of June 8	Grade 11	Grade 12	Grade 8	Grade 10	Grade 9
Week of June 15	Grade 10	Grade 9	Grade 8		

**Summary of Q&A Discussion with Alex and Russ; 4pm, May 20, 2020**

Thank you to all who were able to make the Zoom meeting time work to participate in the call. We appreciated all of the questions that we received in advance through the google form meeting sign-up and that allowed us to break our discussion into ‘themes’. Extra questions were also considered ‘live or via the chat’.

**Theme 1: Why open school at all with only 2-3 weeks left in the academic year?**

We have been mandated by the Ministry of Education to partially return to in-person learning at school. While the school must open, families have a choice whether to send their children. All teachers will continue to provide classes to students in school and at home. British Columbia has one of the lowest infection rates in all of North America and though we may feel vulnerable, our province has done a great job of ensuring we are safe. They have also made clear how schools must prepare to keep students and staff safe.

After ten weeks of isolation many students, for their emotional needs, truly will benefit by seeing their peers and feeling that some form of ‘normal’ is ahead. I also think that having closure on the year for many students will be healthy.

From our school perspective we are going to be ready to go and excited to see every student who attends and, as we expect we may be moving between stages next year, this will give us a good time to practice our protocols, at a time where COVID-19 transmission rates are exceptionally low so we will be even better prepared for next year.

## **Theme 2: What is the school doing to enact safety and cleaning protocols?**

We are following the guidance of WorkSafeBC and the Ministry of Health to implement the following:

- High touch surfaces will be sanitized a minimum of 2-3 times a day
- Each evening a misting spray sanitizer will be used throughout the building
- Sanitizing stations will be available at the entrance to each classroom, the atrium and other parts of the building. Staff and students will be expected to sanitize hands as they enter the building, when entering each classroom, after using the washroom and before and after eating
- In general, we will monitor the health of wellbeing of anyone who enters the building. Random temperature taking will be conducted and if we notice anyone, staff or student, showing signs of any illness, they will be screened, temperature taken and isolated until they are picked up. We will be relying on our parents to do the screening at home and to not send in students if they are not well. Staff will follow the same screening protocols and will also be required to remain home if not well.

## **Theme 3: What will it look like in the school and in the classroom for students when school opens June 1 – including schedules (hours of classes), which grades will attend, how will teachers teach students in class and remotely, etc.?**

- We will have one grade per day for in-class learning
- The number of students allowed in school is 20% of the total student body (~45 students).
- All students, remote and in-school, will follow the current schedule. 9:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.

Teachers will use a bimodal approach, using zoom or webcams to teach both the student in the room and those at home.

### Questions

Q. Are masks required for students and staff?

A. Currently, staff and students will be given the choice to wear a mask. Students should bring their own mask though we will have extra masks available if needed.

Q. How do teachers feel about this new way of teaching?

A. Teachers are concerned about challenges in teaching to students in the classroom and on Zoom simultaneously. It is another new challenge. Teachers had worked hard to become more proficient teaching on Zoom remotely so this will add another learning curve to an already difficult situation. We are recommending that teachers start simply with brief lectures or discussions and in-class work or review periods. We will offer our teachers a 2<sup>nd</sup> adult in the room as we transition for those that would like more support to help manage the groups of students.

## **Theme 4: What will the new school year in September look like?**

We are not planning for a single scenario rather planning for multiple scenarios. It will depend what stage we are in when school starts and what the province mandates.

- The Israel trip for this year and next year's Grade 8 students will go ahead as soon as it is safe to do so. It may be that in one year we will take three groups!
- We are already looking at how best to onboard new students in September. Perhaps it will be small groups coming in over a few days or if necessary, we will do a Zoom orientation. They will get to participate in bonding activities, meet their teachers, and get to know the school!

### **Theme 5: Is there anything to report around 'food' or 'lunch'?**

- Lunch
  - In keeping with physical distancing requirements, tables have been set up in the atrium
  - Students will be told not to share utensils, food, drinks etc.
  - Handwashing or hand sanitizing before and after eating
  - School microwaves will not be available for students lunches
  - No food will be provided by the school or sold in the school store
- Foods
  - No cooking in Home Economics
- Water Fountains
  - We are looking into the possibility of shutting off the push-bar so that students can use the auto no-touch refill. If the adjustment cannot be made they will be shut off.

### **Theme 6: How can parents best support the school with our re-opening in June?**

- Support your children to continue being flexible and patient as they have been so far
- Keep your children home if they have any sign of illness
- Ensure they come to school with everything they need for the day

### **Theme 7: How will final marks be calculated for the current school year?**

- We sent home an email that informed parents of the process. Simply put, any student who continues to complete their work, and is making a solid effort will not have their work in Term 3 negatively impact their final grade (it will be based primarily on Terms 1 and 2). Teachers can increase marks for students who have done well in Term 3, though we would not expect this term to be weighted as much as the previous terms. There are no final exams this year but students in Grade 11 and 12 core academic courses may approach their teachers if they feel they can demonstrate they should be re-assessed on the year.

### **Theme 8: Will students be able to return just to say goodbye?**

- Yes. We not only want to say goodbye, we want to collect their textbooks so we are ready for next year. Students will be able to return books, pick up belongings and say goodbye on Thursday June 18<sup>th</sup>.

### Additional Questions

- Can students use their lockers?

No, they will be carrying their backpacks with them so they should bring only the things they need! Our hallways are narrow and the lockers are close together so it is not possible for students to get to lockers and still practice physical distancing

- Can students leave the building at lunch?

Yes and we will encourage and remind them to follow social distancing and safety expectations. They will be required to sanitize when re-entering the building. As always, parents can request that their child not leave the building.

- Will the bus still run from Richmond?

This is dependent on the number of children per day. With current requirements the maximum number our bus can transport is 12 however if there are only three students coming on a given day it may not be cost or environmentally effective to run the bus. The best answer is “maybe” – depends on number of riders.

- Will arrival times be different?

Looking at the typical pattern of arrivals, students manage to stagger arrival times at the start of day. We will have directional signs to facilitate entry and exit into and out of the building. If we notice a need to change this, we will do so immediately. As per usual the admin will continue their routine of being outside and will monitor student arrival.

- Will the educational supports for students be the same?

Yes. Our teacher special education staff will be working with students both in class and as they have been doing remotely.

**Final Note:**

The Admin asked parents to let the school know if they notice a change in their child’s mood or behaviour. We know that this is a stressful time for our students and their parents and if there is anything we can do, please reach out to Lu Winters, Alex or me.

Regards  
Russ