



Silver Creek Elementary School

School District No. 78 (Fraser-Cascade)

63831 School Road

P. O. Box 670

Hope, B.C. V0X 1L0

August 21, 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians and Students,

I write to provide an update on our school start-up and opening plans for September 10, 2020.

We request that you contact the school (preferably by e-mail crystal.medlock@sd78.bc.ca and cc bruce.becker@sd78.bc.ca) to advise of your plans for your child(ren's) attendance at school this September. Please also indicate if they will require bus transportation. If e-mail is not possible, please phone 604-869-5212. School secretaries will return to work on August 31 and return answer phone calls at that time.

Our new Superintendent, Balan Moorthy's welcoming update letter is linked here ([Parent and Student Letter for Reopening](#)). He emphasized some of the primary reasons students are back in school:

- support emotional health
- loss of learning
- lack of social connection
- economic stress
- pressure on parents
- lack of access to technology and inactivity

Public Health provides detailed school info (see link below).

http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID_public_guidance/Guidance-k-12-schools.pdf

The three core principles from the Ministry of Education and Public Health for us to focus on are:

- Health and Safety;
- Keeping schools safe and clean; and
- Small cohort learning groups to reduce the possibility of transmission.

All staff will be provided with face masks and face shields. For staff who will function outside the specific cohort group they are attached to, masks/shields will be required if the 2m/6ft separation cannot be maintained.

The headings in Appendix A will hopefully address questions parents and students have about the September start-up at Silver Creek Elementary. While the information may not be specific to your child, the depth of this plan should give you some comfort as we plan to return to school.

Again, please contact Crystal Medlock, our school secretary and cc me your family's plans to return to school.

If you still have questions, do not hesitate to e-mail bruce.becker@sd78.bc.ca or call me. I am confident we will be able to manage the SD78 Health and Safety guidelines effectively. The school will be cleaned/disinfected regularly and that the small cohort groups will keep students safe.

Thank-you

Mr. B. Becker
Principal Silver Creek Elementary

Health and Safety Measures Appendix A

Daily Health Assessments

Staff: all staff are required to do daily health assessments. If they have symptoms of a cold, flu, COVID-19 or other infectious respiratory issues, they must stay home. In the rare event, they have symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, dry cough, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain or diarrhea). They are required to be assessed for COVID-19 and are required to stay home until the assessment clears them to return to school. If they are positive for COVID-19, they are required to contact Public Health and the school principal. Public Health will direct contact with tracing and protocols.

Students/Parents: parents are required to do daily health assessments of their child(ren) and if they have symptoms of a cold, flu, COVID-19 (fever, dry cough, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain or diarrhea) they are required to stay home until the assessment clears them to return to school.

As above in the rare event, a person/student is positive for COVID-19, they must contact Public Health and the school principal. Public Health will direct with contact tracing and protocols.

Hand Washing, Hygiene and Masks

Staff: all staff are required to wash or disinfect their hands upon entering the school and sign in to confirm their daily health assessment. Staff are encouraged to wear masks or face shields and maintain the two meters/6 feet of separation from others. Staff are limited in small areas (photocopy room, staff room) to keep the 2m/6ft separation.

Students: all classrooms have sinks and handwashing supplies; all students are required to enter through their designated entry school doors (Appendix B). Students are to go directly to their classroom and wash their hands, and teachers will supervise this. Students are also to wash their hands on each transition (recess, lunch, going home). All students will exit and re-enter their classrooms from outside using their outside classroom door.

Entrances to the school building (see Appendix B)

All **staff** will enter through the main door and complete a daily health confirmation and wash/sanitize their hands.

Students – students will line up by **cohort** to enter the school through the classroom exterior entrance.

Learning Cohort Arrangements

We will have three cohorts of students at Silver Creek Elementary, all of which are less than 60 students. There is one Primary Cohort and two Intermediate Cohorts

- Cohort #1 (Kindergarten, Grades 1 to 3) - 60 students
- Cohort #2 (Grade 4 and 5's) – 40 students

- Cohort #3 (Gr. 6 and 7 classes) – 40 students

Support for Vulnerable learners

We will arrange individual supports and arrangements for students who require extra support.

Support for Indigenous Learners

We will provide support from our First Nations Support Workers to provide additional support for Indigenous students.

Altered Bell Schedules and Staggered Recesses and Breaks

At this time, we will have two recess breaks. This will permit the separation of students by cohort. We will do the same with eating time and lunch breaks.

Supervisory Arrangements

Supervision schedules will be created to ensure that there is supervision for each cohort on breaks.

Transportation Arrangements

Transportation is planning for the physical separation of students on the bus when possible. Students in the same family may sit with each other, and whenever possible, there will be a physical separation of non-family students on the bus. Once we know the requirements for bus transportation, there will be a finalized schedule and arrangements determined.

Food Services

We will continue to provide breakfast and or lunch for those students in need. Food will be delivered to the classroom rather than have students from different cohorts coming to the kitchen.

Technology Support

Should the Ministry revert to Stage 3, technology (and support) will be provided on an "as needed" basis.

Switching from In-Person to Remote Learning if Necessary

If the Ministry of Education moves from full "in-class" instruction to remote learning or a modified system of partial "in-class" and partial remote learning. In that case, we will adapt and deliver instruction and instructional programs to meet our students' needs.

We look forward to connecting with you in person soon.

Health and Safety Measures

Appendix B

