



Hello Rutland Elementary families,

We look forward to welcoming your child(ren) back to safe classrooms. Grade 1-5 student orientation days (8:30am – 2:30pm) are taking place on September 10th and 11th. You will receive information on which one of two orientation days your child(ren) will be attending by Friday, September 4. Starting school will look different than last year, so we thank you for both your patience as we plan for back to school and your diligence in helping us keep everyone safe.

Updated Kindergarten gradual entry schedules and information was previously sent to families. Please refer to those handouts for dates and times of your Kindergartener's transition to school.

Please review the "Back to School 2020 Procedures" included in this newsletter. Staff will familiarize students with safety procedures and ensure clean, safe learning spaces, but knowing our new procedures will help you make sure students travel safely and arrive to school in good health.

Here is a sample timetable for elementary students:

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8:25 am	Learning groups line up outside at their designated meeting area for staggered entry				
Morning	Instructional Time				
Lunch	Staggered Lunch Hour Half of school to play in designated areas while other half eats in classroom, then switch places				
Afternoon	Instructional Time with Afternoon Staggered Recess in designated play areas				
2:30 pm	Dismissal				

Back to School 2020 Procedures

Getting ready for school – Parents are required to assess their child daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other infectious respiratory disease before sending them to school. If a student shows any symptoms (that are not related to an existing condition such as seasonal allergies) they must not take the bus or go to school.

Ask these questions:

- Does your child have the symptoms of a common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other infectious respiratory disease?
- Has your child been outside Canada in the last 14 days?
- Has your child been identified as a close contact of a confirmed case or outbreak?

If the answer is **yes** to any of these questions, you must keep your child at home, self-isolate, and seek care from a health-care provider.



Drop-off points – Please drop off your child(ren) no earlier than 8:25am. Students will be expected to line up in their usual class lines as in years past. There will be cones with teacher's names indicating class line ups for the first several days to help direct the flow of traffic. In addition, staff will be present outside to offer assistance. Classes will enter the building ONLY with their teachers. Parents and student should not be intermingling across learning groups in the morning.



Entrance – All parents, community members, and guests are welcome in the school building by INVITATION ONLY. Please save your hugs and goodbyes to your child(ren) outside of the school building. If you need to connect with your child's classroom teacher or the administration, please arrange a meeting time via email or phone. At your appointment time, please enter the front doors, sanitize your hands at the hand sanitizer station, and record your name, date, contact information at the GUESTS @ RLE sheet.



Feeling sick – If a student feels sick or shows any symptoms during the school day, they must report to the office and staff will follow protocols for isolating the student and returning them home.



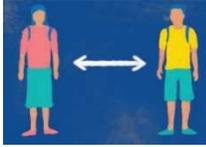
Hygiene throughout the day – Students will be expected to wash their hands:

- When entering and prior to exiting the building
- When changing classroom activities that involve common materials or spaces
- Before and after eating
- After using the bathroom
- When heading outside for playtime, action breaks, recess as well after these activities
- Before and after using an indoor learning space used by multiple cohorts (e.g. gym, music room, library)
- Immediately after sneezing, coughing, using a tissue



Learning groups – Learning groups are a recommended public health measure to help reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19. Organizing students and staff into learning groups of 60 helps to reduce the number of different interactions and potential exposure to COVID-19 and supports better contact tracing if there is a confirmed case in a school community. Teachers will be partnering up with one other classroom of students for the purpose of creating cohorts of 60 people or less. These learning groups will exist not only within the shared learning spaces in the school building but also in designated play areas outside. The learning groups will stay together during lunch and recess and throughout the week will rotate through different zoned areas of play spaces.

Dismissal – Teachers will bring their students back outside to their class line ups to meet their parents at dismissal time. Depending on your family dynamics, you may choose to select a "meeting spot" for your child(ren) either on the school field or a location that social distancing from others can be maintained. Families are encouraged to leave the school property at dismissal as parents and students should not be intermingling across learning groups.



Physical distance – Students must keep 2m away from those outside their learning group.



Riding the bus – Students must practice physical distancing while waiting for the bus. Students should have their own seat and follow the assigned seating plan for their bus. Middle and secondary school learners must always wear a mask on the bus.



Sharing items – Do not share personal items such as food and clothing.

You can learn more about district-wide plans for safety, returning to school, and provincial updates at sd23.bc.ca. Thank you for staying engaged and connected to our school community. By working together, we can help students feel welcome, safe, and ready to learn.

Yours in learning,

Gord Kirsch, Principal

Jessica Anjos, Vice Principal