

May 24, 2020

Good morning Watson Families,

We are hoping that you are well as British Columbia moves into the next phase of their Covid 19 response which includes an optional return to school for elementary school aged children. You received an email from the School District earlier this week with a general statement about some of the things that will occur in relation to increased face-to-face instruction beginning on Monday, June 1st. The following email will give you some specifics about how that will occur at Watson Elementary.

As you are aware from the previous email, the return to school in June is an absolutely **optional** decision for parents to make for their children. To help you better make that decision, here is how some of that is going to look:

Class Assignments:

- We are not allowed to have more than 50% of our entire student population in the school at one time to ensure physical distancing
 - Classes are being split in half to allow for this.
- Each student will be assigned two days per week that they can attend school
- Students will be assigned to either Monday/Tuesday or Wednesday/Thursday
- Family members will be on the same days
- Friday will be a remote learning day for *all students*;

School Routines:

- **Only** students and staff will be allowed in the building
- Parents may contact the school virtually, by phone, or by email
- Every staff member and child will diligently practice Hand Hygiene; this means they will wash their hands frequently during the day (e.g. each time they enter and leave their classroom, during activity transitions., before and after eating, etc.)
- You may have heard the social distancing will look different at school:
 - Social distancing will be *somewhat* relaxed for K-5 students, as recommended by the Provincial Health Officer, but students may not at any time touch each other
 - Each classroom and area of the school will be set up to promote this with visual cues, assigned seating, as well as regular teaching, practice, and reminders about the expectations;
 - Adults/Staff will still fully respect existing Social Distancing guidelines (2 metres) from each other
- Students are to bring their own supplies as suggested by their teacher
- There will be no group work
- Students and staff may, at their discretion, wear personal masks while at school



- Parents ***must*** do a daily assessment of their child's health for symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other respiratory disease prior to entering the school
 - Students and staff who present with ***any*** of those symptoms at school will be isolated and sent home
 - If a student or staff member is assessed by their family physician or nurse practitioner and it is determined they do not have COVID-19, they may return to school *once symptoms resolve*

Schedule and movement changes:

- Students will have pre-determined spaced line-up for entry into the school (please drop off at bell to avoid social mingling)
- Recess and lunch will also be staggered so as limit the number of children outside at any time during unstructured playtime
- Students to go home right at the end of the day (slight staggered pick-up times) – if driving please remain in your vehicle
- Drinking fountains are closed – please bring your own water bottle

Cleaning

- The District is following what are called enhanced cleaning measures that do a *deep clean* of every room used in the school each evening and more regular surface cleans during the school day
- Any shared equipment (e.g. balls, sports equipment, sand toys) will be cleaned as they are used, and student Hand Hygiene procedures will help to ensure these stay safe as well

There is a lot to consider as you can tell from the length of my email and hopefully this information is helpful for you in your decision on whether you will be sending your child to school. You may have already received an email from your child's teacher. Please respond to them early as possible (by Wednesday morning) to let us know of your intentions as we build class groupings.

Thank you and take care!

Terry Bateman

Principal