



Canyon-Lister
Elementary

Canyon-Lister Elementary School, SD8 Kootenay Lake Return to School Plan September 2020

August 28, 2020

Dear parents/caregivers,

As most of you are aware, the BC Ministry of Education approved all school district restart plans on August 26th, and this was emailed out to everyone yesterday and posted to our school website. Now that this plan has been approved, I can share with families some further details regarding what it will look like at the school level when students return on September 10th.

We will be following all of the health and safety protocols set out by the BC Public Health Office in order to keep our school community safe, and all of this is subject to change in response to any decisions made by Public Health.

Our number one priority is keeping our school community safe. We are all committed to doing everything prescribed by the PHO in order to care for each other and your child to the best of our ability throughout this unusual time.

We will continue to be in touch regularly between now and September 10th with updates, and all information can be found on our school website. Please note that all past communications are there if you click into the Newshub, Announcements, or Blog sections.

We will also be sending out information shortly for all of our new kindergarten students.

I will be in touch with families in person over the course of the next week so that you have an opportunity to talk through anything and have any further questions answered.

We are looking forward to seeing everybody soon!

Four Guiding Principles during the COVID-19 Pandemic:

1. Maintain a healthy and safe environment for all students, families, and staff.
 2. Provide the services needed to support the children of our essential workers.
 3. Support vulnerable students who may need special assistance.
 4. Provide continuity of educational opportunities for all students.
 5. Promote positive relationships and keep students at the centre of our learning.
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Learning Groups

Learning Groups

A “learning group” is a group of students who may mix together for various purposes, separate from other learning groups. It is not a classroom or the total number of students in an entire school. For elementary students the maximum number of people who can be in a learning group is 60. At CLES we will have three learning groups:

- Kindergarten and Gr 1/2 (approximately 37 students in this group)
- Gr 2/3 and Gr 4/5 (approximately 37 students in this group)
- Gr 6/7, Gr 7, and French Immersion 5/6/7 (approximately 50 students in this group)

These are NOT their classes. Their classes will be the regular size, though at Canyon we are fortunate to have some smaller class sizes than is usual. Students will be with their learning group when they go outside to play at break times or when they board the buses.

Classrooms

This year we will have the classes as listed above. Students will go to the classroom they are assigned to for this year on September 10th, the first day for students Grade 1-7 (full day), and you will be contacted before that day to let you know which classroom and teacher your child has been assigned to. However, Kindergarten parents will receive a slightly different schedule for a gradual entry this year.

We have reorganized our classroom locations, so all primary classrooms are together, and all upper intermediate classrooms are together (K, Gr 1/2, Gr 2/3, Gr 4/5 are in one area, and the rest of the classes are down the long hall in the other area).

All students will be taught to physical distance, but within a learning group the guidelines are “hands and feet to self”. Classrooms will be set up with physical distancing in mind, but within a school learning group (not across learning groups), students are able to interact more normally than outside their learning group. All students will be learning how to physically distance, however, as this is a critical skill to learn to follow at this time.

Each learning group will have their own bathrooms in their section, and when moving in the hall will follow any one-way stickers and physical distance.

Bell Schedule & Breaks

Bell Schedule

School will begin at 8.30am and finish at 2.27pm. If you are dropping off your child at school in the morning, please do not drop them off earlier than 8.25am unless they will be participating in our breakfast program. If this is the case, they may arrive at 8.10am. There is no supervision and the school is not open before 8am and after 2.30pm.

Outside Play at Break Times

We are very fortunate to have a very large outside area and a small number of students. This means we are able to divide the outside area into three separate zones for students during their play times. There will be one learning group per zone, and the opportunity to rotate through the zones over time. This means that we do not need to stagger our break and lunch times.

Eating

Students will eat their snacks and breaks in their classrooms as usual. There will be no shared food- families are not permitted to send food for sharing at this time. Students will have access to our new, sensor-activated water bottle filling station, but are expected to arrive at school with a full water bottle.

Breakfast Program

We are permitted to continue with our very important breakfast program. Our volunteers will go through the safety protocols, and all food will be individually plated and distributed. Students will eat with their learning groups only.

Movement Through the Building

Entering/Exiting the School

Kindergarten and Gr 1/2 (Learning Group 1)

The kindergarten class and the Gr 1/2 class both have their own separate entrances, and students will enter and exit through those doors, where their teacher will meet them. No other classes will use those doors. These two classrooms also have their own bathrooms.

Gr 2/3 and Gr 4/5 classes (Learning Group 2)

These two classes will enter and exit using the gym door (the usual door).

Gr 5-7 (Learning Group 3)

These classes will enter and exit using the front door to the school.

Students will either go eat at the breakfast program in the morning, or go outside to play.

Health and Safety

Non-medical masks are required to be used in situations where a person cannot maintain physical distance and is in close proximity to a person outside their learning group. Our school will have non-medical masks available for staff and students, including anyone who becomes ill at school. Masks are not required for younger elementary; however, we strongly encourage everyone to wear one.

Middle and Secondary students are required to wear a mask on the school bus. Exceptions will be made for students who cannot wear masks for medical reasons.

All visitors (including all parents) must make an appointment with the principal and sign in/out. They cannot make an appointment through a teacher or other staff member. They must wear a mask and complete the health & safety check.

Handwashing or hand sanitizing will continue to be a daily part of expectations: upon entry to school, before and after eating, before and after using the washroom, and before and after going outside.

Anyone feeling ill must stay home. This includes all staff and students.

Should a child become sick while at school, they will be escorted to our sick room and parents/guardians will be called to pick up their child immediately. There are special cleaning protocols in place for this situation.

Students are expected to follow the school code of conduct. This will be posted on line and in all classrooms.

Transportation

On and Off the Bus

All of the safety protocol for on the bus is in the Restart document that has been sent to you. Getting on/off the bus at school: we will first start with Learning Group 1 being led out their doors by their teacher and straight onto the bus/parent pick-up. Once they are on, Learning Group 2 will go out, and then we will proceed with Learning Group 3. All bus students must be registered to ride the bus and cannot change or hop on another bus.

In Closing

There is a lot of information at this time, and it can be hard to keep track of all of it. I recommend first focusing on the *SD8 Kootenay Lake Back to School Information, Stage 2 Pandemic Response Plan*. This was emailed out on August 26th and is on our website. This has all of the district protocols we will be following.

Then I recommend reading this letter over again. We will also be sending out reminders and updates when things change. Again, all of this is on our school and SD8 district website. Over the course of next week I will be in touch with you if you would like to ask further questions that have not been answered for you.

We are working hard to make sure that school remains a safe and caring place for your child, and we know that families have questions and need to talk through things. If you have contacted me I will be in touch soon. Until then, know that we are getting everything ready for a safe September 10th start for all of us in our CLES community.

Take care,
Laury Carriere
Principal