

### **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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*The following are the ways in which Redfish Elementary is setting up for the successful return of our students and implementing the guidelines. It is meant to give you a picture of the day, some necessary routines and expectations, and to let you know that we are and will be ready for your kids.*

#### **1. Learning Groups & Timetable**

- When students arrive, for the first week, teachers will go through an orientation of all the following procedures and the health and safety guidelines, both from the district and Redfish specific guidelines.
- There are 3 learning groups at Redfish Elementary School. Learning groups will be a group of learners that can interact together still following the health and safety guidelines. I have grouped these by grades and classroom proximities. Kindergarten will be an individual learning group. This will be shared with families on September 8/9, upon final consultation with Redfish staff.
- Our school is looking fabulous and we are set for the processes put into place that follow the health and safety guidelines of Dr. Bonnie Henry and the Ministry of Education.
- **Kindergarten:** We will continue with a gradual entry. This schedule will go to all registered Kindergarten students and be provided to new registrations as they come in. This will be shared by the Kindergarten teaching team to all parents of registered Kindergarten students.

#### **2. Bell Schedule & Breaks**

- At the bell times teachers will greet their class and lead them into the building through their assigned entry/exit doors. We did this in June and it made everything, smoother, quicker and organized.

- We are dividing the playgrounds into five zones which will be for outdoor play, outdoor classes and meeting for the first day of school.
- The zones will be rotated through learning groups as we move forward. TBD with staff.

<u>Learning Groups: 1 + 2:</u>	<u>Learning Group 3</u>
8:02 morning bell	8:02 morning bell
9:42-10:00	10:00-10:18
10:00 classes resume	10:18 classes resume
11:32-12:15	12:15-12:58
12:15 classes resume	12:58 classes resume
2:07 dismissal	2:07 dismissal

### 3. Movement Through the Building

- At bell times teachers will greet their class and lead them into the building through their assigned entry/exit doors.
- Students will have access to the water filling station but are expected to start the day with a full water bottle.
- Movement in hallways will be organized with floor marking.
- Bathrooms will be limited to 2 / bathroom at a time.

### 4. Health and Safety

- All visitors (including all parents) must make an appointment with the Principal and sign in/ out with the secretary. They must wear a mask and complete the health & safety check
- 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.
- 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, 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, that person will be escorted to the medical room and Parents/guardians will be called to pick up their child.
- Students are expected to follow the school code of conduct. This will be posted on line and in all classrooms.

## 5. Transportation

### Arrival:

- The day will start with bus students arriving as per bus schedule. Students will go to the assigned zone to meet their teacher. The zones will be communicated to families on Sept.8 and/or 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Students being dropped off or walking to school must arrive as close as possible to bell times.

### Dismissal

- At the end of the day, teachers will lead their class outside through their assigned entry/exit doors. Students walking home are to leave immediately. Students being picked up by parents, need to be ready for pick up as soon as possible at the end of the day.
- Bus students will gather in the bus area at the front of the school. Protocols will be in place for bus safety procedures.
- All bus students must be registered through the district transportation link provided.

### Final words for today:

*Over the next while you will receive lots of information as we take our very best care with school start up. Take your time in reading these and re-read for understanding. Our district web page provides links to the most current information:*

[www.sd8.bc.ca](http://www.sd8.bc.ca).

*I am confident in the work the province has done, what the district has done and, what our school has done. The work to return to in-class learning continues with big hearts, courage, and creativity.*

*Looking forward to a fabulous year at Redfish Elementary!*

*Gail Higginbottom*

*Principal*

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