



"Home of the Thunderbirds"

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Dear Parents, Guardians and Friends,

Welcome back to school! The Carisbrooke team hopes that you and your family are well, and have enjoyed a safe and restful summer.

The purpose of this letter is to share school district and school-based planning for re-opening during Stage 2 of this challenging COVID-19 time. Carisbrooke return to school planning is based on the guidance of the BC CDC, the Provincial Health Office (PHO), the Ministry of Education and our school district. The most current information can be found at the North Vancouver School District website, www.sd44.ca. The NVSD FAQ section is updated regularly and will answer many of your questions.

The health and safety of our students, staff and community members is our utmost priority.

Monitoring personal health

Families are asked to monitor children daily for symptoms and not to send them to school if they are sick. Anyone who is sick will not be allowed in school. Any student who has symptoms of COVID-19 OR has travelled outside Canada in the last 14 days OR was identified as a close contact of a confirmed case or outbreak must stay home and self-isolate, including children of essential service workers.

Families are asked to remind child(ren) to:

- Minimize physical contact with their friends (hands to yourself)
- Label their personal items and not to share them
- Practise good hand hygiene (thorough hand washing often); respiratory hygiene (cover your coughs); and personal hygiene (no sharing of food, drinks or personal items)

When in doubt, use the BC COVID Self Assessment tool: <https://bc.thrive.health/covid19/en>

New procedures and expectations

- Students will be asked to wash their hands frequently, including before coming to school. They will have access to hand sanitizer when hand washing is not available.
- Physical distancing (2 metres) for staff and students when interacting outside of their learning groups.
- Schools will continue to be cleaned more frequently, including classrooms and high touch areas:
 - General cleaning and disinfecting of school premises at least once in a 24-hour period
 - Cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces at least twice in 24 hours, including once during regular school hours
- School and classrooms will look different, with:
 - Students organized into learning groups
 - Designated entrances, floor markings and/or signage to address traffic flow
 - Limitations on assemblies and other large gatherings
- Visitor access during school hours will be prioritized to those entering to support activities that benefit student learning and well-being. Parents and guardians will not be allowed to enter the school at this time.

On Personal Protective Equipment for Students and Staff

- PPE is not required for most staff beyond that used as part of regular precautions for the hazards normally encountered in their regular course of work (e.g. gloves for some custodial services)
- However, non-medical masks or face coverings are required to be worn by staff in high traffic areas, in common areas (e.g. hallways) or in situations where physical distancing cannot be maintained and the person is interacting with people outside of their learning group (e.g. Teachers Teaching on Call , specialist teachers or Education Assistants required to work in close proximity to students across learning groups).
- Schools will ensure non-medical masks are available for staff and students if someone should become ill while at school.
- Beyond the above, wearing a non-medical mask or face covering in schools is a personal choice that will be respected. Re-useable face masks will be made available for staff and students who choose to wear one, and upon request.

Please refer to [COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH GUIDANCE FOR K-12 SCHOOL SETTINGS](#) for more information on K-12 health and safety measures.

When School Starts for Children: September 10th

The Ministry of Education delayed the start of the school year for students to ensure that all staff health and safety training is complete, and that classrooms are prepared for a safe return. The NVSD has identified that the child's **enrolling classroom will be their 'learning group'**.

The first day of school for students in grades 1-7 is September 10th. It is a **shortened school day**, with students in session from **8:43am-11am**.

On September 10th students will **report to their new 2020-21 teacher(s) on the field**. Families will receive a notice of class placement via e-mail on Wednesday, September 9th by 1pm. Teachers will take attendance on the field and bring students to their new classrooms. Teachers will return classes to the field for parent pick up as appropriate at 11am.

Kindergarten students do not attend on September 10th. They will receive an updated gradual entry schedule from the school by the end of the day September 4th. They will begin on Friday, September 11th **OR** Monday, September 14th as per their individualized Kindergarten timetable.

Please note the new start time for the **first bell of the morning – 8:43am**. It is important that students arrive on time for school so that they can follow the new safe entry processes that reduce hallway congestion and cohort mixing. Please book appointments outside of school hours and plan vacations outside of the school week. Should your child have an unavoidable late arrival, please escort your him/her/them to the undercover area at the front of the school and call the main office 604 903 3380 so that a staff member can receive your child(ren). **Adults will need to fill in the sign in/out paperwork outside in the undercover area as entry to the school is restricted. At this time, per PHO and BC CDC recommendation parents and guardians will not be allowed in the building.**

Parents and guardians are reminded to use their best COVID prevention practices, including physical distancing, when at school for pick up and drop off.

A Few Things That Will Be Different

While many aspects of school will remain the same, at this time certain valued activities will not be allowed as they increase cross-cohort contamination. These activities include buddy classes, platooning for instruction, sharing food (hot lunch, fruit and veggie program, birthday treats from home, etc.) and lunch monitoring. While we regret the necessity of these changes, the 'pause' on these activities is in the best interest of our school community.

On an exciting note, students will be spending a lot more time outside! **Outdoor learning activities will be taking place rain or shine so please dress children for the weather.** Each child should also have a change of clothing, including socks and possibly shoes if they are not wearing rain boots, in case of 'puddle attack'.

It is important that we maximize our learning time together at school. Regular and on time attendance is important to classroom community connection and learning. Having said that, it is **critical that you keep your child home in case of illness.**

Let's reduce stress and anxiety

As the return to school draws near, I know that you and your family will have many questions. If after reading the links provided you still have questions, do not hesitate to contact me at the school. Our team is committed to ensuring the most safe and calm transition back to school that we possibly can.

During this time of global pandemic we all need to be more gentle and accepting of ourselves, our children and others. Carisbrooke community members set the bar high for themselves and their children. Every single child in the world has experienced similar disruptions to their learning. Let's work together to reduce the expectation to be everything to everyone by prioritizing our personal health and wellness. Breathe, exercise, rest and eat well. Life is not a race. Let's focus on process over product and depth over breadth in our learning.

I look forward towards sharing what will be a completely unique year with you and your families. Just because it is going to be different doesn't mean it can't be a fabulous school year!

Sincerely, and with relentless optimism,

Lisa Upton

Principal, Carisbrooke