Wednesday, May 27th, 2020

**RE: Reopening Plan**

Dear Queensbury Families,

We acknowledge the great amount of support that we have received from our families throughout this difficult time.  We appreciate the ongoing communications and all the work that you have been doing to help your child(ren) through this. We cherish this partnership and look forward to continuing the hard work moving forward. We are in this together.

As has been announced by Superintendent Mark Pearmain, North Vancouver Schools will be reopening for voluntary attendance of students on June 1. [BC's Restart Plan: K to 12 Return to Schools](https://www.sd44.ca/ProgramsServices/BCRestartPlanKto12ReturntoSchool/Pages/default.aspx#/=) provides detailed information about the plans for reopening, including FAQs for parents. Further school-specific details of Queensbury can be found at the end of this document. Please take time to review both resources.

A survey regarding return to in-class instruction was sent out last week. **If you did not respond to the survey prior to its close, please refer to question 8 in the Parent FAQs at the end of this document for further details.**

With the guidance of the Provincial Health Officer, the Ministry of Education has provided a framework for all schools to follow while keeping safety and physical distancing measures in place. Staff have been working hard to ensure that proper protocols are in place to ensure the health and safety for everyone in the school, and we need your support and cooperation to help discuss these important safety measures with your child(ren) prior to coming to school. We all need to follow these expectations upon return to in-class instruction.

Please know that with the reopening of in-class instruction for most classroom teachers, online learning will look different for the month of June as compared to April and May.

**Health and Safety Protocols**

* Parents and caregivers 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
* Please send your child with a filled water bottle and we will be supporting a "pack-in/pack-out" procedure – all student food (and food waste) will be sent home
* Should you need to pick your child up early, or drop something off, we ask that you call the school office first to make arrangements (604)903-3730
* If your child is attending in-class instruction in June, please return any student needed medication(s) to the main office
* Custodial staff will be cleaning high touch surfaces every one to two hours throughout the day
* Any requests to meet with teachers must be done so via a pre-arranged appointment
* Drop-off – all doors will be locked as we will be limiting the number of people that enter the school; students are to remain outside the school at their designated spots on the gravel field to wait for their teacher – please refer to Question 6 in the Parent FAQs at the end of this document for further details
* End of day – students will be walked out to the same designated area as the morning by their classroom teacher and released at 3:00 PM – please refer to Question 6 in the Parent FAQs at the end of this document for further details

**Children of Essential Care Workers and Priority Learners**

* Children of Essential Care Workers and Priority Learners will be provided the option of individualized schedules – please connect with Ms. La Roue if you need further information

**K-5 Cohorts**

* Cohort A will be in attendance on Mondays and Tuesdays from 9:00 am to 3:00pm
* Cohort B will be in attendance on Thursdays and Fridays from 9:00 am to 3:00pm
* Wednesday will provide students opportunities for educational continuity through distance learning from home

**Gr 6s in a Gr 5/6 classroom**

* Cohort A will be in attendance on Mondays from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
* Cohort B will be in attendance on Thursdays from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
* Wednesday will provide students opportunities for educational continuity through distance learning from home

**Gr 6 /7s in Gr. 6/7 classrooms**

* Cohort A will be in attendance on Tuesdays from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
* Cohort B will be in attendance on Thursdays from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
* Wednesday will provide students opportunities for educational continuity through distance learning from home

If you have indicated that you would like your child to return to school, please look for a communication from your child's teacher by the evening of Thursday, May 28 that will indicate which cohort your child has been assigned.

We are very excited to welcome our students back! We have planned for the reopening of in-class instruction on June 1 with safety measures at the forefront of all of our decisions; we acknowledge that some of the changes in practice may cause some frustration as we reopen. The structures we have in place will support the safety of all staff, students, parents, and community members.

We are in this together and appreciate your cooperation and understanding.

Respectfully,

            Kelly La Roue, Principal                          Cheryl Ham, Vice Principal

**Parent FAQs**

More information of Frequently Asked Questions can be found at the NVSD website of [BC's Restart Plan: K to 12 Return to School](https://www.sd44.ca/ProgramsServices/BCRestartPlanKto12ReturntoSchool/Pages/default.aspx#/=). Below are FAQs for parents that are particular to our school's reopening plan.

**1.**      **What will school "look like" for my child starting June 1?**

* + BC's PHO has provided all schools with a clear framework of no more than 50% of the student population at the school at any given time. For Queensbury Elementary, that means no more than 156 students per day. The Ministry of Education has provided the following framework:
    1. Children of essential care workers and priority learners – please contact Ms. La Roue for further details or to request this support
    2. K-5 Students = two days per week
    3. Gr 6/7 Students = one day per week

Each class will be placed into two cohorts – Cohort A and Cohort B. More details to daily school life are outlined below, and your child's classroom teacher will be in touch with you by Thursday, May 28.

**2.**      **How do I know which cohort my child will be in?**

* + Your child's classroom teacher will send more details about their respective classroom by Thursday, May 28.

**3.**      **How many days exactly will my child be attending school in June?**

* + Children of essential care workers and priority learners will be offered individualized schedules for the month of June.  Majority of students in K-5 will attend eight (8) days of school in the month of June. Majority of students in Grades 6-7 will attend four (4) days of school in the month of June.

**4.**      **How many kids will be in class with my child?**

* + Your child will be with no more than 50% of their peers. We are currently working on creating two class lists – Cohort A and Cohort B. Students will be placed into each cohort to enable for siblings to attend school the same day as well as balance numbers.

**5.**      **What will the school hours be starting June 1?**

* + Our school hours from 9:00 am to 3:00pm, but drop off and pick up will look different – please refer to question 6.

**6.**      **I walk my child to school and drop them off at the classroom. What does drop-off and pick-up look like?**

* + Drop-off and pick-up will look different beginning June 1 as all doors will be locked because we will be limiting the number of people that enter the school. All students will need to go to the gravel field and look for their division number. Students will then line up with physical distancing in place. Support Staff will be present to guide students and support physical distancing every morning. At 9:00 am, classroom teachers will meet their classes on the gravel field and walk their students to the classroom through a staggered process. Similarly, after school, teachers will walk their students outside to the same spot and release their students at 3:00 PM. Parents of primary students can pick their children up on the gravel field.

**7.**      **Am I able to switch my child's cohort?**

* + We acknowledge this will be a challenge for some families, and understand that each family has unique circumstances. All of us, including parents, are obligated to follow the guidelines of the PHO and we cannot exceed the 50% capacity of student population nor the return to in-class instruction framework. Unfortunately, we are not able to take requests from families regarding the days your child is in session.  We are working to ensure that siblings attend classes on the same days to support families and minimize travel to and from school.  This may limit the spots that we have on a particular day. There has been a lot of planning at the school level to make sure we are safely reopening and do not exceed the 50% capacity. Therefore, it is imperative that your child comes to school on the days they are assigned.

**8.**      **I want to wait and see what schooling looks like during the first week of June or I missed doing the survey. Can I send my child to school in the second or third week of June?**

* + Yes, we are here to support whatever decision you make. You can send your child or stop sending your child whenever you feel and whatever works best for your family; we will respect your decision. If you decide to send your child after June 1, we ask that you contact the school in advance. Please send your notification by noon Wednesdays to the office via email at queensbury@sd44.ca. **Students cannot just show up**. We will need to assign your child a cohort based on class size. Your child can then come to school on the days your child is assigned.

**9.**      **If I do not send my child to school, how will my child receive an education?**

* + Teachers will be providing educational continuity through distance learning, but it will look different from April and May as teachers will be providing in-class instruction. On Wednesday of each week, teachers will be available to support distance learning through various means. Please connect with your child's classroom teacher for more details.

**10.** **Will my child be behind if I do not send them to school in June?**

* + No, every child is where they should be and teachers will continue to provide educational continuity to their students. We do recommend that your child continue with educational continuity from home if you decide not to send them to school.

**11.**     **What does my child's classroom set-up look like?**

* + As outlined by the PHO, each classroom will look as normal as possible with physical distancing measures in place. Students will be in their own desk and not in pairs or groups.

**12.**     **What does recess and lunch look like?**

* + Recess and lunch will look different. Students will be going outside to play as per the regular times, but teachers will be walking kids back in. All students can play with physical distancing in place. Contact activities are prohibited. Playground equipment will be open (with the exception of the spinner). However, please be aware that there will not be regular cleaning of the equipment. We will have a limited number of balls available, and these will be disinfected between uses. Another change is that we will be supporting a "pack-in/pack-out" plan for all food as we want to limit the times students get up to throw food in the organic receptacles. All uneaten food and food waste will be sent back home with your child.

**13.**      **Will there be before or after school care for my child?**

* + No, all students are asked to please do home directly after school.
  + Unfortunately, the school will not be able to provide before or after school care. Please connect with local childcare providers.

**14.**      **Can I come into the building to drop items off or pick my child up?**

* + Most doors will be locked during the instructional day, access to the front door will be limited. Parents who wish to come to the school will need to knock on the main entry doors and wait for an office staff member to assist you. We will then ask you to wait outside the front door and our staff will be happy to help you with whatever you need.