



École Ross Road School

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Friday, September 4th, 2020

Dear Ross Road Families,

If you are new to the Ross Road community: Welcome! Staff at Ross Road are excited to be welcoming back our returning and new families on **September 10th**. As mentioned in our previous email, the full return to in-class instruction has likely come with a variety of emotions. It is with this lens that we begin the year at Ross Road focusing on building a sense of belonging with the school and classroom cohort grounded in important safety guidelines.

As the safety and well-being of all members of our Ross Road learning community is our priority, a number of health and safety measures have been put into place to support the safe learning environments and to minimize the risk of COVID-19 transmission in school. We look forward to working together collectively with compassion, understanding and flexibility.

Some universal District-level safety measures include:

- Ensuring that anyone who is sick does NOT come to school and completing a [daily health check](#)
- Minimizing contact and/or physical distancing, managing movement within schools
- Personal hygiene support including handwashing
- Enhanced cleaning protocols
- Limiting access to schools and managing movement within them

You are encouraged to view the [video](#) shared with families early on September 4th from the Office of the Superintendent titled “What Schools Look Like”. You may also wish to attend the Virtual Town Hall hosted by Superintendent Mark Pearmain and Dr. Mark Lysyshyn, Deputy Chief Medical Health Officer for Vancouver Coastal Health. It is scheduled for Wednesday, September 9th from 3:00pm to 4:00pm.

Some site-based (Ross Road) safety measures include:

- Continued use of our classroom outside meeting spot for entry/exit (near classroom outside doors)
 - There will be **no** staggered start/end to the day due to the number of outside doors and school-based procedures already in place
- Staggered recess and lunch and encouraging the use of zones for outside play
- Continued use of an up only and down only stairwell
- School based procedures for classes that have their cloakroom in the hallways to minimize interaction
- School-based procedures to limit the number of students in the bathroom

- A new handwashing sink installed in the hallway
- New student hand sanitizer units installed
- At this time, school personnel only in the building. Parents/guardians are asked to call ahead and follow COVID-19 safety protocols once an appointment is made
- We are respectfully requesting that all families refrain from using the Ross Road Playgrounds immediately before and after school hours. This procedure will help ensure that students arrive promptly to meet their teachers and disperse safely into the care of family and caregivers at the end of each day while respecting Provincial Health guidelines

With everything we do, our goal remains to support you and your children in the most safe and meaningful way.

Staff will be in schools on Tuesday and Wednesday next week, receiving Health & Safety training, instruction on new routines and COVID-19 protocols, guidance for incorporating Social-Emotional Learning approaches into their instruction to support student mental health, and refreshing skills on things such as the MS Teams platform.

Parents and guardians, you are asked to familiarize yourselves with the **MS Teams platform** as this will be how all teachers will communicate directly with families and students, and will be the instructional delivery platform if the provincial COVID-19 response requires school to move to either Stage 3 or 4 of [B.C.'s Five Stage Framework for K-12 Education](#). Information regarding [Technology Support](#) and MS Teams and Office 365 can be found [HERE](#).

Classroom Information

All students will be **assigned to a class/cohort**.

- This includes students not planning to attend school right away.

Information regarding class/teacher placements and other important information will be provided to families next week on Wednesday for **grade 1-7 students**. Thank you for reading it carefully.

- The first *regular* or full-day for students in grades 1-7 will be Friday, September 11th.
 - Kindergarten families, please review the email sent to you today regarding your child's gradual entry schedule.
- **All** students in **all grades** are encouraged to attend the orientation session next week on Thursday (or as per the gradual entry schedule for Kindergarten students). This includes families of elementary students who are not planning to send their child(ren) to regular, in-person classes.
- For families of students planning to select the Transition Support Option, participation in the orientation sessions will connect students with the classmates and familiarize them with the routines that will be in place when they eventually return to school.
- Information regarding the Elementary Transition Support Option was sent by Superintendent Mark Pearmain to all elementary families on Wednesday, September 2nd.
- Families are asked to confirm selection of this option **after** you hear from your child's classroom teacher, via email to the classroom teacher and rossroad@sd44.ca
 - Teacher support for this option will begin Monday, September 21st.

You can continue to anticipate receiving a number of communications from the district, school and your child's classroom teacher. Thank you for your patience and your commitment to taking

the time to read all the information provided. We also want to direct you to the [Ross Road school website](#) which has important information, links and a copy of all school-based communications shared with families. You were sent an important communication regarding the completion of online forms using the [school cash online](#) system. It is imperative these are completed before students attend school next week. Please check it frequently as new forms are going to be posted soon. Families will continue to receive an email when a new form or item is available in your child's school cash online account.

Finally, we are confident that with all of us working together, we can provide our students a happy, safe and healthy 2020-2021 school year. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or concerns at this time.

Kind regards,

Kate Lechleiter, Principal
Jason Haywood, Vice Principal

*Attached is a letter from the North Vancouver District in regards to the Ross Road construction including a Safe Routes to School Map.