

Dear Forest Grove Families,

I apologize for this rather lengthy message, but wanted to include more information rather than not enough...so grab some coffee or tea, get comfortable, and enjoy a lengthy read 😊



Our school is getting ready to welcome students back to school in a safe, controlled manner. The circumstances remain challenging, but we expect to have another wonderful COVID-Free school year thanks to the support of our amazing Forest Grove Community.

The Ministry of Education announced that BC schools will be open, and students will be attending full time. **The first day of school is Tuesday, September 7th.** You can read more here: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021EDUC0058-001663>

We have worked under the guidance of public health authorities and the Ministry of Education to develop a plan so that students and staff can learn and work together safely. We are ready to welcome your child back to school. Below is a brief summary of some of the actions taken to safely restart school this September.



Health and Safety

- Students in Grades 4-12 must wear a mask when they are in all indoor areas of the school and on school buses. Students in K – 3 will be encouraged to wear masks in public areas such as hallways and common rooms.
- All staff and visitors must wear a mask when inside the school.
- Although physical distancing (2m apart) is no longer mandated, students will be encouraged to minimize involuntary contact. Classrooms will be set up to maximize space usage and decrease student physical contact.
- Daily health screening check for students (completed by their parents) and staff before arriving at school. You can find the Daily Health Check on the district and provincial websites:
 - <https://burnabyschools.ca/covid-19-sharing-clear-and-current-information/>
 - <https://burnabyschools.ca/school-start-up/>
 - <https://www.k12dailycheck.gov.bc.ca/healthcheck?execution=e1s1>
- Students who are ill (cold, flu or [showing Covid-19 symptoms](#)) must stay home. If a child becomes ill during the school day, they will be isolated, and the parents contacted to come and pick them up as soon as possible.
- Hand hygiene (hand washing or sanitizing) upon arrival at school and throughout the day.
- There will be cleaning protocols for high touchpoints (doorknobs, faucets, etc.). These surfaces will be cleaned at least once every 24 hours.
- Students will no longer be organized into Learning Groups or Cohorts as we did last year.
- Teachers will be encouraged to take their class outside more frequently.
- Students will be encouraged to clean Mr. Gurney's car weekly (kidding...just making sure you're still reading)

- Windows and doors may be left open more regularly to increase ventilation.
- Students are asked to enter and exit the building using their classroom doors.
- There will be no large gatherings (assemblies, special events, open house) or field trips **at this time**.
- No sharing of food or drink.
- Parents and visitors should make an appointment to meet with staff. There will be limited and controlled access to the building by parents and visitors. All visitors must sign in for the purpose of contact tracing and acknowledge they've completed the Daily Health Check.
- We also ask parents to respect other people's personal space when on school grounds. This is for your safety and to model expectations for our students.

Attendance

Part of school-start up is accurately determining student enrolment so please contact the school if your child is unable to attend on September 7th and have their attendance counted.



Please also contact the school if you have moved, your child is registered elsewhere or is not returning to the school. This helps with finalizing numbers so that we can start to organize classes and get students into their permanent classrooms more quickly (likely the first Friday or the following Monday)

Tuesday, Sept. 7th – Friday, Sept. 10th:

- **Tuesday, Sept. 7th (8:50 – 10:00 a.m.)**
 - **Grades 1 – 7** return to last year's classrooms (Kindergarten students & families will start on Wednesday).
 - Line up at outside doors where staff will let you in between 8:50 & 8:55 a.m.
 - We suggest that students come with minimal school supplies (paper, pencil, colouring items, scissors, etc...). School supplies are required as of Monday, September 13th, which is also when all the Creative Supply orders will be distributed to students that ordered these.
 - **New students** & families, please meet at the front doors of the school at 8:50 a.m. where staff members will greet you and escort you to your classrooms for the week
 - **Parents** are welcome to join Mr. Gurney and the Forest Grove PAC Executive outside the Community Room (by West parking lot) where we will have coffee and some goodies.
 - We will introduce Mr. Gurney & the PAC Executive at 9:15 a.m.
 - We ask that everyone tries to spread out as much as possible and to wear masks when on school grounds when you're not eating or drinking.
 - **Early Dismissal @ 10:00 a.m.**
 - Again, we encourage family members to wear masks when on school grounds and to remain spread out during pick up and drop off

- **Wednesday, Sept. 8th – Friday, Sept. 10th (8:50 a.m. – 2:47 pm)**
 - **Grade 1 – 7 students** will return to their classes from Tuesday, except for a few classes, but staff will speak to those students and families about this
 - Our focus this week will be “**Creating & Contributing to a Connected Community**”
 - **Kindergarten students** and families will attend an outdoor Welcome event on Wednesday, Sept. 8th at one of the following times:
 - GROUP A - 11:00-11:45 last names A-H
 - GROUP B – 1:00 – 1:45 last names I-Z
 - For Thursday and Friday, Kindergarten families are asked to sign up (call 604-296-9002) for a one-on-one conversation with teachers

Welcome to NEW Staff:

As is the case every school year, we get to welcome some new faces to our staff:

- **Ms. Chen** – Our new grade 6/7 Mandarin teacher
 - Mr. Nussbaumer has moved over to the English side to replace our beloved Ms. Mitchell
- **Ms. Fong** – Our new ELL teacher this year, replacing Ms. Giri as she's off on Mat Leave for the entire year
- **Ms. Steiger** – Our new Band teacher replacing the retiring Peter Wenzek
- **Ms. Ridd** – Our new EA coming to us from Gilpin Elementary
- **Ms. Singer** – Our new EA coming to us from Burnaby Mountain
- **Ms. Halliday** – Our new Office Support clerk with us one day/week



Bell Schedule:

Unlike last year, there will NOT be a staggered start and end time for families. The following schedule will be in place starting September 8th, 2021:

| | |
|---|----------|
| Morning entry bell: Students enter school..... | 8:50 am |
| Attendance taken and classes begin..... | 8:55 am |
| Recess break begins..... | 10:35 am |
| Entry bell: Students enter school..... | 10:50 am |
| Lunch break begins: Students eat in classrooms..... | 12:00 pm |
| Afternoon entry bell: Students enter school | 12:40 pm |
| Dismissal..... | 2:47 pm |

Parking Plea:

In order to keep our kiddos safe and to ensure we keep our sanity every day, please adhere to the following pick-up and drop-off procedures.



- Absolutely NO PARKING in either parking lot. You are welcome to drop off at the eastern parking lot drop-off zone (30 seconds or less), but do not leave your vehicle unattended.
- Parking is only along Forest Grove Drive or nearby streets in designated parking zones, please.
- We ask that people walk, scooter, or ride whenever possible. Once on school grounds, please walk bikes to the bike rack at the front doors to avoid collisions.

For more information, always visit our website <https://forestgrove.burnabyschools.ca/>

Looking forward to hearing all about your wonderful summer adventures.

Kurt Gurney (Pronouns: he, him, his)

Principal

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