

August 26, 2020

Dear parent(s) / guardians:

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone back to a new year of learning at Strathcona Elementary! Although many of our routines will be changing as a result of COVID-19, I would like to reassure you that our dedicated staff are committed to provide your child(ren) with an exceptional educational experience. We are very excited to see our students return in September!

We know that you have been eagerly awaiting news regarding how school is going to be organized and structured. We also appreciate your patience and understanding as the district took some time to ensure that we have strong Health and Safety Protocols in place for students and staff. These District Protocols have been created based upon the [Provincial COVID-19 Health and Safety Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#).

For Strathcona students and parents, we have created a document that outlines our restart plan. Here you will find important information regarding: learning groups (cohorts), before/after school protocols, entrance/exit plans, recess/lunch time structures, health and safety training plans for students and staff, classroom considerations as well as helpful links. We will have a number of cohorts at Strathcona and they are formatted with the purpose of assisting us with limiting the number of students entering and exiting the building at any time and also reducing the number of in-person close interactions on the playground. Students will be working primarily in their own classroom groupings throughout the year. Please note that this plan is for grades' 1-5 as our Kindergarten students will have a gradual entry. Here is what you can expect our **first week back**:

On **Wednesday September 9th**, families will be contacted by the teacher of the Classroom / Cohort that their child(ren) has been assigned to for the first week. This conversation will detail what items your child needs to bring with them the first two days as well as when and where they will enter and exit the school.

On **Thursday September 10th**, students will attend for a partial day with half of the cohorts starting at **8:22** and being dismissed at **9:52** and the other half starting at **8:30** and be dismissed at **10:00**. This time will be used for classroom community building together with receiving instruction on a variety of COVID-19 health and safety protocols.

On **Friday September 11th**, students will attend for a full day and they will return to their same classrooms with half of the cohorts lining up at their respective doors and entering the building at **8:22** and exiting at **2:20** and half of the cohorts lining up at their respective doors to enter the building at **8:30** and exiting at **2:27**. We anticipate that after the first week of school we will be able to solidify our classrooms and cohorts for the remainder of the school year.

Parents, we are asking that you spend some time to go over the [Daily Health Check Screening Tool](#). Collectively to stop the spread of COVID-19, we need to understand the signs and symptoms. **It is extremely important that when your child is not feeling their best, that they remain home.** As we enter into this school year we know that we are going to need to be flexible and ensure that our lines of communication are open. Parents/caregivers are requested to remain outside the building and if you have questions about our plan, please reach out and connect over the phone, by email or book a time to meet in person at the school.

Respectfully,

Jonathan Ferris