



SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 38



(RICHMOND)



W. D. FERRIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

7520 Sunnymede Crescent, Richmond, B.C. V6Y 2V8

Tel. 604-668-6538 Fax 604-668-6544

Mrs. Diane Steele, Principal

Mr. Neal Campbell, Vice Principal

Monday, Sept 7th, 2020



Dear Families,

Welcome back to another school year! We are looking forward to getting our students back into the routine of learning, and to seeing everyone soon!

For Transitional Learning, you will be contacted before September 21st with details about the program, and will not attend school in person at this time.

For In School instruction, you will attend half days Thursday and Friday (September 10/11), and resume regular school hours beginning September 14.

New Students attending for in school instruction---look for a welcome table with balloons by the drop off loop. We will greet you and guide you and your child to their classroom (outside drop off and pick up location)

Timeline of the First week of School, Sept 2020:

Tuesday, Sept 8th and Wednesday, Sept 9th NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS as our staff will be placing all students into classes, receiving health and safety orientation, setting up classrooms, and emailing parents.

Wednesday September 9th— by the end of the day you will **receive an email communication from your child's new teacher** with the information listed below. Please do not call the school unless you have not received an email by 6:00 PM on Wednesday. You must leave a message on our machine with your child's name and we will get back to you. If you call earlier we will not get back to you as we will assume the teacher was still working on communications.

The following information will be communicated by your child's new teacher:

- who your child's teacher will be
- Your child's time to attend on Thursday and Friday will be: Either morning-8:45 am to 11:15 am or afternoon- 12:15 pm to 2:45 pm. This is so smaller groups are in attendance to begin health and safety student orientation and welcoming activities.
- your child's location/door for drop off and pick up—additional Ferris Staff will be on hand to greet all students. For students new to Ferris—go to the drop off loop---look for balloons! Ferris Staff will greet and guide you to your drop off location for your child.

Thursday September 10 and Friday September 11th - Student Attendance

- Grade 1-7 students will attend both days in the morning or both days in the afternoon (see teacher email).
- Kindergarten students' first day Friday, September 11th—parents should have received updated information about Gradual Entry, the group their child is in, and the time to attend.
- Placing students into their classes on their first day of school has not been our normal practice. Please talk with your child about this change to the start of the year, and reassure your child that the school has worked hard to create positive learning communities in classrooms.

Important information for Parents for the first days:

*As per our Health Protocols, students should not attend if they are feeling unwell or have met the criteria in the **Daily Health Declaration** (please see attached)

*For now---If your child has health concerns/uses an epi pen/has serious allergies---**please give the epi-pen to your child's teacher upon drop off and provide a note to the teacher** regarding any allergies, etc. We will be following up with this information with regard to any required doctor's notes. Should your child's allergies cause symptoms that are in the Daily Health Declaration, please discuss with your doctor and inform your child's teacher.

- Parents are asked not to enter Ferris School at any time. Extra Ferris Staff and Administrators will be outside to greet/answer parent questions the first week as we know this is a time of change and uncertainty. During the day, please call the office if you need immediate assistance 604-668-6538, or to to make an appointment.

- Parents and guardians are welcome to wait with their child at the start of the day at the specified outdoor meeting locations or exit doors (physically distant). Ferris staff will be outside to direct, and signs will be up to help with directions.

- As you arrive, **please remember to physically distance from other adults waiting with their children.** Teachers will come to their class meeting location each morning to escort their students to their classroom—or they will be waiting at their outside classroom entry door—this information will be including in the email from teachers being sent home Wednesday Sept 9th. At the end of the day, teachers will lead their classes back to this location where parents and guardians can reconnect with their children---(or outside door) as noted.

Monday, September 14th Full days begin (8:45 am to 2:45 pm):

- There will no longer be “in days” and all students will be expected to go outside for break times—rain or shine. It is very important that all students are properly prepared for all types of weather, and for younger students a change of socks/pants as appropriate. We have staggered break times and assigned cohorts to playing locations to help manage physical interactions between students while outdoors. We will be encouraging outdoor learning as much as possible in order to provide opportunities for fresh air.

- Reminder—**No lunch drop offs** by parents (or Nova Foods etc.) Parents must remember to send a lunch and snack with your child as **we will not be able to accommodate lunch drop offs** during the day. Eating times are supervised by teachers—outside play times by noon hour supervisors and administration.

- If a Day care provider is picking up your child, please arrange for them to have the information needed for a pick up spot to pick them up. Daycare students will not be gathered together inside the school for pick up—parents please communicate with your day care provider and make a plan. Tomorrow's Top Kids on site will pick up students from classes or students will meet at Top Kids as age appropriate.

- We will have a day custodian at Ferris—hours 6:30 AM to 3:00 daily to do enhanced cleaning. More details regarding health and safety protocols is coming....please continue to monitor your emails from the school and check our website.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Mrs. Steele, Principal

Mr. Campbell, Vice Principal