



Mrs. Diane Steele, Principal

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



Mr. Neal Campbell, Vice Principal

Friday September 18, 2020

Dear Ferris Families,

Reminder: No School next Friday September 25th -as we have our first Professional Development Day.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue to maneuver around our seismic construction, learn and implement pandemic protocols, and begin transitional learning—which is to start next week.



Over the years, our **H.E.A.R.T.** focus (**H**elpful and **S**afe, **E**mpathetic, **A**ccountable, **R**espectful and **T**ruely **K**ind) has been key to creating a positive school environment where our students feel safe and supported. I

We are looking forward to reaching out to our Transitional Learning students to connect them with the cohort teachers as well as their classmates. This is a time of disruption, change and uncertainty.

Education has an important place in society and our staff have worked extremely hard to meet the expectations of this unusual start up. We are very thankful at Ferris to have staff who work together in difficult circumstances. We wanted to share with you a timeline of our start up and the ways this year has been different.

At present we have a school population of 549 students, 305 are currently attending school, and 244 students are opting for transitional learning. We have 23 divisions (or classes). Our staff have been incredibly busy this September—setting up the school, reading memos, planning and more.

We have worked together to get ready for this school year with additional tasks and unprecedented challenges including the following:

- due to seismic construction our teachers were delayed getting into the school to unpack and set up
- gathering ever changing information to determine which students were returning
- placing our students in classes (one very long day)
- providing staff training in all of the Health and Safety Protocols
- tidying and readying the school—removal of items, signage and class prep to follow protocols
- emailing families (MYED got overwhelmed and delayed emails—we answered calls into the evening—apologies to parents who wondered why their email didn't arrive)
- reviewing health protocols with students and Parents---an important communication to our parents has been the **Mandatory Daily Health Declaration** (an update -September 16th- is attached to this email). We ask that parents ensure that they follow these guidelines to keep us all healthy and safe through our fall start up
- our staff are working within their cohort of teachers (made up of two classes and three teachers). One of the teachers is either a resource/ELL teacher, the band teacher, the vice principal or a prep teacher. Together they are to work to provide the range of services we have always provided to support students (IEPs, ELL supports, etc.) along with covering preps for teachers, transitional learning and in-class instruction. Given the extra responsibilities the time for Resource/ELL teachers to attend to their usual tasks will be reduced. We are still discussing how to extend our band to more than two classes. In addition some District Consultants have been reassigned to assist in our school. Mr. Acob-PE Preps and Ms. Easton some classroom support.

Thank you for your continued support of our staff and school as we continue into our fall term and work in new ways. We are looking forward to reaching out to our families who have opted for Transitional Learning.

Mrs. Steele, Principal

Mr. Campbell, Vice Principal

Ferris Elementary School

TRANSITIONAL Learning Information for Families

September 21st, 2020

Ferris staff have been working this week to schedule and plan for transitional learning within their cohort groups.

Transitional learning begins on Monday, September 21. Our staff, and district-based Learning Services staff, will work together to provide continuity of learning for your child while they are engaging in transitional learning at home. **Each class/teacher at Ferris will approach this in their own way**—with some relying more on the District offerings and others providing more of the learning activities themselves.

The District program delivery will be offering a weekly or bi-weekly large group webinar for certain curricular areas (Math, Language Arts, Social Studies, Arts), as well as follow-up weekly learn-at-home activities for child to complete with your support. There will also be parent information sessions and teacher touch-ins with Learning Services and school-based staff.

Your child’s transitional support (teacher, resource teacher or prep teacher or combination thereof) will contact you on MONDAY to welcome you to Ferris and communicate about the weeks learning.

School-based cohort teachers will be responsible for fostering connections between home and school, conducting student check-ins based on the week’s activities, gathering evidence of student learning, and reporting student progress. Attendance will be taken during these times, so it is important that your child attends and is on time.

Below is a Revised Sample Schedule for Transitional Learning received this from the district Thursday. Our staff is still problem solving about how to best support/approach Transitional Learning.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
To be scheduled throughout the day as works with district based program delivery	~30 minutes of online instruction via videoconference district based Zoom webinars/videos scheduled at various times throughout the week for different curricular areas				
	Online instruction with school based teachers for areas not district provided and/or as needed				
	Learning activities to be completed with parent/guardian support as needed. These will be provided by District Learning Services staff to complement the above and provided by school based teachers as appropriate and needed. Students independent at this time.				
	20 min small group videoconference with school based teacher per groups of ~ 10 intermediate/~ 8 primary) scheduled at some point in the day				
	End of day “class” check in				
	Parent support once or twice a week with district learning services teacher and/or school based teacher and/or school administration				

On Monday September 21st Ferris staff will:

- 1) •connect with each family (child/parent) who are doing the transitional learning program (email)
- 2) •In their first communication with you, teachers will provide more details regarding the next week’s schedule for Tues/Wed/Thursday for their transitional students (A weekly schedule of webinars, Zoom calls and weekly plans **offered by the district** will be shared as appropriate by teachers. Some teachers may have their own different activities/plans others will rely on the district offerings.)
- 3) •teachers will be setting boundaries around communications as they will be teaching throughout the day and will not be able to read emails until after hours

We expect that our first week communications will help us work through some of the challenges in communication, scheduling and dividing time between tasks. Parents play an important role in transitional learning. Transitional learning may be impacted in the following ways: unforeseen absences of staff and or technical difficulties. We will endeavor to do our best!