

Back to School 2020 Procedures

All Schools

Getting ready for school – Parents/caregivers can use the provided checklist to assess their child daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other infectious respiratory disease before sending them to school. If a student shows any symptoms (that are not related to an existing condition such as seasonal allergies) they must not take the bus or go to school. Please have your child wash his or her hands before leaving for school.

Riding the bus – Students must practice physical distancing while waiting for the bus. Students should have their own seat and follow the assigned seating plan for their bus. Middle and secondary school learners must always wear a mask on the bus.

Entering the school – Use the appropriate drop off points and appropriate entrance specific to your school. When students arrive at school, they must wash their hands or use a hand sanitizer station. Schools are closed to adults unless they have an appointment or invitation from administrators.

Learning groups – Students must stay with their learning group throughout the day to limit interaction with other students, especially in common areas and during breaks.

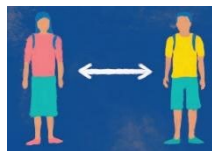
Hygiene throughout the day – Students should perform hand hygiene before and after breaks, eating and drinking, using shared spaces (eg. gym, Library Learning Commons, playground), using the washroom, after sneezing or coughing, and whenever hands are visibly dirty.

Feeling sick – If a student feels sick or shows any symptoms during the school day, they must report to the office, and staff will follow protocols for isolating the student and returning them home.

Food service – Our district safety plan, which the Ministry of Education approved, outlines our protocol for food service. At this time, PAC hot lunch programs are suspended.

eSchoolBC option – For students who are immuno-compromised, please contact your school for information about enrolling in distributed learning options through eSchoolBC.

Physical distance – Students must keep 2m away from those outside their learning group. Do not share personal items such as food, school supplies, or clothing.



BLACK MOUNTAIN ELEMENTARY Orientation Days (September 10 and 11)

Half of our student population will attend a full-day orientation from 8:30 - 2:30 on Thursday, September 10 (**LAST NAME A-J**); the other half will attend a full-day orientation day from 8:30 - 2:30 on Friday, September 11 (**LAST NAME K-Z**). The procedures for the orientation days are as follows.

Kindergarten gradual entry – Families of kindergarten students will receive individual emails regarding the gradual entry for our kindergarten students. Kindergarten students do not attend the orientation as outlined below for Grade 1 - Grade 5 students.

Please visit sd23.bc.ca for complete Staff and Student Safety Plans and COVID-19 Updates.



Class assignment (Grade 1 - Grade 5) – On the morning of your full-day orientation, the kiss-and-go area of the parking lot will be closed in the morning. Instead, please park in the lower parking lot and enter through the open gates to the field area. Practicing proper physical distancing, have one adult bring the child(ren) to the field area by the adventure playground. Administration and staff will have several welcome back tables that will be organized with class placement information to inform you of your child(ren)'s teacher. Once you and your child(ren) are aware of the classroom placement, your child(ren) may either walk to their outside classroom door or have any of our adult support staff escort them there. All school staff who are on the school grounds in the morning will be wearing masks and adhering to physical distancing protocol. Please remember to pack a full lunch for the day and to make plans for your end-of-day pickup; the kiss-and-go loop will be open for pickup at the end of the day, which is at 2:30.

Welcome back snack – As part of an annual tradition, the PAC is once again providing a first-day snack for our students. This year, students will receive an apple in their classroom. All fruit will have been washed and will be served by the classroom teacher.

Learning groups – Following the guidelines as laid out through the Ministry of Education and our district startup procedures, learning groups will not exceed 60 (including students and staff). In many cases, our learning groups are well below this threshold, reducing the number of interactions that children make each day. As well, a great deal of thought was put into class placements to help ensure students' success this year; with health and safety a priority for our students and staff, learning groups must remain unchanged as mandated by the Ministry of Education.

Hand hygiene – Please ensure that your child washes his or her hands before heading to school. Upon arrival to the classroom, all children will wash their hands, and our portable classrooms will have access to an exterior handwashing station on site. Masks are not mandatory for students but will be worn by all adults who are not part of the learning group and are unable to maintain physical distance.

School dismissal – The kiss-and-go lane is open for pickup at the end of day. For those picking up students in the kiss-and-go loop, parents and/or guardians are requested to stay in their vehicles; staff will be on hand to help facilitate pickup. For those picking up students in the lower parking lot, parents and/or guardians may exit their vehicle but must remain within the lower parking lot area. Access to the blacktop and field area is prohibited.

We are so looking forward to having our students return to Black Mountain. Our school is safe and ready for learning, and we are so grateful that you have entrusted us with your children. With only half of our students attending each orientation day, there will be ample opportunity for our students to become both familiar and comfortable with the health and safety protocols that are in place for the school year. These protocols are part of our school-based safety plan, which will be emailed to all families and will also be posted on our school website.

Looking forward to seeing everyone on our orientation days!

Janet Slaney (principal) and Adrian Zuyderduyn (vice-principal)