

**Esquimalt Parent Information Meeting - September 1, 2020 7PM**  
**Questions and Answers**



**A. Health and Safety:**

1. How and when will families be notified if there is an outbreak in the school/learning group. The school cannot notify families. The Health Authorities will determine who needs to be informed and will carry out communication.
2. Is there physical distancing in the learning cohort? A learning cohort is a group of staff and students who remain together throughout the quarter. In Stage 2 they must minimize contact - they are not required to maintain physical distancing of 2 metres. The class that is in 100% is a student's learning cohort. The class that is in hybrid will consist of half of the students, with distancing in place and/or masks.
3. Will students be required to wear masks during class time? Students and staff are required to wear masks in common areas, including halls and common learning spaces such as the library. Students can wear their masks in class. Teachers/EAs may require students to wear a mask if physical distancing cannot be achieved in a class setting, such as guided support, or distancing in hybrid classes.
4. How often will classrooms and common areas be cleaned? The classes, bathroom and high touch surfaces such as doors will be cleaned twice a day. Students and staff will also spray down work spaces as they use them, including keyboards and desks. This will be a collaborative effort.
5. How does the HVAC system work? District Facilities are monitoring ventilation in all buildings. Part of ventilation at this point is opening windows as well. HVAC systems are currently set to allow the maximum amount of airflow in from outside. Staff will be opening classroom windows to increase airflow and will keep classroom doors open whenever possible. If there are windows that do not open or open minimally the district will be informed and it will be fixed.
6. Will the school review procedures for mask wearing and hand washing with students? Schools follow the Provincial COVID -19 Health and Safety Guidelines put out by the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education. We will respond to the orders as mandated. Students and staff are welcome to wear masks at all times and mandated to wear them in common spaces.

**B. Learning Options:**

1. Do parents need to let the school know if they want their child to attend full time? No, we assume your child is coming to school unless we hear differently from the family.
2. What options are there for families who do not want their child to attend school (100% remote)? The family can register their child at the SD 61 Distance Learning School, The Link: <https://thelink.sd61.bc.ca/>. Families can contact the principal at The Link, Leah Moreau, [lmoreau@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:lmoreau@sd61.bc.ca).
3. How will students be supported by teachers throughout the year if they are required to stay home due to illness? (A few days away during a quarter can have a significant impact.) Teachers will provide work for the student to work from home as able. Also, when the student returns to school, we can provide after school learning support to catch up on missed learning.
4. What are learning options for immuno-compromised/vulnerable students? We ask those families to get in touch with Mrs. Pierik, [tpierik@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:tpierik@sd61.bc.ca) directly so that an individualized plan can be put in place.

## **C. Student Schedules and Learning Cohorts:**

### **1. Where do students go for the orientation days (Thursday, Sept. 10 and 11)**

All students will report to their TA (Teacher Advisory) classroom at the assigned times. Students will go to tables by last name to learn their TA and Room number

Grade 9s: Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup> 10am-11:30am

Grade 10s: Friday, September 11<sup>th</sup> 10am-11am

Grade 11s: Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup> 1pm-2pm

Grade 12s: Friday, September 11<sup>th</sup> 1pm-2pm

### **2. How are extra-curricular courses such as Band and Sports being offered?**

All year-long outside of timetable classes will be run before and after school. Individual teachers will communicate schedules to their students. As these classes are outside of a students' learning cohort, physical distancing and masks will be implemented when necessary.

### **3. What will lunch time look like for students?**

Whenever possible, students who are remaining at the school for their afternoon block will have an opportunity to eat towards the latter portion of their morning class. Students will be asked to help us with cleaning of their area in advance of afternoon blocks. Students will also be encouraged to go outside during lunch break. Cafeteria service will be limited, and students are encouraged to pack a lunch, or buy lunch off-site. When students are in common areas (hallways, cafeteria etc.), they will be expected to wear masks and physically distance.

### **4. What will students be working on during their “remote” blocks?**

Learning that is to be completed at home will vary somewhat from class to class; however, it will typically be an extension of work that was completed in the previous class as opposed to “new” lessons.

### **5. How are the learning cohorts organized? Is it possible to organize them so that siblings can be in the same learning cohort?**

Learning cohorts are based on the courses that students originally selected. As such, it is not possible for siblings to be placed in the same cohort.

### **6. What are the expectations for students when they are not in a classroom? Will they be ‘mingling’ with other students?**

When students are not in their classroom, they will be expected to wear a mask and physically distance. Signs in the hallways and on stairs provide directional instructions to manage movement/flow throughout the school. As well, the school is organized in three colour “zones” to correspond to the location of specific classes. Students will be encouraged to spend time outdoors during the lunch break.

### **7. Will students get breaks within the 2 ½ hour classes?**

Students will have “in class” breaks during their two classes, at the teacher’s discretion. For the most part, these breaks will occur within the classroom, although teachers may also choose to take classes outside for breaks. Students will be permitted to use the washrooms during in-class breaks, within the limits of washroom occupancy numbers.

### **8. How will French Immersion and Challenge classes run?**

These classes will run as in previous years.

### **9. Will students be able to change their schedule/classes?**

Unless there is an error in the schedule (missing a class, incorrect grade level), students will not be able to change classes in order to maintain the learning cohort that has been established. Students who require a course change due to an error will be asked to complete an online form to request the change.

A link will be made available after schedules are distributed to students in their Teacher Advisory classes September 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>.