

August 28th, 2020

Dear Students, Parents and Guardians,

I am so pleased to begin the process of welcoming you back to school. Throughout the month of August the BC Ministry of Education has outlined the guidelines and operating procedures for the September start up. We have been hard at work reviewing these guidelines and creating both district and school based plans. The district restart plan is posted here for you to review: [School District 10 – September 2020 Restart Plan Welcome back to school, everyone!](#)

Part of this plan is a delayed start so that we can ensure school staff are fully trained in how to ensure the health and safety of all our students as well as themselves. This training will take place on Sept. 8th and 9th, with school resuming for students on Sept. 10th. We know you have lots of questions and we want to make sure that you have clear answers so that you are confident in sending your child back to school. Over the next week we will be providing information and answering your questions, for now we would like to talk broadly about the main ways we are keeping everyone safe.

Learning Groups

Students and teachers will be organized into three learning groups, K to 3, 4 to 7 and 8 to 12. These groups are designed to reduce contacts, similar to the idea of the multi-family bubbles that we have all become familiar with. Each group will have their own entrance and exit as well as designated hall space. Within them, students will be able to interact normally with their peers and teachers. While their contact with the other groups will be minimized, they will still be able to interact with them, but when they do students will be asked to practice physical distancing and older students will be asked to wear masks.

Personal Responsibility

It is important to recognize that we are all in this together and that everybody needs to be vigilant about their own health. Any student, staff, or other person within the school who has cold, influenza, or COVID-19-like symptoms should seek assessment by a health-care provider, contact the Provincial Health Link 8-1-1 or access the self-assessment tool available online at <https://bc.thrive.health/>. Students and staff who experience seasonal allergies or other COVID-19 like symptoms, which are related to an existing condition can continue to attend school when they are experiencing these symptoms as normal. If a student becomes sick at school, their parents and/or guardian will be contacted and asked to come and get them as soon as possible.

Handwashing

One of the best ways to combat COVID-19 is to wash your hands. As in June, we will be supporting students to ensure that they are frequently and appropriately washing their hands. When students can't wash their hands we will use hand sanitizer to help ensure hand hygiene.

Cleaning

Additional custodial time has been provided for twice daily cleaning of high touch surfaces, such as door knobs, light switches, taps, and tables. At the end of each day the custodial staff will also engage in a deep cleaning of the school to ensure that it is ready for the next day of learning.

Masks

For students in middle and high school as well as teachers, there may be times when they cannot physically distance from those outside of their learning group, for example on the bus or in the hallway at the end of the day. During these times students and teachers will be given masks that they can wear.

We are very excited to have your child return to school and we strongly believe that, supported by the guidance of the BCCDC, Public Health, and Ministry of Education, that we have a strong plan in place to ensure their health and safety. To ensure that we can answer all of your questions, please take the time to fill out this short survey.

<https://forms.gle/WC1Yf8gsBHfpp9EG8>

Sincerely

Nicholas Graves
Principal of Lucerne Elem-
Secondary School

And

Justin Bisson
Vice-Principal of Lucerne
Elem-Secondary School