



SCHOOL DISTRICT 78 FRASER-CASCADE

EVERYONE PULLING TOGETHER

Aug. 25, 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students,

We are excited to welcome you back to the Fraser-Cascade School District. We hope that you have had a safe, relaxing, and enjoyable summer. While we have had many challenges, including the constantly evolving nature of the COVID-19 pandemic and multiple forest fires throughout our province, we remain optimistic that brighter skies are ahead of us. In a recent meeting with provincial Superintendents, the Ministry has indicated some guiding guidelines for school start-up. This includes the following:

Covid Guidelines

Health & Safety Measures	Guidelines for 2021/22
To Continue (June 2021 Guidelines)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Health & safety checklist ○ Daily health check and attendance management ○ Not coming to school when sick ○ Enhanced cleaning (1x/day) ○ Hand hygiene ○ Ventilation ○ Case and contact management
No Longer Recommended (June 2021 Guidelines)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cohorts ○ Physical distancing of 2m
NEW & Required (Aug. 2021)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mask mandates – Staff & Students (Gr. 4-12), recommended K-3
NEW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Vaccinations ○ Extra curricular activities and sports resume ○ Regional health measures, as needed ○ Gatherings and events can occur in alignment with PHO orders ○ Visitors and community use welcome (<i>follow H&S plan</i>)

On August 24, Education Minister Jennifer Whiteside and Dr. Bonnie Henry [announced](#) that B.C. K-12 students will return to school for full time, in-person instruction in September. To ensure a healthy and safe return to school, updates have been made to the [Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#) (in alignment with the [BCCDC COVID-19 Public Health Communicable Disease Guidance for K-12 Schools](#)), including the authority for medical health officers to introduce additional regional measures specific to individual schools or school districts where community transmission rates are higher. **Masks will also continue to be**

required in all indoor spaces for all K-12 staff, visitors and students in Grades 4 to 12 in schools and on school buses and mask wearing for students in Grades K-3 is recommended.

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021HLTH0053-001665>

I am sure that many of you still have questions about school start-up. The Ministry of Education and Public Health has clarified that we want our students back in our schools. Learning loss, mental health concerns, inactivity, and a lack of socialization have truly harmed many of our students over the past eighteen months. Despite some of the increasing trends with the Delta Variant, we are hopeful that we will be back to a “nearly normal” school start-up with regular classrooms and activities in session. We have been working hard with our school leaders to ensure that schools are ready to support our students.

Over the next week, please expect communication from your child’s Principal to discuss the back-to-school plan, including the health and safety guidelines for September.

While the information may not be specific to your child, we hope that these guidelines will give you some comfort as we plan to return to school. We expect these plans to be shared by your child’s school during the week of August 30. We want to assure you that the safety and well-being of our students, families, and staff members are our highest priorities.

We are excited to announce our new school, Fraser-Cascade Open Learning (FCOL), for those families requesting an alternative schooling option for students in Grades 4-12. FCOL is accepting enrollment on our website, www.fcol.ca. The website has information on our school and a link to contact the school Principal, Margaret Smiley. Parents of students in Grades 4-12 can now register their children for classes in September. A complete list of available courses is on the website. Information for FCOL is attached to this letter. We welcome parents who have chosen to homeschool their children and students who may be looking to add an elective course or further their studies. Adults can also register to upgrade their courses or complete high school graduation requirements.

We look forward to connecting with you in person soon.

Sincerely yours,



Balan Moorthy
Superintendent of Schools