

May 25, 2020

Dear Families,

I hope that you are well, staying safe, and taking good care of each other.  Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey you received last week regarding the part-time, voluntary return to in-class instruction. This has provided us the information we need to make plans next week. We know that each of you will make the right choice based on your family circumstances. Please rest assured that whether you choose to return to school in June or continue with remote learning, we are here to support you and your child.

For those of you who have chosen to return to school, we would like to provide you with further information about what you can expect when your child returns. We are following a number of health and safety guidelines as prescribed by the Provincial Health Officer and WorksafeBC and this will mean that things will be different in our classrooms. Some specific changes that you may wish to discuss with your child are:

* **The importance of arriving to school on time and leaving the school promptly at the end of instruction**
* **Waiting at a designated waiting area outside the school prior to admittance to the school**
* **Limited and supervised access to lockers on first day only**
* **Limits on number of students in elevators and washrooms**
* **Keeping to the right in hallways and staircases**
* **Classroom layout that supports physical distancing (E.g. Desk arrangements)**
* **Removal of hard to clean objects (plush toys, shared materials)**
* **More individual work (rather than group work)**
* **No access to water fountains – Students need to bring their own water bottle to school**
* **Increased hand washing opportunities**
* **Breaks taken at staggered times rather than a common recess**
* **More outdoor time**
* **Wherever possible, we are planning to have students stay with their classroom teachers however; staffing (details/complications) may mean that students will not be with their classroom teacher**

While classrooms may look and operate differently, I want to assure you that we are working hard to plan for a positive learning experience for your child. Based on the information we received from the survey, we have developed the following schedule for the return to school:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Monday** | **Tuesday** | **Wednesday** | **Thursday** | **Friday** |
| **9:00 – 11:30\*** | **Gr. 5** | **Gr. 5** | **Gr. 5** | **Gr. 5** | **Gr. 5** |
| 9:00 – 11:30 | Div. 10 & 12 | Div. 10 & 12 | Div. 10 & 12 | Div. 10 & 12 | Div. 10 & 12 |
| 9:05 – 11:35 | Div. 11 | Div. 11 | Div. 11 | Div. 11 | Div. 11 |
| 9:10 – 11:40 | Div. 13 | Div. 13 | Div. 13 | Div. 13 | Div. 13 |
|  | | | | | |
| **12:30 – 3:00\*** | **Gr. 8 & Gr. 7/8** | **Gr. 6** | **Gr. 8 & Gr. 7/8**  **Gr. 7** | **Gr. 6** | **Gr. 7** |
| 12:20 – 2:50 | Div. 1 | Div. 7 | Div. 1  Div. 4 | Div. 7 | 4 |
| 12:25 – 2:55 | Div. 2 | Div.8 | Div. 2  Div. 5 | Div. 8 | 5 |
| 12:30 – 3:00 | Div. 3 | Div. 9 | Div. 3  Div. 6 | Div. 9 | 6 |

As part of this next phase of instruction, we are able to provide full time in-class instruction to children of essential service workers as well as students needing additional support. In addition, before and after school care will be provided by the Westminster Children’s After School Society (WCAS) and there may be a cost associated with this. If you have childcare needs or feel that your child requires full time in-class instruction due to unique circumstances, please indicate this on the form below.

I mentioned that we are following a number of protocols to ensure the health and safety of our staff and students. These include additional cleaning and disinfecting, physical barriers, decreased density in classrooms, and increased signs and other visual cues. We ask that you help us to maintain our commitment to the health and safety of our staff and students by observing the following protocols:

* We ask that parents not enter the school building in order to maintain density requirements. Instead, we will be pleased to assist you by telephone and make an appointment for you to visit if necessary;
* Please send your child to school with a filled water bottle as water fountains have been disabled. If you decide to send a snack, please remind your child not to share and ensure that it is washed and ready to eat;
* As you are well aware, it is of utmost importance that your children remain home if they show any symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID 19 and other infectious respiratory disease before sending them to school. To that end, we ask that you perform a **daily** wellness check with your child using this checklist ([link](https://newwestschools.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Daily-health-assessment-parents.pdf)).

These, along with other changes, may be the ‘new normal’ for now however; what has remained the same is our commitment to our students, staff and families. Now that you have the details of the return to school, we ask that you let us know of your intentions for June 1. Please click [here](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=A6INalQXNE6f6JdvA1PFKrKAteGNPnBKrvvrPan5wWBUQjNEVldZREw5MkhZQ085V09CNDg4VDBFSC4u) and enter your child’s name and indicate whether your child will be returning to school on June 1st. There is also a spot for you to let us know if you need childcare or if your child needs additional access to in-class instruction. **Please complete this from by 5pm on Wednesday, May 27th.** We recognize that this is a short timeline and appreciate your cooperation in providing us this important information. In order to ensure that all classrooms maintain the appropriate density levels, we will not be able to accommodate drop ins. If you change your mind after May 27th, please call me directly and I can arrange for your child to begin school the week of June 8th.

As we move forward, communication will remain important.  To that end, I will continue to share weekly updates with you. As always, please don’t hesitate to contact me should you wish to connect. Please continue to take care of yourself and your family, keeping your health and wellness as the priority.

Kind regards,

Lisa Nasato

Principal, QMS

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