



Queensborough Middle School
Home of the "Tsunami" - Ride the wave to success

Principal: John Lekakis

Vice Principal: Randy Jaggernathsingh

September 2, 2021

Dear students, parents and caregivers,

Welcome back everyone! We are looking forward to welcoming all of our students, new and returning, to QMS on Tuesday September 7th. We have been working hard to ensure that the health and safety of all our students and staff continue to be a priority. I know that you have received a letter from our Superintendent, Mr. Hachlaf, outlining the highlights of what you can expect when your child returns to school. For those of you who have not had the opportunity to review that letter I will outline the key points again:

- The masking requirements that ended last school year will continue as we start this new school year. That means:
 - All staff, adults and students in grades 4 through 12* are required to wear masks in all indoor areas of the school, including at their desks or if on a school bus.
 - Students in kindergarten to grade 3 are strongly encouraged to wear masks.

**Exemptions remain in place for students or staff who cannot wear masks or for times when masks may temporarily need to be removed. This includes when consuming food and drink, when actively engaging in an activity that requires temporary removal of the mask (e.g. when playing a wind instrument), when communicating with or providing a service to a person with diverse needs who may depend on visual cues or facial expressions, when a person can not put on or remove their own mask without assistance, when a person can not tolerate a mask, when needing to quickly identify a person, or when speaking through a barrier.*

- Daily Health Checks will continue to be required for students, staff and visitors. People should stay home if they are sick.



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- The increased focus on hand and respiratory hygiene will continue, with similar access to handwashing and sanitizing options at all schools and sites.
- Enhanced cleaning protocols will remain in place.
- An updated COVID-19 Communicable Disease Plan is being created, based on recommendations and guidance provided by provincial and local health and safety authorities. The District plan will:
 - Be customized to include the specific needs of each individual school or worksite
 - Include specific guidelines to ensure health and safety needs are met in extra-curricular activities (e.g. instrument mouthpieces should not be shared unless cleaned and disinfected between use, hands should be cleaned before and after using frequently touched equipment, etc.).

Our schedule will be different from last year as we return to the schedule that we had before the pandemic. As our regular schedule resumes, students will no longer need to line up outside the building, or have staggered lunch hours. Starting on Wednesday, September 8, students can enter the building a few minutes before the 8:31 a.m. warning bell, go to their lockers and get ready for their classes, which begin at 8:36 a.m.

On Tuesday, September 7th, students in grades 5, 6 and 7 will be attending for approximately one hour (between 8:36 - 9:36 a.m.). The grade 8 students will be attending for the whole day, as there will be lessons and team-building activities planned for them. All grade 8 students are asked to pack a lunch and bring their water bottles for Tuesday. This scheduling difference is based on ministry requirements for instructional time, which is higher for grade 8 than grades 5 - 7.

Please visit our website for more information at <https://queensboroughschool.ca/> . We are still in the process of making updates for this year but this is a great place to find things such as our supply lists, school expectations, and instructions on how



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to use the MyEd BC parent portal, School Cash Online, and access permission forms (<https://queensboroughschool.ca/parents/notices-information/school-calendar>).

Below is the schedule for Tuesday, September 7th (8:36 a.m.):

All Grade 8 students will meet on the grass field.

All Grade 6 & 7 students will go to their **last year's** classroom

- Div. 4 - Room 214 - Marc Rouleau
- Div. 5 - Room 206 - Riel Villeneuve
- Div. 6 - Room 208 - Apinder Sekhon
- Div. 7 - Room 203 - Gurmeet Grewal (Takhar)
- Div. 8 - Room 216 - Raymond Jang (Carrington)
- Div. 9 - Room 201 - Angie Takhar (Dowdell)
- Div.10 - Room 132 - Astrid Hin Wong
- Div.11 - Room 124 - Kim Johal
- Div.12 - Room 125 - Heather Scharf
- Div.13 - Portable 6 - Peter Ha

All Grade 5 students from QE (registered) will meet in the Gym.

All new students (registered) and online students will meet in the Multi Purpose Room.

Please ensure you have completed a health check before coming to school with your parents. Students must wear a mask upon entering the school. When grade 5 - 7 students are dismissed, they are asked to go home, as there are still grade 8 classes in session. **If you are taking an extended vacation, please make sure your parent/guardian lets the office know approximately what day you will return (as we don't want you to lose your spot at QMS because we don't know where you are).** Parents of students not returning to QMS are also asked to inform the office. Parents can let the office know by email (queensborough@sd40.bc.ca) or by calling 604-517-6040.



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Finally, I am honoured to rejoin QMS as principal and am very excited about the year ahead. On behalf of the staff, I would like to thank our beloved Mrs. Nasato for all her service, support and dedication to the QMS community over the last 5 years as principal and wish her all the best in her retirement!

Once again, we are thrilled to have all the students back at school and looking forward to a more normal school experience for both students and staff this year. Students, we will see you soon, and parents we will see you at the first PAC meeting. Enjoy the last few days of summer.

Take care.

John Lekakis

Principal
QMS