



Queensborough Middle School

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Principal: John Lekakis
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January 7, 2022

Hello QMS Families and Students,

I hope you all are keeping well and wish to thank you in advance for your cooperation and support as we navigate the current phase of the pandemic.

Over this past week, staff returned to QMS to implement the recently announced enhanced health and safety measures, to develop contingency plans, and to continue to: support learning in the event of a functional closure (for example, if there are insufficient staff to open the school) and to support the limited number of students that needed to attend school this week.

As referenced in the letter sent out yesterday by our Superintendent, Karim Hachlaf, the Omicron variant's impact is evolving rapidly. With the return to school on Monday, January 10, we've been working hard to ensure that measures are in place (to maximize physical spacing, limit school visitors, adjust bell schedules, and reduce crowding) as we welcome our students back. Click [here](#) to access the Superintendent's letter for your reference.

For our January 10th restart, we ask that you review some important information, including updated health and safety protocols, schedule changes and student expectations:

Daily Health Check

The best way to prevent COVID-19 from spreading is to stay home when ill. It is the required responsibility of parents/guardians to do a daily health check for their child, prior to them attending school. That health check needs to include a full review of all symptoms and questions listed on the district [Daily Health Check form](#). In addition, the [BC K to 12 Health Check website](#) and app is an easy way to decide if a child should attend school based on their symptoms. It includes current health guidelines and offers an age-appropriate user experience for K to 12 students. Alternatively, daily health check posters are available in 13 languages on the [BC Government website](#). Everyone entering the school needs to make sure that they are healthy; and anyone who is feeling sick needs to stay home. If a child does become sick while at school, they will be isolated and parents will be notified and asked to pick up their child as soon as possible.

Masks

Masks are an integral part of the safety protocol for COVID-19. Under the current [public health order](#), everyone is required to wear a mask in all indoor areas. When layered with other recommended public health measures, a well-constructed, well-fitting, and properly worn mask can help prevent your child and others from being exposed to COVID-19. No matter which type of mask your child is wearing, proper fit is a key factor in its effectiveness:

- Please make sure the mask completely covers your child's nose, mouth, and chin.
- Check for gaps between your child's face and the mask (along the top, sides, and bottom).
- Improve mask fit so it is snug and has no gaps; adjust the ties, bands, ear loops or nosepiece.

For helpful information on how to make masks fit properly, click [here](#).

** Students should come to school each day with two or three clean, well-fitting masks to ensure they have back-ups available at school. Also, please remind your child to maximize the distance between themselves and others even while wearing their mask (indoors/outdoors).

Revised Bell Schedule

8:31 a.m. **Group 1** enters the building

8:36 a.m. **Group 2** enters the building (CHAT begins)

8:45 a.m. Period 1

9:30 a.m. Period 2

[Teachers can schedule in nutrition/activity breaks each day at their discretion]

10:15 a.m. Period 3

11:00 a.m. Period 4

11:45 a.m. Gr. 5 & 8 classes eat lunch; Gr. 6 & 7 classes go outside

12:10 p.m. Warning bell (Gr. 6 & 7 classes return to eat lunch)

12:15 p.m. Gr. 5 & 8 classes go outside

12:40 p.m. Warning bell (Gr.5 & 8 classes return inside)

12:45 p.m. Period 5

1:30 p.m. Period 6

2:15 p.m. Period 7

3:00 p.m. Dismissal [staggered dismissal between 2:50-3:00]

Staggered Start Times and Entry Points

The following are the staggered start times for each Division and the location where each class should meet before entering the building:

In Front of the School:

8:31 – Division 8 – Ms. Carrington

8:31 – Division 9 – Ms. Hin Wong & Mr. Kriese

8:36 – Division 4 – Mr. Rouleau

8:36 – Division 7 – Ms. Takhar

The Door by the Music Room:

8:31 - Division 1 – Ms. Ventouras

8:31 – Division 3 – Ms. Smith

8:36 – Division 2 – Mr. Jaggernathsingh, Mr. Rai, Ms. Seddon

8:36 – Division 10 – Mr. Pichler

The Door by the Multi-Purpose Room:

8:31 – Division 5 – Mr. Villeneuve

8:31 – Division 6 – Ms. Sekhon

The Basketball Court:

8:36 – Division 11 – Ms. Johal

8:36 – Division 12 – Ms. Scharf

The Portables:

8:31 – Division 13 – Mr. Ha

8:36 – Division 14 – Ms. Grewall

** Each student should go directly to their homeroom classrooms once directed by staff. Once students are seated, teachers will direct them as to when they can go to their lockers.

** All students must hand-sanitize as they enter the school and must also be wearing a mask.

Movement Around the School

- Students are asked to arrive at school close to their designated time and to avoid congregating as they wait to enter the building.
- Students are asked to leave the building immediately at the end of the day, unless they are participating in a staff-supervised activity (i.e. sports practice, homework help, club meeting).

- Washroom use will be limited to one at a time. Students are asked to avoid congregating in our washrooms and respect capacity limits. There are floor markers for students to stand on as they wait to enter the washroom.
- Respect the personal space of others by maintaining appropriate physical distance.
- Follow the directional arrows in the hallways and stairwells (by keeping to the right) to avoid involuntary physical contact with others.
- Lockers: Students will be permitted to go to their lockers as directed by their teacher.
- Lunch: Students will continue to stay in their classrooms to eat their lunch at their desks (during their designated time). Students are not permitted to walk in the hallways eating/drinking without a mask, nor are they permitted to visit other classrooms. Likewise, when students are outside during lunch, there will be no in-and-out privileges; students must go to the washroom, water fountain, or get what they need before heading outside. In addition, any students ordering lunch through the Fuel Up program will have their lunches delivered directly to their classroom.

Learning Spaces

- Classrooms have been configured to maximize space and to avoid student face-to-face contact where possible.
- Students are asked to sanitize their hands upon entering and exiting any learning space.
- Students are encouraged to bring their own supplies and to avoid sharing items.

Student Attendance and Learning Expectations

- If a student is going to be away from school due to illness it is important to inform the school and make direct contact with classroom teachers. Please report child absences to the school daily (or for a defined range of days if known) and please do so before 9:00 am in order to avoid the office staff needing to call about unreported absences.
- Staff have been working this week to set up all classes in the MS Teams platform in order to facilitate communication with students about their learning.

Gatherings and Events

- School events involving large gatherings will be postponed or held virtually.
- Sports tournaments are paused; while practices and single contests (with a maximum of two teams) are permitted to continue.
- Intramurals have also been paused for the time being.
- Spectators are not permitted for any school events.

Visitors

- Visitors to the school will be further limited to those directly involved in carrying out necessary school responsibilities. Please help reduce unnecessary trips to the school to drop off forgotten items such as lunches, clothing, or library books.
- Parents picking up and dropping off students are being asked to not enter the school; instead, pre-arrange a meeting time and location outside with your child and avoid congested areas such as outside the main entrance.

Communication

We anticipate receiving further information and guidance in the coming weeks from the Ministry of Education and the PHO and we will share any new information with you as soon as we can. We will continue to use our school website, Twitter, and school messenger as part of our communication. Please do not hesitate to contact us by telephone (604-517-6040) or email (queensborough@sd40.bc.ca), if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your continued patience and support as we once again navigate what seems to be an ever-changing educational landscape due to the pandemic. We remain as committed as ever to providing the best educational experience for all our students despite the many challenging circumstances we have faced. By supporting one another with kindness and patience, we are certain that we will get through this together. Stay healthy and safe.

Yours sincerely,

John Lekakis

QMS Principal