

# Macaulay Elementary Return to School Guidelines

## September 2021

We are looking forward to having our students back to school next week!

On the first couple of days of school, students will be spending time in their former classrooms and are asked to line-up at the following doors with basic supplies only (pencil case with pencils, eraser and colouring tools. Please see the document attached to know which entrance/location your child will be using.

We are looking forward to having students enter their new classrooms and meet their new teachers most likely on either Thursday or Friday once we have confirmed enrollment. At that time, students will be asked to bring all their school supplies.

Please take the time to talk about what the return to school will look like with your child(ren). Even though we are making some strides, with the vaccination rate going up, COVID is still a part of our lives. It is important that everyone in our community understands the safety plans in place to help ensure the health and safety of all students, staff and families.

### September Start-Up

#### For New Kindergarten students:

- **Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>** – you and your child will attend a **small group session of 45 min**
- **Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>** – **15 minute interviews** to get to know you and your child
- **Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>** – your child will attend a **small group session of 2 hours**
- **Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>** – your child & whole class will attend for most of the day from **9am to 1pm**
- **Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> & onward** – Start of **full school days** from **8:53am to 2:35pm**
- Information about these interviews and small group sessions has been emailed already to all new Kindergarten parents and will be posted on the bulletin board at the front entrance of the school in September.

#### For Grades 1 to 5 students:

**Tuesday, Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>:**

First Day back from **9am until 11:30am**

**Wednesday, Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> & onward:**

Start of full school days from **8:53am to 2:35pm**

## **Coming to School**

Students and staff must stay home if they are displaying any symptoms of COVID-19 communicable disease. It is the responsibility of parents to assess their child(ren) daily for symptoms of COVID-19 prior to sending them to school.

Further information:

- [BC COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool](#)
- <https://www.k12dailycheck.gov.bc.ca/healthcheck?execution=e1s1>
- Contact 811 or your family physician

## **Physical Distancing**

Students and staff will be reminded to respect the personal space of others. During the drop-off and pick-up, families are highly encouraged to stay outside and spread out as much as possible to help reduce unintentional contact and prevent crowding. Arranging a specific location to meet your child at the end of the day is recommended and helps your child to know where to go after school.

## **Mask**

- Mask wearing indoors for all K-12 staff, visitors, parents and students in grades 4 to 12, including at their desks and on school buses
- Mask wearing indoors strongly encouraged for students in Kindergarten to grade 3

## **Overall Health**

- Focus on hand hygiene as previously done. Rigorous hand washing routines will be incorporated into the school day.
- Building air ventilation has been revised and updated as needed
- Cleaning and disinfecting to be continued as previously

## **Schedule**

Students will attend school between 8:53am and 2:35pm Monday through Friday (with the exception of any non-instructional days).

A friendly reminder that we have a Professional Development Day on Monday, September 27<sup>th</sup> and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Day on Thursday, September 30<sup>th</sup>.

Students will no longer be organized in learning groups/cohorts.

## **What students should bring to school**

### *Lunch and snack*

- Students are to bring food and snacks that are nut and allergen free if they are in a classroom with a student with anaphylaxis. We do not have the space to accommodate students elsewhere if they bring nuts, nut products or other known allergens for lunch.
- Use containers and packages that students can open independently
- We are adopting a school wide 'pack in and pack out' policy for lunch waste to allow custodians to focus on cleaning and disinfecting during the day.
- Students will be asked to take home any remaining food and garbage from their snacks and lunches. Reusable containers are encouraged.

### *Water*

- Students are encouraged to bring their own water bottle
- Our water fountains are open and accessible to all students and staff

### *Clothes*

- Clothes, hats and shoes to be outside depending on the weather
- Students will go outside at recess, rain or shine

### *School Supplies*

- Please refer to the school supply lists on the Macaulay website <https://macaulay.sd61.bc.ca/>.

## **Arriving / drop off at school**

- Students and families are asked to arrive at school as close as possible to the bell time which is 8:53am
- All students will enter and exit the building via their designated outside door
- Students line up outside their designated door at the specified area and wait for their teacher
- Upon entering students will wash their hands
- Parents are asked to wait outside the school and not to come into the building to drop off or pick up their child
- For students arriving late, please come to the main door.

### **Leaving / pick up from school**

- Students will be picked up from their designated outside door at 2:35 pm and are encouraged to go home promptly
- It is important that parents are on time for pick up/dismissal at the end of the day
- Please wait at the designated outside door and do not enter the classroom when you are picking up your child.

### **Main Entrance / Entrance Doors / Accessing the Office and School**

- During the school day, if you need to enter the building please come to the main door by the office and ring the doorbell. At this time, our main door will remain locked to reduce unintentional contact.
- Upon entering be sure to sanitize your hands at the hand sanitizing station, to sign-in and confirm your daily health check before entering the Office.
- At this time, parents are asked not to go directly to their child's classroom but proceed to the office instead so we can assist you.
- Please limit your visits to the Office - where possible phone calls, emails and appointments are the preferred methods to contact the Office at this time
- When in the office, please respect the personal space of others as much as possible
- Visitors also need to sign-out at the end of their visit

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Macaulay Elementary Return to School Guidelines - September 2021 will be updated as necessary. Changes and updates will be communicated to students and families as they become available.

If you have any questions please contact the School Office.

For further information, please visit the following website:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/administration/program-management/safe-caring-and-orderly-schools>

Thank you for your assistance and on-going support,

Josee and Emmanuelle