

Wednesday, August 26th, 2020

Greater Victoria School District sets out plan for the 2020/21 school year

VICTORIA, BC – The District is informing families of its restart plan for the 2020/21 school year. The District is entering Stage 2 of the BC K-12 Education Restart Plan in September, focusing on student and staff safety while maximizing in-class instructional time.

Following the comprehensive measures set by the Ministries of Health and Education, the District has updated its health and safety protocols to adhere to all of the requirements of the [COVID-19 Public Health Office's Guidance for K-12 School Settings](#). All schools will be implementing the following procedures outlined in the [GVSD Exposure Control Plan for School Sites](#).

“District Staff and School Administrators have been working tirelessly to plan a safe return to school for more than 20,000 students and 3,000 staff members,” said Board Chair Jordan Watters. “Everyone deserves to be safe and feel safe in our buildings. We understand that many families have concerns for students and family members who may be immunocompromised. Our District will be collaborating with these families to ensure we can provide options that work for them. We are committed to ensuring our students’ success and making sure no one falls behind. Despite the challenges we face, we hope our students, families and staff share our excitement about the return to school and the year ahead.”

Staff will be returning to the schools on September 8th for orientation and to review all health and safety protocols, prior to students return. Students will begin to attend school on September 10th. Each school will be communicating directly with their families regarding scheduling and first day of school plans.

Organization of Schools

Schools will be organized into Learning Groups. The way schools are structured will vary across elementary, middle and secondary schools. Learning groups will not exceed 60 individuals for elementary or middle schools, or 120 individuals for secondary to help limit contact and potential exposure.

When necessary, schools will also stagger start and end times along with recess and lunch breaks, and assign students different entries and exits to ensure that students are not interacting with others outside their Learning Group.

To learn more about how schools will be organized at the school levels, see attachments.

- [Elementary](#)
- [Middle](#)
- [Secondary](#)

"We are very excited to be welcoming students and staff back to school. While we had many students return to class in June, we will be welcoming some students back for the first time since March," said Superintendent Shelley Green. "This is really exciting for us because we understand that the educational system offers consistency for our children and plays a pivotal role in their development of relationships, identity, social-emotional skills and overall well-being. Our schools have missed all of our students and we are really looking forward to having them back."

Inclusive Education

All students with special needs who are enrolled in a District school will have access to the full range of supports typically offered in our schools, although the delivery method may look different. All students with a Ministry designation will continue to have an IEP with personalized goals. The IEP will be in place across stages and options (e.g., hybrid), acknowledging that support strategies may vary or be adjusted for different stages and environments. Regardless of stages/environments, continuity of access to learning will remain.

The District is committed to ongoing communication and collaboration with students and families to implement plans and monitor the success of student learning goals. Parents/guardians and caregivers should communicate directly with their school team.

Students/Parents/Caregivers with Immune Suppression

For students with immune suppression, if attending in-class instruction is right for the child: school and school districts work with parents or caregivers to develop options for learning to ensure appropriate preventative measures are in place.

For students with immune suppression, if attending in-class instruction is not right for the child: schools and school districts work with families to develop options to continue their child's education at school or school district.

Educational Options

Students and families will have several educational options as they plan to return to school for the 2020/21 school year. The options include:

- 1) *In-class instruction (K-12)*
- 2) *Students/Parents/Caregivers with Immune Suppression (K-12)*
- 3) [Distributed Learning \(K-12\)](#)
- 4) [Homeschooling \(K-12\)](#)

Since the release of the Stage 2 Restart Framework, the District has received many requests from families to offer additional options that allow their children to continue learning from home while holding their child's space at their school.

The District is currently considering a hybrid learning option for Grades 1 through 8. This would consist of primarily home study supplemented by in-class and remote learning.

- 5) *Hybrid Learning (*under consideration*)*

In order to explore this option, the District is assessing the level of interest. The District will be surveying families to determine which option they will be selecting for their children. The survey will be emailed to parents/guardians.

For more information on the educational options please review the following table.

K -12 Return to School Educational Options – Stage 2

	In Class Instruction K-12	Hybrid Grades 1-8* <i>*Under consideration</i>	Students/ Parents/ Caregivers with Immune Suppression K - 12	Distributed Learning K - 12	Homeschooling K - 12
Status of Student with School	Enrolled in GVSD School	Enrolled in GVSD School	Enrolled in GVSD School	Enrolled in a Distributed Learning School	Registered as a Homeschooling student in catchment school
Students Organized in Learning Groups/Cohorts	Yes	Yes	Depends on Accommodation	No	No
Parent/ Caregiver must provide a doctor's note indicating the need for accommodations due to health related risks	No	No	Yes	No	No
Method of Instruction	Full time instruction for all students for the maximum instructional time possible within cohort limits	Primarily home study supplemented by in-class and remote learning	Parents/Care Givers work with school to develop options to continue education which may include remote learning	Online	Parent provides and supervises the entire educational program
Must meet the Learning Outcomes of the BC Curriculum	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Student Progress Evaluated and Reported by a Teacher	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

For additional information please visit the District's website: www.sd61.bc.ca/news-events/covid-19/

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One *Learning* Community



2020 School Start *Learning Groups*

Elementary Educational Options

STAGE 2 IN-CLASS INSTRUCTION (Grades K-5) Learning Group = MAX 60 Students & Staff

Elementary schools will be organized into Learning Groups. If and when classes choose to work together, the Learning Group will not exceed 60 individuals.

MAX 60
PEOPLE



MAX 60
PEOPLE

Learning Groups will be assigned entry and exit doors, as well as specific recess times and outdoor play area locations.



Students will continue to receive support from staff who are not within their Learning Group. Staff moving between Learning Groups will practice physically distancing and will use Personal Protection Equipment (PPE).



Students will be oriented on all of the health and safety protocols including washroom use, hand hygiene, sneeze/cough protocols and staying home when sick.



Under Consideration : HYBRID LEARNING OPTIONS (Grades 1-5)

Classes will be organized in single grade or multi-grade configurations.



OR



Student will receive instruction through a combination of at home learning, in-class instruction and remote learning.



Families will be expected to support their students learning at home approximately 3 days a week.



Scheduling will include:

- Up to 2 days of in-class;
- 1 day remote/learning online led by teacher;
- 2 days of independent learning assigned by teacher



(2 Days)



(1 Day)



(2 Days)

**If families opt for hybrid learning, the student will be expected to stay enrolled in this model for the entirety of the 2020-2021 school year. However, if parents are wishing to move from this model to another model within the school year, it will be dependent on available space and will be actioned during break times in the school calendar.*

This option will allow families to remain connected to their currently enrolled and/or catchment school.

Students/Parents/Caregivers with Immune Suppression:

If attending **in-class instruction is right** for their child:

We will work with families to develop options for learning to ensure appropriate preventative measures are in place.

If attending **in-class instruction is not right** for their child:

We will work with families to develop options to continue their child's education.

2020 School Start *Learning Groups*

Middle Educational Options

STAGE 2 IN-CLASS INSTRUCTION (Grades 6-8) Learning Group = MAX 60 Students & Staff

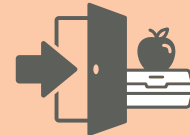
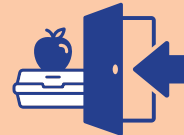
Middle schools will be organized into Learning Groups. If and when classes choose to work together, the Learning Group will not exceed 60 individuals.

MAX 60
PEOPLE



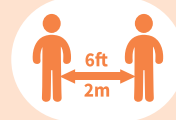
MAX 60
PEOPLE

Learning Groups will be assigned entry and exit doors, as well as specific recess times and outdoor play area locations.



Exploratory options for students will be limited to one per term for a total of three for the year.

Music programs will continue where physical distancing can be maintained when students combine from multiple Learning Groups.



Students will continue to receive support from staff who are not within their Learning Group. Staff moving between Learning Groups will practice physically distancing and will use Personal Protection Equipment (PPE).



Students will be oriented on all of the health and safety protocols including washroom use, hand hygiene, sneeze/cough protocols and staying home when sick.





Under Consideration : HYBRID LEARNING OPTIONS

Classes will be organized in single grade or multi-grade configurations.



Student will receive instruction through a combination of at home learning, in-class instruction and remote learning.

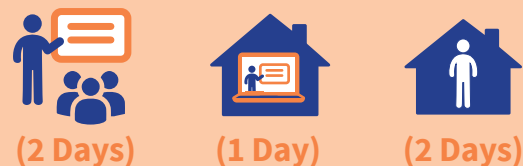


Families will be expected to support their students learning at home approximately 3 days a week.



Scheduling will include:

- Up to 2 days of in-class;
- 1 day remote/learning online led by teacher;
- 2 days of independent learning assigned by teacher



**If families opt for hybrid learning, the student will be expected to stay enrolled in this model for the entirety of the 2020-2021 school year. However, if parents are wishing to move from this model to another model within the school year, it will be dependent on available space and will be actioned during break times in the school calendar. The Hybrid Learning option will not include exploratories, band, etc.*

This option will allow families to remain connected to their currently enrolled and/or catchment school.

Students/Parents/Caregivers with Immune Suppression:

If attending **in-class instruction is right** for their child:

We will work with families to develop options for learning to ensure appropriate preventative measures are in place.

If attending **in-class instruction is not right** for their child:

We will work with families to develop options to continue their child's education.

2020 School Start *Learning Groups*

Secondary Educational Options

STAGE 2 IN-CLASS INSTRUCTION (Grades 9-12) Learning Group = MAX 120 Students & Staff

Under Stage 2 of the Education Restart Plan, secondary students will attend school each day.



**5 Days
per Week**

Students will have two face-to-face classes each 10 week term for a total of 8 courses per year.



**2 Courses
each
10 Week Term**

Course A will be face-to-face 5 mornings each week in a Learning Group of approximately 30.



Course A



5 Mornings

**Max 30
People**

Course B will be in a blended model with instruction being in-person 2 afternoons per week, supplemented by independent home study on the remaining afternoons.



Course B

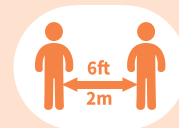


2 Afternoons



3 Afternoons

Course B in-person instruction will be in small groups to allow physical distancing.



After five weeks, courses flip – Course B becomes face-to-face every day and Course A is blended.



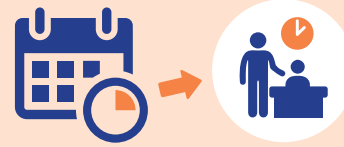
Course A



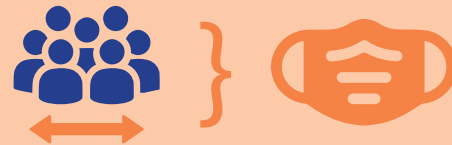
Course B

**After 5
Weeks**

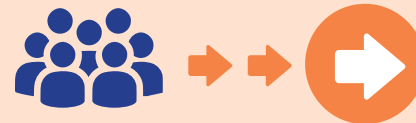
Flexible blocks will be built in to accommodate supplementary learning services.



Masks will be required in all high traffic areas such as common areas and hallways.



Traffic flow will be managed through directional signs.



Hygiene measures will be reviewed.



These modifications will enable the blended class to be divided into two groups attending on alternating days, thereby permitting physical distancing within the classroom.

Once the 10-week term is over and the two courses are completed, students commence studies in two new courses for another term, and a new Learning Group.

Students/Parents/Caregivers with Immune Suppression:

If attending **in-class instruction is right** for their child:

We will work with families to develop options for learning to ensure appropriate preventative measures are in place.

If attending **in-class instruction is not right** for their child:

We will work with families to develop options to continue their child's education.