



Berkshire Park Elementary

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T: 604-583-7305

Principal: Mr. T. McQuarrie

Acting Vice Principal: Ms. T. Hutchins

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Berkshire Park Elementary is located on the shared traditional territories of the Katzie, Semiahmoo, and other Coast Salish Peoples.

A MESSAGE FROM MR. MCQUARRIE, Principal and MS. HUTCHINS, ACTING VP
Welcome back, Berkshire Park students and families! We hope you had a fun and restful summer. We are eager to start another wonderful school year together and excited to see everyone's smiling faces again. This year, we'll explore new ideas, make great friends, and achieve amazing things together. This week, our staff have been busy attending professional development sessions and preparing for your return, and we can't wait to welcome you back to a safe, supportive, and joyful learning environment. Let's make this school year the best one yet! See you on Tuesday, September 2nd!

WE ARE A NUT AND SCENT AWARE SCHOOL

Berkshire Park has staff and students who may experience severe, possibly life-threatening, allergic reactions if exposed to tree nuts, products containing nuts (eg., Nutella) and scented personal products such as colognes, perfumes, soaps, etc.. Your effort in ensuring our school is free of nuts and strong scents is greatly appreciated!

THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL (Tuesday, Sept. 2)

Please remember that all grade 1-7 students attend for one hour on Tuesday, Sept. 2 (10:00-11:00) and all new Kindergarten students attend from 10:30-11:00. Students in grades 1-7 resume full day attendance on Wednesday, Sept. 3. It is extremely important for all students to attend on Sept. 2. If it is not possible for your child(ren) to attend that day, you must contact the school office at 604-583-7305 to let us know. Thanks for your help with this!

Children in Kindergarten are to follow their gradual entry schedule and will attend their first full day of school on Monday, Sept. 15. If you do not have a copy of your child's Kindergarten gradual entry schedule, please contact the school as soon as possible.

SAFE ARRIVAL REMINDERS

During our peak drop off and pick up times, hundreds of children and other family members arrive at roughly the same time. To ensure everyone arrives and leaves the school in a timely and safe manner, we would like to share the following reminders:

Morning Routine:

- Ensure your child is ready to leave home with enough time to reach school safely and on time.

Walking to School:

- Teach your child to use crosswalks, obey traffic signals, and to not walk in the parking lot when they arrive at school (ie., stay on the sidewalk).
- Encourage them to walk with a friend or in a group for added safety.

Biking to School:

- Make sure your child wears a properly fitted helmet and follows all road rules.
- Review the safest route to school, emphasizing the importance of using bike lanes (if available) and crossing at intersections.
- Remind your child to walk their bike (or anything else with wheels that they are riding on) while on school property. Using a bike lock is highly recommended.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, Sept. 2

First day of school (10:00-11:00 am)

Wednesday, Sept. 3

First full day of school for Grade 1-7 students

Monday, Sept. 15

First full day of school for Kindergarten students

Monday, Sept. 29

Non-Instructional Day (No classes)

Tuesday, Sept. 30

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (School Closed)

Monday, Oct. 13

Thanksgiving Day (No School)

Bell Schedule for the 2025-2026 School Year

8:32	Welcome bell
8:37	Classes in session
10:07	Start of recess
10:22	End of recess
11:45	Start of lunch
12:00	Bell to go outside
12:30	Bell to return to class
2:30	Dismissal bell
2:45	Supervision ends

Parent Drop-Off:

- Use designated drop-off zones and avoid double parking. Our main drop off zone is located at the front of the school, but we also currently allow people to enter the parking lot for this purpose. However, in both cases, parking in either lot or waiting for extended periods of time is not permitted.
- Remind your child to **exit the vehicle on the sidewalk side** and be mindful of other cars. Please do not drop off or pick up your child in the middle of the parking lot, as this greatly increases the chances that they will be hit by a moving vehicle.
- Once your child is dropped off, we ask that drivers leave the lot immediately so that others can enter. Please drive slowly while doing so!

Please review these safety tips with your child regularly to ensure a safe and successful school year!

WHERE DO I GO AND WHAT DO I BRING?

When your child arrives on Tuesday, September 2nd (please do not send them before 9:45), there will be a number of staff members around the school to help guide students to where they need to be. **For the first week of school, all Grade 1-7 students will meet on the basketball courts on the east side of the school, where they will then be organized by grade level. Unless advised otherwise, students will be dismissed from the same location at the end of each day until class placements are finalized.** Kindergarten children and parents will meet in the gym at 10:30. Please remind your child that they will likely be rotating between different teachers, classrooms, and/or student groupings this week. Permanent classrooms and teacher(s) will not be assigned for several days.

Parents are welcome to remain on the school property during the one hour of class time on Tuesday. However, we ask that parents refrain from entering the classroom hallways of the school, watching their children through the windows while instruction is taking place, or entering the classroom (unless a teacher invites you to do so), as this can be very distracting to our learners and staff. Thank you for your help and consideration.

As for what to bring, we just need students to bring a pencil case (ie., pencils, pencil crayons, etc.), if they have one, a refillable water bottle, and their happy, smiling selves.

WE ARE A WESTCOAST WEATHER SCHOOL

Most children want, need, and enjoy having time outside to play and/or connect with friends and to get some fresh air. Unless conditions are extreme and/or unsafe, Berkshire Park students are expected to be outdoors during recess and lunch. Please ensure your child arrives at school with clothing suitable for the weather conditions expected that day (this includes rain, snow, etc.). Parents are also encouraged to send an extra set of clothes that their child(ren) can keep in the classroom during the year.

STUDENT PLACEMENT AND CLASS ORGANIZATION INFORMATION SESSION

If you would like to learn more about how classes are organized and why it takes a few days to do so, please feel free to attend an information session in the school on Wednesday, Sept. 3, at 9:00 am. Mr. McQuarrie, Principal, will give the presentation and will be available to answer any general questions you may have about school start-up processes.

A FEW OFFICE REMINDERS

- This year, Ms. Webb (Head Secretary) and Ms. Shah (Office Clerk) will be taking care of everything in the office. Please be sure to say “hello” to these wonderful people, next time you are at the school or on the phone with them
- Please contact the school as soon as possible if your child is moving schools or if you have changed any of the contact information we have on file.
- Always call the office whenever your child is going to be away from school (especially on Tuesday, Sept. 2)

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

School supplies can be purchased yourself at your local store. PDF Lists of what is required/ recommended by grade can be found [here on our website under Resources](#).

Alternatively, you can purchase quality standardized school supplies online through a company called *School Start*. Supplies are packaged and delivered directly to the school labeled with your child's name. More information on how to order can be found on our website [here](#)

FURTHER COMMUNICATION FROM THE SCHOOL

Additional information about the year ahead will be sent to you over the next couple of weeks.