



## Information on School Life and Resources for Parents

The Surrey Schools Welcome Centre provides free transition and settlement support to all newcomer and English Language Learner families new to the school district. This resource provides a general introduction to our school district systems and learning model. Adjusting to life in Canada and learning new systems can be challenging. This resource will provide you with some basic information and links where you may find additional resources to support your children. We are here to help you navigate your settlement journey and look forward to working with you and your children.

### Allergy-aware Schools

The Surrey School District strives to keep schools safe for all students and staff. Where there is a student with a life-threatening allergy, school staff, students, and parents work together to make the school “allergy-aware” and prepare a plan to reduce the risk of student exposure to the allergen.

Anaphylaxis is a severe, life-threatening allergic reaction. Reactions are often rapid and may occur within seconds of exposure to even the smallest amounts of the allergen. Immediate medical treatment is required when a reaction occurs. Examples of life-threatening allergens are peanuts, tree nuts and nut products, shellfish, cow’s milk, eggs, and insect venom. For more information:

<https://media.surreyschools.ca/media/Default/medialib/allergyawareschools-english.3c9c9512210.pdf>



### Being Involved

Children thrive when parents/caregivers are involved in the learning process. Talk to your child about their day, communicate with the teacher and in the early and middle years, spend time reading with your child.

### Combined-grade classes: Learning together

Children in all class formations thrive when parents/caregivers are involved in their learning. Research shows that there are both academic and social benefits to combined-grade classes and that successful learning is less dependent on how students are grouped into classes, than on the quality of instructional practices. Every child is encouraged on their learning journey.

For more information:

<https://media.surreyschools.ca/media/Default/medialib/combined-gradeclasses-english.3381de12189.pdf>



## Communicating Student Learning (CSL)

Communicating Student Learning is a process through which the schools share assessment results with parents so they can better support their child. The goal of CSL is to have an on-going discussion between students, parents, and teachers about the student's learning. This is not limited to report cards. Teachers use a variety of methods and tools to communicate with parents. This may include conferencing, paper reports, and/or digital platforms. For more information:



<https://media.surreyschools.ca/media/Default/medialib/communicating-student-learning-csl-english-docx.5cbd6912191.pdf>

## Communicating Your Concerns

Schools are eager to address your questions or concerns. Education is a shared responsibility between the home and the school and good communication is an excellent starting point for resolving an issue. Parents and guardians are encouraged to contact the school if they have questions about an activity or issue. It is best to begin with the classroom or subject teacher. If a matter remains unresolved, you may wish to contact the principal to request assistance in dealing with the matter. For more information: <https://media.surreyschools.ca/media/Default/medialib/communicating-your-concerns-english-rev.de5fc712232.pdf>

## Early Learning (0 – 5 Years)

Early learning is the foundation for lifelong learning. Early learning refers to emerging and expanding of young children's physical, intellectual, emotional, social, and creative capacities. The Surrey School District offers a variety of programs to support early learning for children before they enter school. Our programs highlight the importance of oral language and play-based learning as foundations for cognitive, emotional, and social development.



For more information:

- Ready, Set, Learn: <https://www.surreyschools.ca/page/12150/ready-set-learn>
- StrongStart: <https://www.surreyschools.ca/page/12151/strongstart>
- Preschool Daycare: <https://www.surreyschools.ca/page/576/childcare>

## Extended Vacations During the School Year: Things to Consider

Travelling abroad can be a positive experience for children. However, extended vacations during the school year can also have implications for student learning. There are several factors to consider when planning vacations during the school year. Please see the following resource for more information on the effects and how to limit the impact of extended absences for vacations. <https://media.surreyschools.ca/media/Default/medialib/reading-a-lifelong-investment.15ac6a12182.pdf>

## Getting Back to School Routines

Over the summer, children often develop different schedules: staying up later, sleeping in, eating at various times. As summer comes to a close, it's time to start thinking about getting the kids back into a school routine.

For tips and more information on easing the transition back to school:

<https://media.surreyschools.ca/media/Default/medialib/schoolroutines-english.8cfda912236.pdf>



## Homework and Studying at Home

Homework is a part of school life. The amount of homework a child receives may vary considerably and is dependent on their age, course type, child's individual learning style, and other factors. As a parent, it is important to support your child, so they are aware of their assignments, have a plan to do the expected homework or studying, and have an appropriate space to do their homework. For more information: <https://media.surreyschools.ca/media/Default/medialib/homework-practices-english.691a2412179.pdf>

## Lockers

Lockers are usually assigned to students in high school for use during the school year. Lockers are to be used for the storage of books, school supplies and equipment, outerwear, school sports equipment and lunches. No other material is permitted except with the written authority of the principal or vice principal. Lockers are to be kept clean and food removed on a regular basis. All students are expected to follow the conditions of use. For more information:

<https://media.surreyschools.ca/media/Default/medialib/lockersconditionofuse-english.823abd12199.pdf>

## MyEducation BC (MyEdBC) Parent Portal

This online portal provides parents with a way to access their child's school information directly online. With this portal account, you will be able to view attendance, term grades, and other information about your child(ren). The MyEducation BC application is a secure portal used in most school districts in the province of BC.

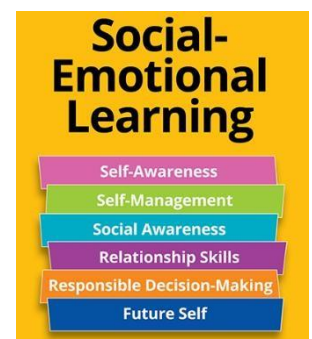
Please see the following link for direction on how to login and navigate the Parent Portal:

[https://media.surreyschools.ca/media/Default/medialib/family\\_portal\\_user\\_instructions\\_v01-2\\_20170208.98aa5952850.pdf](https://media.surreyschools.ca/media/Default/medialib/family_portal_user_instructions_v01-2_20170208.98aa5952850.pdf)

## Social and Emotional Learning

Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) is the process through which all young people and adults acquire and apply the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to develop health identities, manage emotions and achieve personal and collective goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain supportive relationships, and make responsible and caring decisions. SEL leads to improved academic performance and behaviors. For information on how to support your child's SEL development:

<https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/pregnancy-parenting>



## Safety in Our Schools

The Surrey School Board of Education is committed to providing safe and caring environments in which all learners can achieve academic excellence, personal growth, and responsible citizenship. Safe and caring school environments are free of bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, threat and intimidation, violence of any form, verbal, physical or sexual abuse, discrimination in any form, theft, and vandalism. Safe and caring school environments do not tolerate the presence of: Intoxicating or banned substance, weapons (or replica weapons) and explosives, and intruders or trespassers.

Keeping our Schools Safe: <https://media.surreyschools.ca/media/Default/medialib/keepschoolssafe-english6.72ca5f12307.pdf>

Keeping our Youth Safe: <https://media.surreyschools.ca/media/Default/medialib/keepyouthsafe-english.32354712305.pdf>

Surrey Safe Schools – Program Resources: <https://media.surreyschools.ca/media/Default/medialib/safeschools-programresourcesparents2.dae93212312.pdf>

## Sleep and Learning for Children

Sleep is a crucial part of healthy living. Sometimes, children experience problems sleeping due to factors beyond their control. This includes bedwetting and nightmares. Children learn best when they've had a good night's rest. Learn more about helping your child sleep soundly:

<https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/sleep-and-learning>

## Parent Resources

- General Parent Resources: <https://www.surreyschools.ca/page/412/parent-information-brochures>
- Programs of Choice: <https://www.surreyschools.ca/page/820/programs-of-choice>



## Surrey Schools App

For school updates and news, the Surrey Schools app is available for free through the iOS and Android app stores. Please visit this link: <https://www.surreyschools.ca/page/124691/the-surrey-schools-app>

## School and Learning Resources

- Starfall <https://www.starfall.com/h/>
- Fish School <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/fish-school-123-abc-for-kids/id367567459>
- Khan Academy <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/fish-school-123-abc-for-kids/id367567459>

*Information in the brochure is based on a variety of Surrey School District resources. This resource is aimed at newcomer families and is intended to provide general information to families new to the district. For more comprehensive information, please see the links and resources shared in this brochure. This resource is a guide only, if you have a question or concerns about your child, please contact your child's teacher or other school staff. The Surrey School District provides many resources to support your child's learning journey. For more information: <https://www.surreyschools.ca/> Revised April 2024*