



Betty Huff Elementary School

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September 2, 2021

Dear Betty Huff Families,

Message from Mr. Helland and Ms. Koppensteiner

The Betty Huff staff would like to send each of you a warm welcome back to school. We welcome our returning and new families to our learning community. This year, we have several new families joining our school community. This offers our students a wonderful opportunity to make new friendships and create new connections. We hope you have had a restful summer break with memories of family and friends.

We are all excited about the 2021 - 2022 school year at Betty Huff Elementary. The beginning of a new year is a good time to reaffirm the goals and expectations of the school. As a community of learners, we expect students to:

- ✚ Take care of themselves
- ✚ Take care of others
- ✚ Take care of our school community

We will be reminding students that at Betty Huff Elementary we ask students to solve problems using kind words, and to seek help for themselves and others when needed. We expect students to strive to reach their fullest potential. Our learning community continues to focus on our school wide goal of Social Emotional Learning (SEL). Betty Huff Elementary offers a well-rounded program to meet the academic, social, and behavioral needs of all children. The school maintains high expectations for students in terms of academic achievement and development of good citizenship skills.

We also strive to maintain excellent communication with parents, and we look forward to working with you as partners in our learning community. We are one of a small handful of elementary schools that has their own mobile phone app. Please take a moment to download the Betty Huff app with our logo from the Apple App Store, or Google Play store. All newsletters are sent through the app. This is our method of communication as we do not usually send home paper notices.

We look forward to working closely with parents and staff to make our school the best place it can be for students. During the year, your child will see us in their classrooms, outside during breaks, before and after school introducing ourselves and supporting them as needed.

Students in Grades 4-7 will have an opportunity to get involved in our community through our student leadership opportunities that centre on building student voice through service to both our school and neighborhood community. More information and applications will be coming out during the first weeks of school for interested students.

A reminder to parents, we welcome open communication and encourage you to contact us with any questions, concerns, or feedback or to arrange an in-person meeting if necessary. We look forward to meeting with our families in the weeks to come.

Have a great start back!

Mr. Brad Helland & Ms. Chris Koppensteiner

STUDENT DROP OFF

Our parking lot is a staff parking lot and based upon the size of the school, we need all those parking spaces. The entrance/exit is only one vehicle wide as well. Do not pull into the parking lot, please. Children must be able to enter and exit the vehicle independently in our drop-off zone, although we do have trained student helpers usually by the second or third week. The drop zone can become backed up so it is critical that we need to keep it moving freely. Children should exit their vehicle and walk along the sidewalk, and onto our grounds. Drivers please “crawl at a snail’s pace” through our drop off lane at all times to ensure student safety and to prevent accidents. We are strongly encouraging families to prioritize walking to school this year. If you must drive, please park in the neighborhood, and walk in rather than get caught in the traffic congestion that will be near the school. Your attention to this will be appreciated.

WHAT DOES OUR FIRST DAY LOOK LIKE?

Students in Grades 1-7 attend on Tuesday, Sept 7 from 10:00am-11:00am. Normal school hours will commence Wednesday, September 8. There is a map posted on the school website. Any students NEW to Betty Huff are asked to check-in at the office if they are not registered. If they are registered, they may line-up with their grade group in accordance with the posted map.

Our Grade 1-7 students will be sorted by grade group and alphabetical groupings during the first week. This sorting will be for attendance purposes and to prevent confusion for drop-off and pick-up during our first week back. Students will continue to line up and be dismissed from the same place until classes are finalized (likely Friday afternoon). Once student attendance is completed each day, students will be rotating within their grade group as we work on class organizations and build the best possible learning groups. Students in Kindergarten attend on Tuesday Sept 7 at the following times. Kindergartens will then receive their group letter on the first day and will follow a schedule posted in the Announcements section at the bottom left of our website: <http://www.surreyschools.ca/bettyhuff>

- ✚ Last Name beginning with letters A-L – 10:00am – 10:25am
- ✚ Last Name beginning with letters K-Z – 10:30am – 10:55am

Parents will be asked to deliver their child to the assigned K teacher door. At this time, parents are asked not to enter the classroom. Our focus on Tuesday will be getting our Ks into the new routine of entering the classroom, washing hands, becoming comfortable with a new learning space while developing friendships. We will have opportunities for parents to connect with staff. We will offer in-person meetings to visit or connect with teachers. When parents do have opportunities to visit, later on in the year, they must adhere to the Health and Safety protocols (Daily health check completed, masks being worn, signing in and out from the office, hand hygiene upon entering or exiting, keeping space from others, only going into spaces they must for meeting). **Visitors are not permitted at this time.**

WHAT DO CLASSES LOOK LIKE IN THE FIRST WEEK?

For the first few days of school, students will be working with a variety of teachers. The organization of our classes depends on the enrolment and the needs of all students. For us to make the best possible decisions for all our students, we need some time to find out which students are returning to Betty Huff and to balance these numbers with our new registrations. The office staff has been busy with new registrations this past week. Students will be placed in their classes when we have our final numbers and class organizations. Our plan is to have all students in their classes as soon as possible. We appreciate your patience as we work to make balanced classes. As we set classes each year, we find that due to the way our enrolment numbers fall into place, we must create some combined classes. Parents often have questions or concerns regarding their child being in a combined class.

Please read the information sheet on the back of this newsletter that highlights some important details regarding combined classes. You may also wish to check out a thoughtful blog post written by Chris Wejr on combined classes (<http://chriswejr.com/2012/09/09/will-my-child-be-ok-in-a-split-class/>). Once classes have been finalized, parents will receive an email confirming class placement details. We ask that you support your child and allow time for them to adjust to their final placement. Please do not call the school requesting a change in classes as no classroom changes will be made during this transition time. We want to allow students time to adjust and connect with their assigned class.

COVID PROTOCOLS

Thank you to all our families for your support last year as we practiced new ways of ensuring safety for students and staff. As we begin this year, there are some Health and Safety protocols that will remain, and others that are no longer recommended by Fraser Health.

K-12 Health Check

Just a reminder that every parent is responsible for monitoring the daily health of your child(ren) before sending them to school. If your child does not meet the daily health check, you are required to keep them home. The Ministry of Health has also provided families with an additional resource, the “online K-12 Health Check”.

Our school will NOT be allowing visitors in the beginning of this school year. If you require a meeting please schedule an appointment and all in-person meetings are required to go through the Principal first. If you are approved for an in-person meeting in the school, you are required to follow these protocols first

- ✚ Perform a health check prior to entering the building
- ✚ Wear a mask
- ✚ Sign in with contact information at the office
- ✚ Respect others' personal space
- ✚ Visitors are to only access areas required for the visit

Masks:

- ✚ All staff, visitors, volunteers and students in Grades 4-12 are required to wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status, while indoors and on school buses.

Cleaning and Disinfecting:

Frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected at least 1x/day.

If parents/students in the community are carpooling, and when organizing fieldtrips in personal vehicles (later in the year), the advice from the BCCDC for K-12 School Environments is:

- ✚ Spread out occupants as much as possible
- ✚ Travel with the same people whenever possible
- ✚ Masks recommended for those 9 and older
- ✚ Hand hygiene before and after
- ✚ Open windows
- ✚ Clean high touch surfaces
- ✚ Set ventilation to bring in the fresh outside air, not recirculate

We will update our Betty Huff community as we receive more information regarding safety protocols