

December 1, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

This letter has important information for you about January and your child. As a reminder, in this unusual year, we have two elementary programs. We have our regular face to face program and Surrey Blended which is a combination of face to face and online learning. When we began the year, we reminded parents that with over 10,000 students in Surrey Blended, when these students potentially transitioned back in January, this likely would trigger the reorganization of elementary schools. This letter is to remind parents of that process and the potential impact on your child.

Surrey Blended is a transition program that was in response to many parents' desires to have some different options during the pandemic. The model was designed for students to return to face to face learning in January. That time is upon us and we are planning now for those transitions.

It is likely that many students will be returning from Blended to face to face learning. When these students return to their neighbourhood school, this will trigger a reorganization of classes in our schools. Regardless if you are in Blended or a regular classroom, you could have a different teacher and be with different students in January. As always, we will try to keep any movement to a minimum, but we wanted to let you know our timing, processes, and the implications for you.

This week, we will gather information about students in blended to know the full impact. Next week, we will begin to look at staffing implications and schools will come together to begin the class reorganizations. Since this process will likely involve every elementary school in the district and our staff will be needed for this work, we are also declaring December 11th a shortened day with early dismissal aligning with your elementary school's normal lunchtime dismissal.

We will be communicating to all parents through our normal school communications if there are any changes to your child's teacher or classroom assignment in January. This way, by the time all families leave for the winter break, they will know their January class assignment.

Reorganizing schools mid-year is not something we would normally do. The creation of Surrey Blended which has served close to 25% of all elementary children was a response to our unique times. The creation and the subsequent need to reorganize went hand in hand and we communicated this when the year began. We know that students are settled and that this change will create a disruption to normal routines. Your understanding is appreciated and again, we will do all we can to keep changes to a minimum.

Sincerely,



Dr. Jordan Tinney
Superintendent of Schools/CEO

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