



# GRANDVIEW HEIGHTS SECONDARY

Dear Parents and Guardians of Grandview Heights Secondary,

We hope you had a wonderful holiday break, and that you were able to connect with family and friends over the last three weeks.

Last Wednesday, the Provincial Health Officer extended the school opening to Monday, January 10<sup>th</sup>. In the last week, there have been several staff working in the school preparing for the students' return to classes. We have implemented a number of Health and Safety protocols, many of which we used successfully last year to allow the school to remain open.

**As always, all staff and students entering the school must remain masked throughout the day, unless they have an exemption.** Masks should be worn over the mouth and nose at all times, unless eating or drinking. Students must remain seated when eating or drinking, and not move through the school without a mask.

**On your return Monday, you will see the following changes:**

- Increased sanitization stations in the hallways and classrooms.
- Hallways and Staircases will have directional arrows. We will be directing students to move in one direction through the hallway to improve the flow and reduce face-to-face interactions, and request that students do not stop or congregate at lockers.
- We are asking students to move immediately to classrooms when entering the building, and to exit immediately without meeting inside at the end of the day.
- **Lunch hour** – Students who remain at school for lunch are asked to remain together in the classroom they were in prior to lunch. For example, on Monday, students will be asked to eat their lunch in their B block classroom, if they remain at school. When the weather improves, students will be encouraged to either go outside for the lunch hour or go home, if possible, over the lunch hour.
- After school, team practices, rehearsals and single games will continue. However, the District is restricting all spectators. **Students and guests will not be allowed into the gym after school to watch games or practices.**
- Classrooms will be configured to maximize space between students and will continue to be cleaned regularly.
- Students are encouraged to bring their own stationary items and to avoid sharing.

## **Masks**

Masks are an integral part of the safety protocol for COVID-19. Under the current [public health order](#), everyone who can must wear a mask. When layered with other recommended public

health measures, a well-constructed, well-fitting and properly worn mask can help prevent your child and others from being exposed to COVID- 19. No matter which type of mask your child is wearing, proper fit is a key factor in its effectiveness.

### **Gatherings and Events**

- School events involving large gatherings will be postponed or held virtually.
- Sports tournaments are paused; practices and single contests, with a maximum of two teams, are permitted to continue. Strict adherence to all health and safety protocols must be followed.
- Spectators are not permitted.

### **Visitors**

- Visitors to the school will be further limited to those directly involved in carrying out necessary school responsibilities.
- Parents picking up and dropping off students are being asked to not enter the school; instead, pre-arrange a meeting time and location outside with your child and avoid congested areas such as school entrances.
- Teachers and counselors will meet with parents virtually by teams, email or phones if need be and not in person.

### **Functional Closures**

One of the biggest changes to occur in the next few weeks, and something that is new to the schools, may be a Functional Closure. A Functional Closure would be enacted if there were inadequate staffing due to illness, and adequate instruction and supervision could not be provided. A Functional Closure would last from 7 days, beginning with Day Zero.

- Day Zero - If we see that there are a large number of staff shortages on a given day due to illness, we will work with the District Office to fill the shortages, and if unable to do so, together with the District Office declare a Functional Closure. An email would be sent home to parents and families letting them know that the school will be moving to full online instruction for 7 days. Students would be dismissed accordingly.
- Day One – Staff would prepare to move all of their instruction to online learning. On Day One, staff would connect with each of their classes to make sure that everyone is ready to move online.
- Day Two through Seven – Instruction would begin and all classes would proceed online. During a functional closure, teachers would provide continuity of instruction, intended to mirror as much as possible, instruction that would occur during a regular school day, given the constraints of online learning. The schedule and daily block order during a closure would be ABCD Monday to Friday

## Daily Health Check

The best way to prevent COVID-19 from spreading is to stay home when ill. Please continue to complete a daily health check with your child before sending them to school. The [K to 12 Health Check website](#) and app is an easy way to decide if your child should attend school based on their symptoms. It includes current health guidelines and offers an age-appropriate user experience for K to 12 students. Alternatively, Daily Health Check posters are available in 13 languages here on the [BC Government website](#).

## Communication Channels

As always, we strive to communicate with parents and students efficiently. We will continue to use our Grizzly app, Twitter and Parent messenger. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

We recognize that there may not be much advance warning with any of these changes. We truly appreciate the patience and understanding of our community, as our staff works to improve the safety of all our students through the next few months.

Our sincerest hope is that we will move through this period quickly, and our school year will end on a bright note. Our goal is to maintain as many of our programs and activities throughout this year as possible, with care and attention given to the health of our community.

Thank you for working together with us.

Sincerely,



Darren Bedard  
Principal  
Grandview Heights Secondary