



ERMA STEPHENSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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www.surreyschools.ca/ermastephenson

NEWSLETTER #2

SEPTEMBER 7, 2020

MESSAGE FROM MRS. HILL & MRS. VOLK

On behalf of the entire staff, we would like to welcome all our students and their families to the new school year at Erma Stephenson Elementary. We hope that everyone enjoyed family time, sunshine and laughter together this past summer. We are looking forward to working with you and your children this year as we continue to build our positive, engaged, connected school community!



BACK TO SCHOOL SCHEDULE for FULL-TIME IN-SCHOOL INSTRUCTION- SEPTEMBER 2020

September 8	September 9	September 10	September 11	September 14
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff Health and Safety Orientations • Confirm Enrolment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff Health and Safety Orientations • Confirm Enrolment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Orientations • Small groups of 8-10 students • Physically Distanced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Orientations • Small groups of 8-10 students • Physically Distanced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students placed in classes /cohorts • Full-time attendance begins • staggered start times for today only
No students attend	No students attend	Grade 1-4 9-10 am	Grade 1-4 9-10 am	Grade 1-3 *8:30-2:30
No students attend	No students attend	Grade 5-7 11 am -12 pm	Grade 5-7 11 am -12 pm	Grade 4-7 *9:00-2:30
No students attend	No students attend	Kindergarten group A & C: 12:30-1:30	Kindergarten group B & D 12:30-1:30	Kindergartens: follow Gradual Entry Schedule

Grade Group Meeting Locations for September 10 & 11

Grades 1-4 attend from 9-10 both days:

GRADE 1 GRAVEL FIELD
 GRADE 2 FIELD BEHIND PORTABLES
 GRADE 3 BASKETBALL COURT
 GRADE 4 GRASS FIELD

Grades 5-7 attend from 11-12 both days:

GRADE 5F BASKETBALL COURT
 GRADE 6 GRAVEL FIELD
 GRADE 7 GRASS FIELD

Kindergartens attend one day as follows: (The K classrooms are at the SE corner of the school) :

September 10 Groups A & C 12:30-1:30pm
 September 11 Groups B & D 12:30-1:30pm

STUDENT ORIENTATION (IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION)

During the student orientations you can expect a warm welcome back from our staff who will provide an opportunity to re-establish school connections, relationships and a sense of belonging! During these orientations, students will be organized into groups of less than 10 and will maintain physical distance.

We will also cover important health and safety topics and information about new school routines including:

- Reassurance and kindness from our staff
- Welcome, ease concerns
- Classes/learning groups
- Physical distancing
- Masks
- Hand washing
- Arrival and dismissal
- Washroom procedures
- Play areas
- Lunch procedures

RETURN TO SCHOOL SAFETY PLANNING

Here are some of the ways we are planning for a safe return to school:

- Please be reminded that **parents and caregivers are responsible to assess their child(ren) each day before going to school.** If your child is experiencing symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19 or other infectious respiratory disease please **keep your child home until there has been an assessment by a health care provider AND the symptoms have resolved.**
- All students, staff and family members must stay home if they are sick and not enter the school.
- Physical distancing and minimizing physical contact expectations, both indoors and outside.
- Regular, scheduled hand washing and hand sanitizing.
- Students enter and exit school through exterior classroom doors, no line ups.
- Reduced and directional hallway traffic – keep right.
- Students will be organized into classes/learning groups and anyone working with students outside of these groups will be expected to wear a mask and/or maintain physical distance.
- Masks worn outside of cohort, in common areas and optional within cohort.
- Each student and staff member will receive two re-usable masks.
- Students will learn to follow good hygiene practices (wash hands frequently, cough into elbow, avoid physical contact, maintain social distance, etc.).
- No large gatherings - assemblies, school events, etc. will not be happening or will be shared digitally.
- Increased outdoor learning and play (dress appropriately for the weather).
- Limited shared materials.
- Excess furniture and resources removed from classrooms to create more space.
- Carpets and other fabric items removed from classrooms.
- Regular cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch surfaces by daytime caretaker in addition to regular cleaning.
- No sharing of food including snacks, lunch, birthday treats.

Important School Procedures and Routines

- Access to our building will be limited to students and staff, unless prior arrangements have been made through the office. Should you need to need to contact the school, please phone the office at 604-581-8111 or email the school at ermastephenson@surreyschools.ca
- The front door of the school will remain closed. Parents/visitors are not able to come in to the school. If you need assistance, please phone or email.
- Ensure your child arrives at school on time each day, limit early pick up times.
- No items/lunch can be dropped off at the office during the school day.

- Students and families who are not attending school may not be on the school property during school hours
- Students will be going outside rain or shine every day, please dress appropriately for all weather.

BLENDED TRANSITION PROGRAM

If you have registered your child for 'Surrey-Blended Transition program' you DO NOT ATTEND THIS WEEK. Your orientation will be the week of September 14 with a start date of Sept 21.

***Please note: If you registered for the Blended Transition Program, you may change to full-time in-person instruction by 4:00 on Tuesday. Please call the office to let us know or if you have any questions.**

CLASS PLACEMENTS AND STAFFING

As you can imagine, the new options for return to school, will have an impact upon staff assignments, student placements and class organization plans. We ask for your patience and understanding as we place students into classes and cohorts. As students many not move across cohorts once placed, we will be unable to make any changes. Students will begin in their classes on Monday, September 14.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

School Supply lists for Grades 1-7 are posted on our website under the 'Parents' tab. Students will not need to bring any supplies for the first days next week.

Kindergarten teachers will collect money from each student to cover the cost of school supplies for the whole school year. The teacher will collect this money after the students are in their permanent classes.

ALLERGY AWARENESS

Several Erma Stephenson students have severe anaphylactic reactions to peanuts, nuts and their by-products. Please do not send foods to school that contain these products. Thank you for your continued understanding and cooperation as we endeavour to make our school a safe environment for all students.

**** Please inform the school immediately if your child has a severe life-threatening allergy so we can ensure appropriate procedures are in place.**

STAY CONNECTED WITH ERMA - WEBSITE, SCHOOL LINK APP, EMAIL , TWITTER

WEBSITE: Our school website is the official source for information about the school. The website will be updated regularly and all important information will be located here. Please make sure to bookmark our school home page at www.surreyschools.ca/ermastephenson

SCHOOL LINK APP: Go to the app store to get the free 'schoolink' app (iphone and android). Choose to follow Erma. Turn on all notifications and you will receive updates directly to your phone each time the school website has been updated.

SCHOOL EMAIL LIST: One of the great features of our website is the 'subscribe to email list'. Go to the home page and enter your email address to receive important emails from the school and district. Be sure to click on the link sent to your email to complete the sign up (may need to check junk folder)

TWITTER: We are also on Twitter! Follow us @ermahappenings for brief updates and information about what's going on at Erma Stephenson.

All school information and important updates will be posted on the school website. Be sure to stay connected by getting the app, joining our email list and checking our website regularly

