



# Coast Meridian Elementary

8222-168A Street  
Surrey, BC, V4N 4T8 / 604-574-6036  
Principal: Mrs. Amber Flanagan  
[www.surreyschools.ca/coastmeridian](http://www.surreyschools.ca/coastmeridian)

September 11, 2020

Dear Parents:

Welcome back to another school year! Although it is a very different start than we typically have, we are happy to have students in our school once again! We are looking forward to connecting with students in the Blended Learning program which begins on September 21st. We welcome all returning families, and on behalf of our school community, I extend a special welcome to the children and families new to our school and to our Kindergarten students who are entering school for the first time.

Please help extend a welcome back to our staff. We have some new staff this year in addition to our returning staff. We are all looking forward to working together to make the year ahead one that is challenging and rewarding for all of our students.

Students in Grades K – 7 attended orientation sessions this week in small groups and it was so nice to see everyone! On Monday September 14<sup>th</sup> students will meet in the morning (Gr. 1-3 @ 8:30 and Gr. 4-7 @ 9:00) in the same spot they did this week. Teachers will be coming to pick them up from that area and take them to their classes. We will have a short time to do this transition for primary students before our intermediate students start arriving for their 9am start, so we ask you to please leave once you have taken your child to their spot and the teachers will gather them, do attendance and take them inside.

As our Primary and Intermediate students will all be leaving at 2:30, we are going to need to spread out for pick up as well and some of the areas have changed.

Please pick up your child on Monday from the following areas:

- Grade 6/7 front of the school outside the 6/7 classroom doors.
- Grade 5 Gravel Field nearest the portables.
- Grade 4 Tetherball Area
- Grade 3 Gravel Field nearest the playground
- Grade 2 Grass Area between playground and portables.
- Gr. 1 Basketball Court.

On Tuesday you will drop off and pick up your child from their regular classroom outside door. Location information will be in the class letter sent home Monday. Kindergarten students will continue to follow the Gradual Entry Letter that was e-mailed home and will enter and exit directly to the Kindergarten classroom during this period.

Please be assured that when we formed classes we did so in a very thoughtful manner. We tried our best to balance student ability levels, as well as peer relationships. *Be advised, however, that we cannot reasonably place every child in a class with his/her best friend.* This year organizing classes had a different layer of complexity as we only have 10 divisions in the school due to changes in population and many students choosing the blended program option. Due to direction from the Public Health Officer we will not be able to move any students after the classes are formed Monday as this will be your child's cohort.

## **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14**

**Grade 1-3 students will start at 8:30 am** and will meet in the same area of the back field as they did this week. Please pick up the students from the areas outlined above.

**Grade 4-7 students will start at 9:00 am** and will meet in the same area of the back field as they did this week. (Please note, grade 4 students are now starting at 9am, rather than 8:30 as mentioned in a prior letter, to balance out the outdoor numbers to help with physical distancing at drop off)

All Grade 1-7 students start at 8:30 am from Tuesday onward.

**Kindergarten Students** will start at 8:45 am and follow their Gradual Entry Schedule.

### **BELL SCHEDULE** *(new changes this year)*

Bell to enter:	8:25 am
Classes Start:	8:30 am
Recess:	10:10 – 10:25 am
Lunch:	11:45 am
Classes Resume:	12:30 pm
Classes Dismissed:	2:30 pm

### **ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL**

Students are asked to be at the school by 8:25 am as at this time a bell will ring to indicate to the students that they should move into their classrooms. The morning session will commence at 8:30 am. Students will have very specific line up areas this year in order to ensure physical distancing from classes next door that may not be in the same cohort. Students arriving after 8:30 must report to the office to obtain a “Welcome Slip” before they proceed to their class. As only staff and students are permitted inside the school this year, please walk your child to the front door and have them report to the secretary at the office counter. If your child is younger, please feel free call the office and we will come to the door to greet them. Please make a habit of getting your children to school on time as learning starts right away in classrooms and arriving late can often make it more challenging for students to transition into the day.

School is over at 2:30 pm and students will be dismissed from their outside classroom door and do need to keep physically distanced from students and families not in their cohort. Please pick your child up promptly at the end of the day. This year, in particular, students should not play on the playground after school with friends. We are asking students to leave the school grounds with families and if families choose to return to play, please do so after all the students have left the grounds. We want to remind students that anytime they are on the school grounds before, during and after school, they are expected to follow the health and safety guidelines. This will help your child remember the guidelines when at school as playing on the grounds with family on weekends may look different. If your child is going to be dropped of or picked up by daycare, please ensure they follow these guidelines as well. We appreciate your support.

*If your child is going to be absent, please phone the school, as we have to speak to a parent/guardian whenever a child is absent to ensure the child is safe. If your child is ill, we are also required to ask about your child's symptoms so we can identify patterns of symptoms in a particular classroom. The school voicemail messages are checked every morning, so you can call the night before, leave a message if you know your child will be absent, and list their symptoms if illness is the reason.*

## **NEW STAFF**

We would like to welcome the following staff to Coast Meridian:

Ms. Huynh (Classroom teacher)  
Ms. Deo (Classroom teacher)  
Ms. Bruxelles (Classroom teacher)  
Mr. Franco (Music teacher)  
Mr. Rauw (Band Teacher)  
Ms. Wilson (Integration Support teacher)  
Ms. Devine (EA)  
Ms. Gray (EA)

## **THE OFFICE**

Mrs. Neidig and Mrs. Grigoletto are our office clerks. They are more than happy to answer any questions you may have, so please don't hesitate to call them to ask your questions. The school phone number is **604-574-6036**. I am also available to answer questions, respond to concerns, talk about your child's education or help facilitate problem solving.

## **SCHOOL SUPPLIES**

The Creative Packs school supply kits have been sent home. Please label ALL of your child's supplies, as students will not be sharing items with their classmates this year. Students should bring all supplies to school on Monday.

Kindergarten students will receive information about supplies from their classroom teacher. Should you require a supply list for your grade 1-7 child, please look on the school website. Your child's teacher will let you know if any other supplies are required now or during the year.

## **LUNCH BREAKS**

Please make sure your child brings lunch to school each day. There will be **no lunch drop offs this year** as only staff and students are permitted inside the school. Students will be eating lunch in the classroom, with teacher supervision either before lunch at 11:30 or after lunch at 12:30. This will allow us to help students wash hands before and after eating, as well as ensuring there is no trading or sharing of food items. We are asking students to take home ALL garbage and leftover food. We will not have composting within the school. You may want to pack a Ziploc bag for items like apple cores, banana peels, orange peels etc. as children will bring these items home.

Most students stay on the school grounds during lunch. Of course students are allowed to go home for lunch if they have written parental permission to do so. If your child is planning to go home for lunch for one day only, please send along a note to his/her teacher to confirm this. If your child will be going home for lunch daily, there is a permission form that needs to be completed at the office, and your child would still be required to sign in and out from the office each day. Hands need to be washed when leaving the school, arriving home, when leaving home and when arriving at the school.

## **STUDENT PLANNERS**

Student planners will arrive in the next few weeks and will be used in Grades 1 to 7. In the past; students, parents, and teachers have found them to be a valuable communication tool. When your child receives their planner, please take time to review it as it contains information about the school, including the Code of Conduct, and the school calendar. Parents are encouraged to check their child's planner each night for information, homework, and comments from the teacher. Planners were ordered for students in both the full time face to face classroom instruction and for the blended program as they will be a useful tool regardless of which program your child is registered for. As we were not sure what the Fall would look like, the planners were ordered later than usual and will be here in a couple of weeks. The cost of planners is \$5. This fee will be added to our cash online system once the planners arrive.

## **PARKING AND DROP OFF**

If you live close enough to the school, please take the opportunity to walk to school. Parent parking is located in the upper parking lot. The street parking in front of the school (on 168A Street) is for pick up/drop off only for 15 minutes maximum. The lower staff parking lot in front of the school must not be used as a drive through area for drop off. Parents should park in the upper parking lot or on the street, following street sign rules. **Please do not drive into the lower parking lot or stop to drop off students in the middle of the road or across the driveways.**

## **KEEPING OUR STUDENTS SAFE**

Your children will enter and exit their classroom from the classroom outside entrance/exit doors.

Before school, after school and during the recess break, teachers supervise our school grounds. During the lunch break we have 4 paid Supervisory Aides who supervise students. Our supervisors carry walkie-talkies that can be used for emergency situations. We will be implementing scheduled play zones outside for different learning cohorts this year. For example, a few cohorts may be on the playground while the remaining cohorts are on the grass and gravel field. This would rotate to allow all students opportunities to play in different areas. We will schedule more playground time for our early primary students, as other games are more challenging for younger students. We will be reminding students that there is no physical contact when playing outside.

Overall, we would like to thank parents for their co-operation with adhering to these security expectations and procedures. We have been so impressed this week with the adherence to the guidelines and the modeling of parents keeping physical distance. It is evident you have spent time teaching your children ways to be safe in the community and that will really help when they are at school. We want to learn and have fun, while being safe and staying healthy.

Please remember to do the Daily Health Check each morning. The checklist was posted to our school website in the announcement section and is pasted on the windows of many classrooms as well. Thank you for your support.

## ON-LINE SCHOOL COMMUNICATION TOOLS

**Website:** Please visit our school website often as we will add upcoming announcements and newsletters on a regular basis. Our school newsletters will be sent home via e-mail only. To sign up and receive the school newsletters, please follow these directions:

1. Visit [www.surreyschools.ca/coastmeridian](http://www.surreyschools.ca/coastmeridian)
2. Find 'E-Mail List' at the bottom of the page.
3. Enter your e-mail address and hit 'submit'
4. Check your e-mail (inbox or junk mail) to verify your sign up.
5. Please click on the 'click here' link, which will take you to the Surrey Schools Website confirming your subscription.
6. You will now receive an email whenever a newsletter is uploaded.

**School Link App:** The Surrey School District has an app which alerts you whenever the school website is updated.

1. Go to the App Store or Play Store and search for Schoollink. Download the Free App.
2. Click 'Add School' and find Coast Meridian Elementary and click 'Add this School'.
3. Check off the alerts you want to receive.
4. You will now receive notification whenever the website is updated.

## UPCOMING DATES

Sept. 14	Full day for Grade 1-7 students (Gr. 1-3 begin at 8:30 and Gr. 4- 7 begin at 9:00) School dismissal is 2:30 pm.
Sept. 17	Individual Photo Day
Sept. 25	Terry Fox Run
Sept. 28	<b>Pro D Day: Students do not attend</b>
Sept. 30	Orange Shirt Day

## IMPORTANT DATES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

### Professional Development Days:

September 28  
October 23  
November 6  
February 19  
May 7  
May 31

### Early Dismissal Days:

October 22  
December 9  
May 18  
June 24

### Holidays:

Thanksgiving	October 12
Remembrance Day	November 11
Christmas Break	December 21 - January 1
Family Day	February 15
Spring Break	March 15 – March 19
School Closure Week	March 22 – March 26
Good Friday	April 2
Easter Monday	April 5
Victoria Day	May 24