

Return to in-class instruction – June 1, 2020

May 26, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Last week, it was announced that parents will have the choice of bringing their child(ren) back to class on a part-time basis in June, as part of BC's Restart Plan. The decision by the Ministry of Education and Provincial Health Officer to restart schools is based on the science that shows it is safe to bring children back to schools on a gradual and part-time basis.

The objective of this letter is to:

1. provide you with an overview of our proposed plan to resume in-class instruction (*subject to approval by the Ministry of Education*)
2. watch for the SURVEY indicating whether at this point in time* you intend to send your child(ren) back to school in June so that we can create a schedule for students returning to class

The transition to in-class instruction is a voluntary option for families. Remote/online learning will continue however, it will be at a reduced level as teachers balance in-class instruction with remote teaching.

****The survey is intended as a starting point to help us plan for the number of students that may return for in-class instruction. We recognize that your decision may change over time and we will try our best to accommodate any changes.***

1. Overview of proposed plan to resume in-class instruction

The Ministry of Education has a five-stage approach for resuming in-class instruction in a measured way. Each stage is guided by health and safety guidelines, measures, protocols and orders, as well as the four guiding principles developed for continuity of learning during the pandemic, listed below in order of priority:

- a. a) Maintain a healthy and safe environment for all students, families and employees.
- b. b) Provide the services needed to support children of our essential workers.
- c. c) Support vulnerable students who may need special assistance.
- d. d) Provide continuity of educational opportunities for all students.

School Density Targets

Each stage of the Ministry of Education plan has school density targets to ensure the number of students in schools is manageable and maintains a healthy and safe environment for all students, families and employees.

For K – 5, we cannot exceed more than 50% of the school's capacity. Remote/online learning will continue, however it may be at a reduced level as teachers balance in-class instruction with remote teaching. For Grades 6 – 7, we cannot exceed more than 20% of the

school's capacity. As a result, remote learning will remain the predominant model for the majority of Grade 6 – 7 students.

At George Greenaway Elementary, the maximum number of students in attendance on any given day would be 271 compared with the usual 543 currently enrolled.

The number of students in any particular classroom or learning space may vary to ensure that it is managed safely with appropriate physical distancing.

DRAFT Schedule for in-class instruction (may change depending on number of students attending):

Children of Essential Service Workers, students with disabilities, diverse abilities and those who require additional support may receive in-class learning opportunities up to five days a week, if they wish.

To accommodate family groups, and stay within our density targets, students who do not have siblings MAY need to be moved to a different alphabetical grouping.

Subject to the density targets outlined by the Ministry, for all other learners:

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:30 am – 2:27 pm	Children of ESW and designated students requiring additional support.	Children of ESW and designated students requiring additional support.	Children of ESW and designated students requiring additional support.	Children of ESW and designated students requiring additional support.	Children of ESW and designated students requiring additional support.
8:30 am – 2:27 pm	In-person instruction for students in Kindergarten to grade 6 with the last names A-L	In-person instruction for students in Kindergarten to grade 7 with the last names M-Z	Deep Cleaning Day	In-person instruction for students in Kindergarten to grade 6 with the last names A-L	In-person instruction for students in Kindergarten to grade 7 with the last names M-Z
	No grade 7s attend	No grade 7s attend	On line learning for all students K-7	No grade 6s attend	No grade 6s attend

Health and Safety Measures

In addition to the density targets, increased health and safety measures, as defined by the *Provincial COVID-19 Health and Safety Guidelines for K-12 Settings*, will be put in place to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

Next week, as mentioned already, we will be welcoming many of our teaching and support staff back to the school for the first time since spring break. We know they will be able to suggest additional measures specific to their learning spaces. As a result, the measures we plan to implement include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Staff will be required to stay home if they have symptoms of a common cold, influenza, COVID-19 or any other infectious disease.
- Parents will be asked to assess their children daily and to keep them home if they feel ill or have any symptoms of a common cold, influenza, COVID-19 or any other infectious disease.
- Students will have designated desks and will need to use their own supplies
- Desks will be separated to maintain two meters physical distance
- The flow of people in hallways and bathrooms will be managed to minimize contact and maintain physical distance.
- Recess and lunch times may be changed to allow for physical distancing
- Students will be prevented from gathering in hallways or other common areas
- Cleaning of high-touch surfaces like door knobs, toilet seats, keyboards and desks will occur regularly, and school buildings will be cleaned at least once a day
- Students, educators and staff will be required to wash their hands upon entering school and throughout the day.
- The school is well-stocked with hand sanitizer and cleaning supplies
- There will be increased outside time but no physical contact sports.
- School and city playground equipment remains closed for the moment. As soon as that changes, we will advise the community.
- Children will not be permitted to share food or personal items like phones, pens or pencils.
- Students will need to bring their lunches at the beginning of the day, no lunch drop off. Lunches will be provided, if students require them.
- Water fountains will be shut off, so please ensure your children bring sufficient water for the day
- There will be regular verbal reminders for children to minimize physical contact with their friends
- Health and safety signage to remind children and staff to wash their hands, maintain physical distancing and practice appropriate respiratory etiquette will be displayed throughout the school
- If any student has even mild symptoms, parents will need to pick up students as soon as possible
- Consistent with direction from the Provincial Health Officer, access to the school is restricted to staff and students only. Parents will be required to remain outside the school.
- Only one student per seat will be permitted on school buses, unless children are from the same household

- As per the Provincial Health Officer's guidance, there is no need for staff or students to wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). For those who choose to wear their own equipment, such as masks, their choice will be respected

Please note: School districts follow the direction of the Provincial Health Officer. If new guidance is issued in the coming days and weeks, there may be additions or changes to the above measures.

2. Survey for Parents/Guardians

To help us plan for in-class instruction, we need to know how many children will be returning to school in June and their priority for in-class instruction (e.g. ESWs, designations, disabilities and diverse abilities).

Please look for the survey to come in the next day or two, we are awaiting this information from the district.

We will use the survey results and density targets to finalize schedules for a return to in-class instruction. Please note, based on the survey results, the proposed approach outlined in this letter may change. Children may not have their regular classroom teacher or classmates. While we will do our best to ensure that siblings at the same school are scheduled to attend school on the same days, we cannot guarantee this will be possible. Finally, as already mentioned, the survey is a starting point to help us plan for the number of students that may return for in-class instruction. We recognize that your decision may change over time and we will try our best to accommodate any changes.

While we look forward to welcoming your child(ren) back into our school, we recognize this partial return to schools may be causing some anxiety and stress. Some of you may be fearful of sending your child(ren) back to school. We understand your concerns and will support whatever decision you make. Please know that the option to send your child(ren) back to school will be there when your family is ready.

In the meantime, thank you for your continued understanding, patience and support. I know we keep saying it, but these are truly unprecedented times, and together we will get through them.

Sincerely,

Becky Copeland

Principal, George Greenaway Elementary