

Return to in-class instruction –Goldstone Park Elementary

May 26, 2020

Dear Goldstone Park Parents/Guardians,

Further to the letter sent out today through your classroom teacher some of the following information has already been shared but I thought it would be helpful to review it and add some additional details.

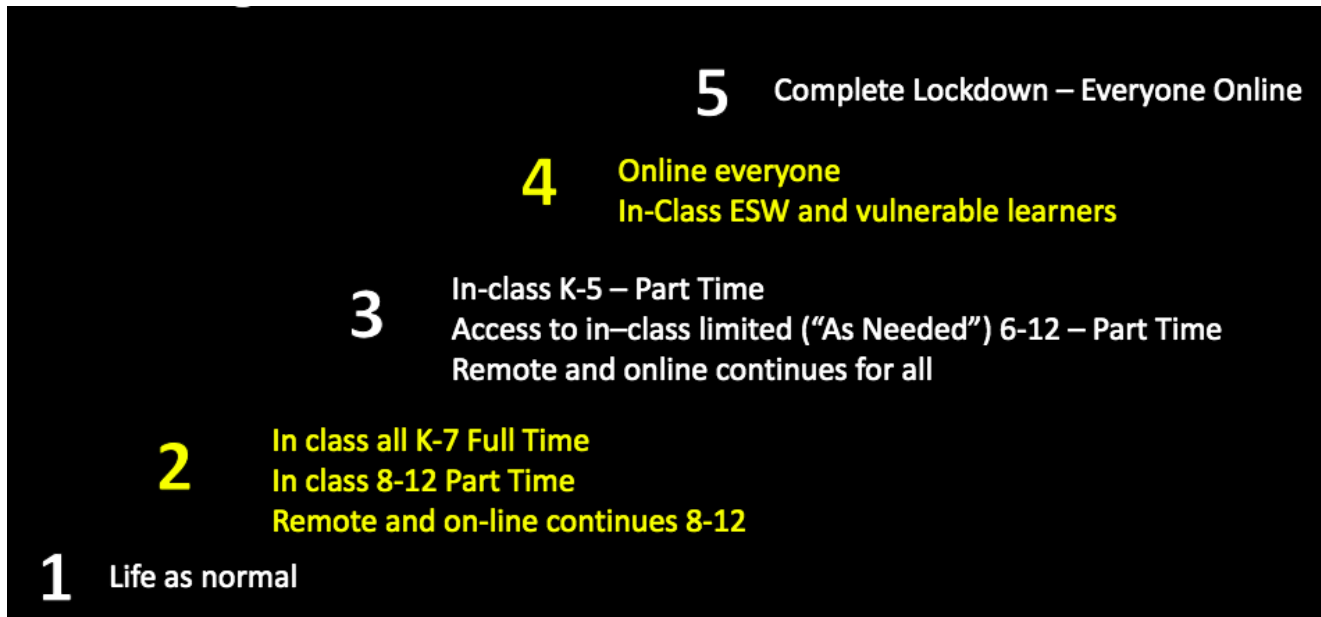
Overview of proposed plan to resume in-class instruction

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

The province has created these five stages (below) in order to be able to direct schools to deliver learning in the safest and most appropriate manner depending on the current level of risk posed by COVID-19 in BC.

Currently, we are in Stage 4, which means the majority of students are learning through online instruction. As part of BC's Restart Plan which has prioritized the health and safety of British Columbians, our province will move to Stage 3 on June 1.



All school districts were required to send a plan outlining their approach to the Ministry of Education for review and approval before they can welcome children back into their schools. The information shared below outlines factors that have to be considered when designing a return to school plan.

Throughout this week, staff will be in school to organize their classroom space in anticipation of June 1. Classrooms are being designed to promote physical distancing and safe movement.

School Density Targets

Each stage 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 – 7 schools, we cannot exceed more than 50% of the school’s capacity. Remote/online learning will continue and be the predominant driver of curricular learning outcomes.

At Goldstone Park Elementary, the maximum number of students in attendance on any given day is 371.

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

Schedule for in-class instruction

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

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

- K-5 students can expect to receive two days of in-class support a week
- Students in Grades 6 – 7 can expect to receive one day of in-class support a week.
- **Classroom teachers will divide students into Group A or B once we have a clear sense of who is returning. Families with siblings will be assigned to the same A or B group.**

Additional information about in-class learning will be shared with you by Friday May 29. Please note that in-class learning will be a continuation of remote learning. Below is the schedule that is being followed by all elementary schools in the Surrey district:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
K-6 Group A	K-6 Group B	Deep Cleaning Day	K-7 Group A (no 6’s)	K-7 Group B (no 6’s)
ESW	ESW	ESW	ESW	ESW
Daily cleaning/disinfecting protocols	Daily cleaning/disinfecting protocols	Support for the blended online program for ESW	Daily cleaning/disinfecting protocols	Daily cleaning/disinfecting protocols

**ESW (Essential Service Workers)*

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.

Over the course of this week, many of our teaching and support staff will be back to the school. 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:

- students will have designated desks/table space and will need to use their own supplies
- desks/table space will be separated to maintain two metres physical distance
- the flow of people in hallways and bathrooms will be managed to minimize contact and maintain physical distance
- possible staggered start and end times may be introduced (depending on the number of students attending)
- 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
- children will not be permitted to share food or personal items like phones, pens or pencils
- please ensure your children bring sufficient water for the day
- playgrounds will be open for school use only
- 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
- 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
- if any student or staff member has even mild symptoms, arrangements will be made for that person to be returned home
- consistent with direction from the Provincial Health Officer, access to the school is restricted to staff and students only. Parents and visitors to the school will not be permitted within the school building unless previously arranged and agreed to by administration. This includes to pick up or drop off, to discuss issues with Administration or staff or to drop off lunches.
- if permitted inside the building, parents and visitors must abide by the hand washing and physical distancing requirements
- 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.
- Students will not be able to wear gloves as they are considered a one time use and will interfere with the mandatory handwashing after each activity

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.

Survey

Your classroom teacher will have sent out a survey to you. 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, classmates, or classroom.** 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. However, if you choose to send your child we are expecting your child to be here on a regular basis on their scheduled days. This is important for our planning.

Schedule for returning children

As I'm sure you can appreciate, this is a complex logistical process that will take a few days to complete once we have a better idea of the number of children returning for in-class instruction. Because the school team will be planning on Thursday May 28 and Friday May 29, there may be **no virtual lessons** on either day. As mentioned, **please complete the survey** no later than 10am on Wednesday May 27. We will communicate any additional information by **Friday May 29**.

Please visit the [school district's website](#) for COVID-related information and resources, including the latest updates and guidelines from the Ministry of Education and Provincial Health Officer.

If you have specific questions relating to your child(ren)'s situation, please call the school to speak to either myself or Ms. Baillie.

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.

Thank you,

Laura Grills
Principal