

GRAY ELEMENTARY

10855 80TH Avenue, Delta BC V4C 1W4
Telephone: 604-594-2474 Fax: 604-594-1731



August 28, 2020

Dear Parents and/ or Guardians,

With guidance from the Provincial Health Officer, students will be returning to school in September for in-person learning full time. As we start this new school year, we will be moving slowly and focusing on building strong routines around health and safety, connectedness and mental wellness.

As we begin to navigate this next stage, it is imperative that we work together and do our best to support the children in following the Health and Safety Procedures and Policies outlined by the school. Only through this consistency and commitment, will we be able to keep everyone safe.

We are excited and ready to welcome all Gray families back to school and to have the students start their next year of learning with us. Please review the following general guidelines for the day to day learning at Gray Elementary. As the summer comes to an end, you will begin to hear more from the school and there will be a more definitive plan about what you and your child can expect the first week of school.

Gray's September 2020 Schedule

Each division has been split into two time slots (1 or 2) and you will be informed of your time slot when you receive your schedule from the classroom teacher. The purpose of these staggered schedules is to prevent the gathering of large students and families. Starting Monday, September 14th, 2020,

Time Slot 1

Day Starts – 8:55 a.m.
Recess – 10:10 – 10:25 a.m.
Lunch Recess – 12:05– 12:30 p.m.
Lunch Eating – 12:30 – 1:00 p.m.
Dismissal – 2:55 p.m.

Time Slot 2

Day Starts – 9:05 a.m.
Recess – 10:30 – 10:45 a.m.
Lunch Eating – 12:05 – 12:30 p.m.
Lunch Recess – 12:30 – 1:00 p.m.
Dismissal 3:05 p.m.

Back to School Safety Protocols

Daily Check In

Parents and/ or guardians will be required to assess your child DAILY for any signs or symptoms of a cold, influenza or Covid-19 prior to their arrival at school. If any signs or symptoms are present, you **MUST** stay home and report your absence through the call out system. It is encouraged that families speak to their doctor or talk with 8-1-1 regarding the symptoms or signs for further direction. We will welcome students back when the symptoms are gone.

If another family member happens to become ill or show signs of illness, the other members of the family are welcome to attend school, as long as they are not showing signs of illness and they are seeking advice from a medical practitioner.

Parents and/ or guardians should have an updated emergency contact available or a plan for pick-up, in case your child does become ill or show signs of illness at school, as they will be isolated immediately and sent home. The areas will then be disinfected.

Please know that staff are asked to follow similar procedures, and that out of respect for all parties involved, we will not be sharing when staff or students are ill, unless advised to by Public Health.

Attendance

Please try and be on time for the start of school and for pick up every day, as we would like to limit the amount of people who need to congregate around the building. There will be select times that students will be allowed to enter and exit, as we are trying to physically distance as much as possible. If you are going to be late, please know that parents are **NOT** allowed in the building, and therefore the students will need to enter through the office, use hand sanitizer and walk to their classroom.

Preparing Your Child for a Day at School

- Please ensure that your child washes his/her hands before school and when they return home. This will be a routine procedure throughout your child's day at school.
- Your child will be asked to use only their personal items and not to share them. School supplies need to be labelled with your child's name. Please pack water bottles, as all water fountains will be turned off; students will be able to refill them at select water refill stations.
- Please dress for the weather, as there will be a lot of time spent outdoors. Please apply sunscreen to your child before they arrive at school, or send sunscreen they are able to apply themselves (teachers will not be permitted to apply sunscreen to your child), and a hat for sunny days.

Increased Health and Safety Measures

- We need to be careful so we don't spread germs at school. To keep everyone safe, things will be different around the building.
- Students will come to school and will be spending the day with their learning group. Their learning group will consist of the students within their class and their teacher. They are allowed to be sitting next to each other, and will work along-side of each other; however, we will be teaching hands to selves and encouraging students to distance as much as possible.
- Students will not be allowed within two meters of anyone who is not in their learning group.
- For recess and lunch, students will be assigned an area on the school grounds to play and to interact, but they will be required to stay two meters away from anyone who is not in their learning group.
- Students will not be able to share food, personal items, or school supplies.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- The current plan for Occupational Health and Safety during Covid-19 says that masks are not mandated for students in elementary school; however, if families wish that their children wear them, they are more than welcome to do so.
- Staff are not required to wear masks when working within their learning group, unless they choose to do so.
- Any adult in the building who needs to come into contact with more than one classroom (The Administrators, The Learning Support Teachers, The Librarian, and others) will be required to keep their distance and wear a mask.
- All adults are required to wear a mask in any public area of the school.
- The first aid attendants will be wearing masks and a face shield when supporting students in need.

Recess and Lunch

- There will be NO physical contact sports, but there will be more time outside with classmates.
- Playground structures will be open and should only be used by students of Gray Elementary during the day
- Students will need to find other things to do outside, and keep their distance from others.
- Students will have recess and lunch at staggered times, and will be allocated a specific area to the school yard

Morning Drop Off/ Pick Up

- We will implement staggered drop-off and pick-up times, in addition to modified/staggered lunch and recess times, in order to ensure physical distancing measures are kept.
- Students will go to their class line up area to wait.
- Parents will not be able to come into the school, unless absolutely necessary or prearranged by the administration. This would be through the office only.
- Please arrive by the scheduled pick up and drop off time, as other families will be approaching for other times.

Entering the Building

- Students will be invited in from the line up.
- A teacher or other staff member will direct students to a sink, where they will wash their hands, following appropriate handwashing procedure.
- Each student will then enter their class and go to their assigned seat.

Classroom Set Up

- Students will be assigned seats and will be able to sit at desks or tables.
- Many things in the classroom will be put away.
- There will be limited access to manipulatives and tools. When they are available, they will be cleaned after each use, and students will need to wash or sanitize their hands before and after interacting with the materials.
- Each classroom will have the traditional amount of students in it, and they will complete lessons as they typically would.

Lots and Lots of Hand Washing

- There will be many hand washing times throughout the day.
- You may want to send a hand sanitizer to keep in your child's back pack for personal use.

Washroom Use

- We will limit washroom use to one at a time.
- We need to limit the things that we touch and keep it clean.
- Washrooms will be wiped down twice a day.

Hallway Traffic

- There will be directional flow markers for students to follow in hallways so that physical distancing can be observed.
- Students will be encouraged to stay within their pods and limit access to the rest of the building, unless directed by their teacher.

Snacks and Lunches

- Children should bring all food in a lunch bag and containers that can be packed in and all remaining food and wrappers will be packed out (you may want to send an extra baggie to pack the garbage in).
- **There will be NO lunch drop off after the start of school.**
- Students will eat snacks and lunch in their assigned seat.
- Students will eat only their own food, and will not share with others.
- Birthday treats, although delicious and fun, are not accepted at this time.

Some Spaces Will be Off Limits

- Throughout the day or year, there may be some places that become off limits. Teachers will be made aware of these and will inform students when this is a concern.

The Custodians Will Work Hard to Help Keep Our School Clean

- We need to remember to respect how we use all areas of our school:
- We can make their job easier by making sure that we clean up after ourselves and leave our desk/table spaces clear.
- Our school will be cleaned more frequently, including classrooms and high touch areas.

On a Final Note

When working in a school, one typically finds that September becomes such an electrifying time, as staff and students come back into the building , the halls become alive and the creative energy of so many becomes palpable. Although this September we have more uncertainty than normal, please take the time to enjoy this next chapter of your children's learning journey. They are starting a new year and will be meeting their teachers and classmates for the first time in a long time. Remember to go easy on yourselves and allow yourselves to share in the excitement and joy that this time usually brings, and try not to be overwhelmed by the uncertainty and anxiety that this pandemic has created. Please be assured that we are willing and ready to have your children back in the building and we will keep health and safety a top priority, while focusing on high quality learning experiences to engage the students. Let's have a wonderful start to the year and work together to make the end of 2020 more than just a memory of Covid, but a time of wonderment and joy for your children.

Stay safe and please reach out if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,



Mr. P. Klassen
Principal Gray Elementary
pklassen@deltasd.bc.ca