



Ranchero Elementary School



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September 2, 2021

Newsletter # 1

Respect, Responsibility, Compassion, Honesty & Fun

Principal's Message

Thank you to all families for their amazing and positive support from home over the last school year. We recognize that many of the new policies that were put in place required communication and support from home. Thank you for your patience and all that you did from home to keep your child's learning moving forward.

We look forward to welcoming grade 1 – 8 students back on Tuesday, September 7. ***Students are dismissed at 11:09 am on this day and buses run 3 hours early.*** On the first day of school students will line up out front of the school with their teacher from last year and spend this day with their last year teacher. Prior to going to classes will talk with students about current expectations in place.

I want to thank the Ranchero staff who went above and beyond in supporting student learning last school year. Learning continued and students and staff rose to the challenge. We welcome to Ranchero four new staff members. Brett Sherwood as our custodian, Tracy McNabb as our school counselor, Pamela Wilson Intermediate music teacher, Cheri Calvert as our Indigenous Education Worker, and Jodi Buker as a CEA.

Our enrollment is up this year. We currently have about 160 students enrolled and eight students on a waitlist. Last year we had seven classes. There is a chance this year we may have eight. If we end up with eight divisions we will have to reorganize and have students go to their last year class on Thursday, September 9. We will keep all families updated on this the first week of school.

School District 83, following the direction of the Ministry of Education and Public Health Orders, has developed a Communicable Disease Prevention Plan. This plan will be posted to the School District and Ranchero Website.

At this time, we can share the following (updates in bold):

- **Grade 1 – 8 students will begin school on Tuesday, September 7. This will be a half day, school, dismissal at 11:09 pm. Buses will run 3 hours early on this day.**
- **Kindergarten students will begin gradual entry on Wednesday, September 8. Mrs. Mueller has sent out the gradual entry schedule.**
- Students in grades 4 – 8 will be required to wear masks when inside the building, except if they are eating or drinking. Masks will be available at school.
- Mask are encouraged, but not required for students in kindergarten – grade 3.
- Students from grades 4-8 will be required to wear masks while riding the school bus. Masks will be available on buses.
- Parents / caregivers are to conduct at home health checks each morning prior to sending their child to school. Watch for a form acknowledging this daily routine will happen, coming home with other school start up forms that can be completed online through Parent Connect.
- ***Vaccination – There will be no vaccination requirement for students or staff in K-12 school settings.***
- It is very important that students stay home when sick – see Ministry App in this newsletter
- Regular handwashing will continue throughout the day. Hand sanitizer will also be available, and students may bring their own – must be at least 60% alcohol based.
- Food will be “pack in – pack out” and students will not be able to share food.
- Students will need a water bottle, fountains are closed, and we now have two filtered water bottle filling station.
- ***Cohorts/Learning Groups – Cohorts and learning groups which were utilized during the last school year will no longer be used.***
- ***Physical Distancing – Although physical distancing of 2 meters is no longer required, we will continue to use strategies to create space and distance where possible.***
- Outdoor classes will still be encouraged.
- Food and drink– Our Breakfast / Lunch Programs will proceed with regular operation.
- Additional cleaning will be provided throughout the day to start the school year.
- ***Extracurricular activities – All extracurricular activities including sports and arts***

programming will be permitted in accordance with any applicable public health orders. At this time within Interior Health extracurricular activities will not be taking place.

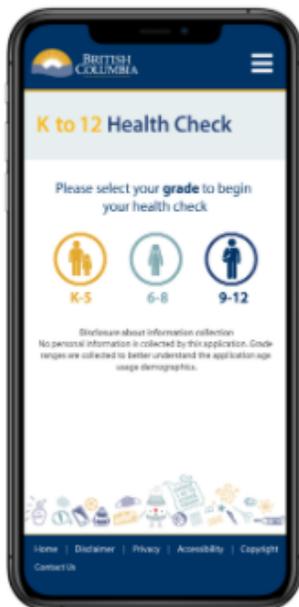
- **Local Measures** – Local public health orders may be implemented for regions, communities, or particular schools to address specific issues or risks.

As changes may occur the School District and the School will keep all updated. The Ranchero Joint Health and Safety Committee will continue to refer to the School District Communicable Disease Prevention plan as required to keep all safe.

Please remember, if you ever have any questions, concerns or just want to chat, feel free to give me a call or e-mail me at dcumming@sd83.bc.ca.

Sincerely,
Doug Cumming
Principal

Ministry of Education Health Check App



Download the K to 12 Health Check Mobile App

The K to 12 Health Check App is also available on your mobile phone.



If the recommendation is to stay home after answering the questions on the app, symptoms must be monitored at home for 24 hours.

