

Charles Dickens Annex

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September 9, 2022

Dear Dickens Annex families,

It has been an exciting and bucket filling week as the students' laughter and smiles filled our classrooms and hallway! Teachers were busy preparing the spaces for students and it is wonderful to see them reunite with their peers both old and new. I have personally enjoyed connecting with the students as well as adults and look forward to seeing many of you in the building as the year progresses!

I'd like to welcome the new Kindergarten students and families to the Dickens Annex community. I can speak from experience that this community is nothing but kind, supportive and welcoming and know that friendships will be made quickly in classrooms and amongst families.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue to finalize our school enrollment daily and tweak class placements. We are pleased that students and families can head into the weekend knowing where their children will be next week!

The Vancouver School District and Charles Dickens Annex continue to follow the guidance of the Ministry of Education and Child Care, the BC Centre for Disease Control and Vancouver Coastal Health in putting in place measures to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. The BC Centre for Disease Control updated [guidance](#) for the K-12 sector indicates that, "Transmission within K-12 schools settings accounts for a minority of COVID-19 cases even amongst students and staff."

Measures that will continue to be in place for the coming school year include reminders to all staff, students, and their families to monitor their health daily and to stay home if they are ill. Information about COVID-19 symptoms can be found on the [BCCDC website](#). Students who become ill during the school day will be asked to wear a mask and wait in a supervised area, away from other students, until they can be picked up by a parent or guardian.

Staff will continue to remind students of the importance of regular hand washing/hand sanitizing and of coughing/sneezing into their elbow or a tissue. We will continue to ensure school sinks are well stocked with soap and that hand sanitizer is available. Staff will also continue to remind students to be respectful of others' personal space while going through daily school activities.

Wearing a mask, other than what is recommended by public health, is an important personal health choice for students and families. Some staff and students will choose to wear a mask throughout the day or for certain activities. Others will choose not to wear a mask. Individual decisions around mask wearing will be supported and respected at Dickens Annex Elementary.

Clean air and proper ventilation are an important part of the prevention measures in all Vancouver schools. During the past months, District staff have undertaken the refurbishment and rehabilitation of ventilation equipment in all schools and will continue to install new ventilation and heating equipment in portables. Air filters in schools have been upgraded and are replaced three times per year.

More information on COVID-19 prevention measures in Vancouver schools can be found [here](#).

I hope you have a wonderful and restful weekend.

See you soon,

Atsuko Ishihara
Vice Principal