



# FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

2740 Guelph Street, Vancouver, BC V5T 3P7  
Telephone: (604) 713-5290



**Acknowledges that we live, work and play on the unceded and traditional territories of the Coast Salish peoples – *sḵw̓x̓wú7mesh (Squamish), selííwítulh (Tsleil-Waututh), and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) nations***

September 5, 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The staff and I are looking forward to welcoming everyone back to another school year at Nightingale. For the next few days, children will return to their last year's classes except for last year's kindergarten children in Ms. Tooshkenig's class and the grade one children in Ms. Lockey's class. Classes and staffing at Nightingale are being determined at the school and district level and we hope to have a better sense of enrolment at the school by Thursday. Throughout the Vancouver School Board, other schools are also determining enrolment and the district may determine it is necessary for us to reorganize, in which case, new class placements may be delayed. Students will be moved to their new classes when we have confirmed numbers and consulted at the district level. I thank you for your continued patience while we undertake this important step for the 2023 - 2024 school year.

The Vancouver School District and Nightingale Elementary 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 communicable diseases. 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 with *any communicable disease* (even a cold or the flu). 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 Nightingale Elementary.

Clean air and proper ventilation are an important part of the prevention measures in all Vancouver schools. Air filters in schools have been replaced over the summer and will be replaced another two times throughout the school year.

More information on communicable disease prevention measures in Vancouver schools can be found [here](#). Version 10 of the communicable disease plan continues to be the plan that Vancouver schools follow.

This year, we will be continuing to have entry and exit in the same manner as last year. Children will wait outside before school starts and line up outside as they did last year. Teachers will come down and collect them when the bell goes. At the end of the day, we ask you to also wait outside to meet your child. Please remind children to dress for the weather. We continue to appreciate parents coming into the school on a school-business-only basis and making appointments when needed. Please call the school to make those arrangements or contact your child's teacher. We also ask that, if you are visiting the school, you please sign into the office and then sign out when you leave so that we know who is in the building at all times in the event of an emergency. If you need to drop something off for your child through the school day, please report to the office and we can have your child come to the office to pick it up. Thank you.

As a reminder, general before-school supervision does not start until 8:40 a.m. Children must not arrive at school before that time unless they are being directly supervised by a staff member for a sports practice or are registered in our before/after-school care. If you arrive at school early, please wait with your child until supervision begins at 8:40 a.m. After-school supervision ends at 3:20 p.m. Please ensure that your child is picked up or reports home after this time. Our bell schedule this year is as follows:

<i>School start time:</i>	<i>9:00 a.m.</i>
<i>Recess:</i>	<i>10:40 – 11:00 a.m. – playtime outside “rain or shine” (note the change in time this year)</i>
<i>Lunch time:</i>	<i>12:10 – 12:57 p.m. – playtime outside “rain or shine” (note the change in time this year)</i>
<i>Afternoon start time:</i>	<i>12:57 p.m.</i>
<i>Dismissal:</i>	<i>3:03 p.m.</i>

For the remainder of the week, we will have regular school hours (Kindergarten gradual entry attendance times are an exception to this). Please remember to send your child to school each morning with a healthy snack and lunch. For minimal disruption to the school day, we ask that no lunches are dropped off at classrooms throughout the school day and we prefer that children stay at school for lunch. As a reminder, we are a nut aware school and ask that you consider this when packing your child's snacks and lunches. More information will be sent home via the first newsletter regarding our school allergy-aware practices. If your child forgets their lunch, please call the office to arrange for drop off. Thank you.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone again over the coming weeks and hope for another great year at Nightingale. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. I can be reached through the school office or via e-mail at [aahughes@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:aahughes@vsb.bc.ca). Thank you.

Sincerely,

Angela Hughes  
Principal