



We respectfully acknowledge that we live, work, learn, and play on the unceded and traditional territories of the Coast Salish peoples – skwx̱ wú7mesh (Squamish), sel̓ilwítulh (Tsleil-Waututh), and xwməθkwəy̓ əm (Musqueam) nations.

Important Information – Please Translate

這是一份重要資訊 — 請找人為您翻譯 這是一份重要信息 — 請找人為您翻譯

Mahalagang Impormasyon - Paki salin sa sariling wika

Thông tin quan trọng - Xin tìm phiên dịch

ਮਹੱਤਵਪੂਰਨ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ-ਮਿਹਰਬਾਨੀ ਕਰਕੇ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ਕਰੋ/ਕਰਵਾਓ

महत्वपूर्ण जानकारी - कृपया अनुवाद करें

중요한 정보 - 번역 부탁드립니다

Información importante - Por favor traducir

معلومات مهمة - الرجاء الترجمة

重要な情報-翻訳してください

اطلاعات مهم - لطفا ترجمه کنید

September 1, 2021

Welcome back to school!

Dear Tennyson Families,

We are excited to be starting the 2021-2022 school year! A warm welcome to all our students, families, and staff, and a special welcome to all of our students and families who are new to Tennyson. The purpose of this letter to families is to outline current health and safety procedures pertinent to this school year, and to update you on opening procedures as were communicated to our families in June and August.

Everyone at Tennyson is excited to welcome students back to school on September 8, 2021! As announced by provincial government, the District is expecting a full return to in-person learning starting September 2021. We are looking forward to a year of learning, sports, music and other extracurricular activities in person.

The health, safety and well-being of students and staff continues to be a top priority. The Vancouver School District's plan will provide for a safe, healthy and supportive learning environment. A variety of COVID-19 health and safety protocols and procedures, as advised by health officials, will be in place again this year to help keep everyone safe.

Daily health assessments

All students and staff are required to complete a daily health check prior to coming to school. Students and staff who have COVID symptoms and/or feel unwell should not attend school.

Parents and caregivers are responsible for assessing their children daily before sending them to school. The [K to 12 Health Check website](#) and app is an easy way to decide if your child should attend school based on their symptoms. You can download the app on your device:

- [iOS devices \(iPhone/iPad\)](#)
- [Android devices](#)

Daily health checklists are available here: [English](#), [ਪੰਜਾਬੀ](#), [عربي](#), [简体中文](#), [繁體中文](#), [Français](#), [فارسی](#), [Tagalog](#)

If your child becomes ill while at school

Any child experiencing COVID-19-like symptoms will be moved to a secluded space, such as a first-aid room or designated health room, where they will be supervised and supported by staff. Parents/guardians will be notified and advised to pick-up their child as soon as possible.

Please ensure that the school has your current contact information, including emergency contact information, to ensure timely pick-up.

Wearing masks

As required in provincial guidelines, all staff, students in grades 4 to 12 and visitors are required to wear masks in all indoor areas, including:

- At their desks
- On school buses

Exceptions include:

- A person who cannot tolerate wearing a mask for health or behavioural reasons
- A person unable to put on or remove a mask without the assistance of another person
- If the mask is removed temporarily for the purposes of identifying the person wearing it
- If the mask is removed temporarily to engage in an educational activity that cannot be performed while wearing a mask.
- If a person is eating or drinking
- If a person is behind a barrier
- While providing a service to a person with a disability or diverse ability (for example, a hearing impairment), where visual cues, facial expressions and/or lip reading/movements are important.

Students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 are encouraged to wear a mask indoors while in school and on school buses.

Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette

School staff will continue to focus on the importance of frequent hand washing (hand sanitizing) and of proper respiratory etiquette, such as coughing/sneezing into your sleeve or into a tissue. Over the past several months the District has replaced faucets in all Vancouver schools to enable proper hand washing. Schools have also been provided with hand sanitizing stations for common areas, classrooms without sinks and at entry and exit locations.

Cleaning and disinfecting schools

Like last year, enhanced cleaning and disinfecting will take place in every school in the district. This will include ensuring that all frequently touched surfaces are cleaned and disinfected at least once every 24-hours.

School Visitors

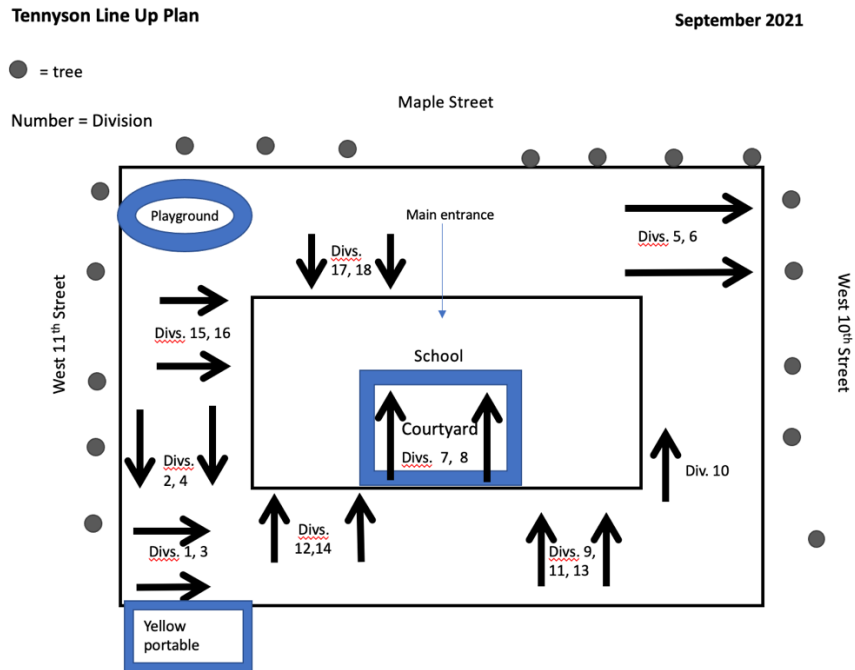
Schools in Vancouver will continue to welcome in-person visitors **by appointment only**. If you would like to make an in-person appointment, please contact the school office. Conversations with school staff may occur in various formats. All visitors are required to wear a mask, complete a daily health check, and follow all COVID-safety guidelines including a sign-in log.

Keeping your distance

Schools will continue to create space between students. This will include management of the movement of students in common areas such as hallways, in order to prevent crowding. Students will also be reminded to respect the personal space of others, to keep distance between themselves and others, and, to spread out as much as possible. We will also continue to take students outdoors, as much as possible, to engage in learning opportunities.

In order to reduce crowding at pick-up and drop-off times at Tennyson, it is important that **only students and staff are on the school grounds**. This is particularly important as our seismic project continues. We appreciate families waiting off the grounds – this was successful last year, and it gives our students and staff the space needed to line up on the grounds. Students will enter through assigned doors, as directed by their teachers. We ask students to arrive just prior to the warning bell at 8:55am. As all students begin and end school at the same time this year, this is even more important. Play times (recesses and lunchtimes) continue to be separate this year for primary and intermediate

students. Here is a map with the general line-up areas, all of which will have signage, similar to previous years. The exact locations may shift for operational reasons.



Ventilation

Over the past year, significant improvements to ventilation systems have been made at all schools. This work has included making repairs and upgrades to mechanical systems, replacing and upgrading filters, setting controls to maximize the intake of outside air into learning spaces. Work has also been done to make sure windows in learning spaces can be opened to provide good ventilation.

More information

More information about plans and guidelines to keep schools in British Columbia open and safe can be found [here](#). The District continues to encourage everyone who is eligible to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Details about vaccinations are available [here](#).

Other important information

The first day of school for students is **Wednesday September 8, 2021**. **As in previous years, VSB elementary schools are in session from 9am to 10am on this day.** This allows us to get a sense of our enrollment, and we then engage in professional meetings. September 9th onwards, school sessions will be regular hours. Students will line up at the same division number as their class “last year”. They will be picked up by either their previous year’s teacher or in a few cases another teacher, and go to their “last year’s class” (the same physical classroom that they were in last year). They will likely be there for several days while we work on our enrollment, as it generally shifts between June and the first week of September. Gr 1-7 students **new to Tennyson** will meet by the **yellow post at the front of school** (by the main entrance on Maple Street), where a teacher will meet them and bring them into the school. New-to-Tennyson students will work with a teacher for the first few days until we are ready to go to their new classes for the year. Students who were in **Kindergarten** at Tennyson last year (Grade 1 for 2021-2022) will meet at last year’s Division 17 and 18 line-ups, and will work with one of our teachers, as the Kindergarten teachers need to begin their gradual entry with their new students.

When we are confident in our numbers and students are able to move to their new classrooms (likely Friday Sept 10th or Monday Sept 13th), you will receive a brief email noting your child’s new division for the year – it will be good to check your email that day, and to pre-set a meeting point for your child to go to meet you off the grounds.

Pick-up and drop-off will be the same time for all students this year. School will commence at 9am, and end at 3:03pm (3:03 is the correct time for all VSB elementary schools this year, which is a change from the previous 3pm dismissal). Students will be eating lunch in their classrooms.

For students coming into Kindergarten, families have already received a **gradual entry schedule**.

We hope that you enjoy the rest of the week, and we look forward to welcoming your children back to school next week!

Sincerely,

Doug Roch
Principal

Kateryna McNicol
Vice Principal