

August 27, 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians and Students,

Thank you for taking the time to open this memo and review the following information about school start up. We hope you and your family have enjoyed the summer months and are looking forward to the back to school routines. At Claremont, we are busy with final preparations to welcome students back after the Labour Day long weekend for their respective orientation days starting Sept. 7, 2021. The recent week has brought both exciting news with a full return to school and the reminder that wearing masks will remain part of our routine. The Saanich School District is committed to ensure your child's health and safety is our top priority and will continue to follow the guidelines set by the Provincial Health Officer as we return to school. This "message to families" contains preliminary information regarding our school start up and will hopefully clarify any concerns and/or questions you might still be pondering.

School Start Up Schedule:

Tuesday Sept. 7	Orientation for Grade 09 and 12's ONLY 12:00noon - 3:05pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Homeroom, timetables, meeting teachers... ● School buses arrive between 11:30am - 12:00noon
Wednesday, Sept. 8	Orientation for Grade 10's and 11's ONLY 12:00noon - 3:05pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Homeroom, timetables, meeting teachers... ● School buses arrive between 11:30am - 12:00noon ● Fire Drill as a part of Homeroom
Thursday, Sept. 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Regular classes begin, bell schedule below ● School busses run before school and after school (only for those families who have signed up - you can still register through the Saanich District 63 website under 'Programs & Services' and then 'Transportation') ● Picture Day - Blocks 1, 2, and 3 ● Earthquake Drill at the end of Block 3 ● Homeroom between Block 3 and 4
Friday, Sept. 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Regular classes in session ● Fire Drill at end of Block 1 ● Homeroom between Block 1 and 2

Purpose of Orientation Days:

- Welcome students back to school and help them feel safe
- Meet staff and reconnect with friends in calm and safe environment
- Help students feel comfortable and safe returning to school with safety reminders & guidelines
- Help students understand timetables and locate classes
- Select locker (optional)
- Distribute timetables and “Student Info Verification Forms” (need to be reviewed, UPDATED, signed, and returned to student’s Blk 1 teacher or the office)

School Entry Process on Orientation Days:

- Grade 9’s- Please meet on the back field just before 12:00 pm. We will welcome you there and organize you into your homeroom classes. Parents will receive an email with the Homeroom teacher’s name.
- Grade 10’s, 11’s, 12’s- Please go directly to your homeroom classes to start your welcome back orientation. Homeroom classes will be posted along the horseshoe hallway at the front of the school if you don’t remember.

Full Time In-Person Instruction: The Ministry of Education confirmed in their Tuesday [media release](#) that schools are returning to full-time in-person instruction this September. Claremont will return to the semester timetable and there will be no designated cohorts to schedule.

Timetables:

- **At the Orientation Days**, - all students who attend their orientation will receive their full year timetables from homeroom and have the chance to submit a course change form where necessary. On the reverse side of each timetable there will be a course change form that can be filled out and submitted on the spot. Take a picture of your timetable if you are submitting a course change request.
- **Course Changes:** It is our hope that there will be minimal changes with student timetables. Those students who requested timetable changes last June should see the changes made on their new timetables. Those wishing any changes to their quarter one timetable must have this completed **prior to Monday September 13th**. All course changes must now be completed by filling out the course change form (on the back of every student timetable) and submitting it to the homeroom teacher or the office.

Pandemic Health & Safety Protocols (viewable on the SD63 District Website)

Also announced on Tuesday were the updated operational guidelines for K-12 schools. Here are some of the highlights:

- As mandated by WorkSafeBC, a new Communicable Disease Program will replace our district’s Safety Plan. It will have many similarities to our current plan but will reflect any new measures being implemented in our schools. Ours will be available on our district website early next week.

- Regional Medical Health Officers will now have the authority to implement additional safety requirements at a regional, district or school level should that be required.
- All K-12 staff and students in Gr 4-12 are required to wear masks while indoors or on the school bus. K-Gr 3 students are encouraged to wear masks, but this remains the choice of the student and their family.
- General cleaning of the premises, and the cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces, will occur at least once in a 24-hour period.
- Staff and students (or their parents if appropriate) are to continue to do their own Daily Health Check and should remain home if they are not feeling well.
- Visitors will still be required to sign-in at the office or front counter to confirm that they are feeling well.
- Our ventilation systems will continue to use high-filtering MERV 13 filters as recommended. Ventilation performance will also continue to be monitored by our Facilities Department.
- School gatherings and events will now align with provincial/regional guidelines. The following activities will now be able to occur:

* School Sports

*Staff Gatherings and Meetings

* Extra-Curricular Activities & Assemblies

*Theatre/Dance Performances

Additional guidance and information can be found in the Ministry of Education document: [Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#).

Year at a Glance: [The Year at a Glance](#) is now posted on the Claremont Website under the Calendar Tab. This document will provide you with all the scheduled dates we currently have on the calendar. We will update this information periodically throughout the year but the Monthly Calendar will be updated soon and will have any up to the minute updates as we have them available. Please check the calendar regularly.

Picture Days: Picture days happen relatively quickly at Claremont (table below); please note there will be no paper order forms handed out. All students are required to have their photo taken for the MyEd database and for the yearbook. If you wish to order photos you will need to go to “www.lifetouch.ca” for more information after the initial photo sessions have taken place. As well, if your child can not be present for the day, a retake day will be scheduled as the next opportunity.

<p>Thurs, Sept. 9th PICTURE DAY - SMALL GYM</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Block 1 PE classes will go first ● Grade 12's, and then Grade 11's in Block 1 ● Grade 10's, and then Grade 9's in Blocks 2 and 3
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Bussing for Orientation Days (Tuesday Sept 7th / Wednesday Sept 8th):

- Students are required to register in order to take advantage of riding the school bus, through the following link: <https://www.sd63.bc.ca/programs-and-services/transportation>

Bell Schedule: Please be advised that our bell schedule has changed from last year due to the fact that we are moving back to the semester system; it would be a good idea for all students to take a quick photo of the image below using their cell phones so that they always have a copy at hand to reference:

Class Bell Schedule 2021-2022			
		<small>September 2021</small>	
Monday - Friday		Class Early Bell Schedule	
Block 1	9:00 – 10:18	Block 1	9:00 – 10:06
Class Change	10:18 – 10:22	Class Change	10:06 – 10:10
Block 2	10:22 – 11:45	Block 2	10:10 – 11:20
Lunch	11:45 – 12:30	Lunch	11:20 – 12:00
Block 3	12:30 – 1:48	Block 3	12:00 – 1:06
Class Change	1:48 – 1:52	Class Change	1:06 – 1:10
Block 4	1:52 – 3:10	Block 4	1:10 – 2:16

Fee Payment in Saanich School District Just Got Easier!

- SD63 is excited to announce our new online payment system! In an effort to reduce time, money, and paper waste, parents now have the option to pay their children’s fees securely online. Payments can be made by Visa, Visa Debit, Mastercard and Mastercard Debit. To sign up, please visit the District Website www.sd63.bc.ca **at any point after Sept 10th** and look under Parent & Students, and then select Pay School Fees Online.

We are all looking forward to a safe and successful start-up to the school year. After last year, we can handle anything! The staff at Claremont are amazing individuals and collectively we will do our best to provide the best education possible for your students in a safe and caring environment. Looking forward to the week of September 7th and another exciting school year.

Sincerely,

Peter Westhaver

pwesthaver@saanichschools.ca

Kelly de Klerk

kdeklerk@saanichschools.ca

Aaron Buckham

abuckham@saanichschools.ca