

Dear Valley View Families,

Another exciting school year is just around the corner at Valley View Elementary. We hope summer has been restful and rejuvenating for everyone. Our team of teachers and staff is busily preparing for the year and we are excited to see students and families return next week.

Here are a few key items and friendly reminders:

1. First morning of school - Tuesday, September 8th from 8:35 - 11:45 am (Warning Bell goes at 8:30am). Students will go to their new classrooms for this half day. (new Kindergarten students do not attend)

2. Class placement – 2026-2027 student/class placement will be communicated to families via email late afternoon/early evening on Monday, September 7th. Please note that office staff and teachers will not be able to give out class placement information before it is emailed on the 7th. Be sure to check your email Monday evening / Tuesday morning for up-to-date information on class placement and where to meet your child's new teacher.

3. Second day of school and beyond - Wednesday, September 9th from 8:35 - 2:30 (regular schedule for everyone - except kindergarten).

4. New students/families (gr. 1-7) – New Grade 1-7 students and families are invited to a visit an orientation session on Friday, September 4th, at 11:00 am. Meet at the school's front doors.

5. New Kindergarten Students – We will be welcoming 33 new kindergarten students this year in 3 different classes. The kindergarten gradual entry process and schedules were emailed to K families in July. Please let us know if you need more information or didn't receive the July email.

6. School Supplies (K-7) - School supplies will be purchased and centralized through each classroom and will cost **\$50** per student. You can pay via cash or cheque, but e-transfer is preferred at valleyview@sd71.bc.ca. Please be sure to write School Supplies 26-27 and your child's name in the notes of the e-transfer. As always, parents are still expected to provide a backpack, lunch kit and water bottle. Valley View water bottles are available for purchase at the office for \$2 each. Families requiring financial assistance to pay for school supplies may contact any staff member.

7. School / Bell / Recess Schedules

8:35am – Start of school day (bell)

11:00am – Morning recess (bell)

11:30am – End of morning recess (bell)

1:00pm – Afternoon recess (bell)

1:30pm - End of afternoon recess (bell)

2:30 – End of school day (bell)

8. School District Calendar – please click the [following link for the 2026-2027 School Calendar](#)

9. Lunch Program –

Valley View's Universal Lunch Program continues this year. Please see the attachment for more info. To order go to www.munchalunch.com/schools/valleyview

10. Parent Volunteers and Drivers- Thank you for volunteering at the school. Many of our programs and student experiences wouldn't happen without the support of parent and community volunteers:

a) **Criminal Record Check:** all volunteers (classroom, coaching, drivers for field trips, etc...) must complete a criminal record check before starting. If you have done this during the previous 3 school years, your criminal record check is likely still valid. Office staff will contact any expired or expiring CR checks.

b) **Drivers Abstracts and Insurance Documents:** Please note that all driver abstracts, insurance and driver's licence documents are shredded at the end of every school year and must be renewed every school year.

Please click on the following link for more information:

<https://www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/valley-view-elementary/volunteer-driving/>

11. School Office Hours - The school office is open every day the week of August 31st from 8:30 am until 2:30 pm, and regular hours (8:00 – 3:15) resume on September 8th.

12. Communication – Families will receive a weekly update from the principal every week before Monday at 7:00 am. Your child's teacher will also be in regular communication. Never hesitate to contact us with questions, concerns and celebrations!

13. SchoolMessenger Safe Arrival Communication System – We will continue using the SchoolMessenger tool to communicate student absences. We encourage all families to sign on to this system to facilitate efficient communication of student absences.

Please click on the following link for more information:

<https://go.schoolmessenger.ca/#/home>

14. District Strategic Plan & Valley View School Goals - 2026-2027 will be the third school year under our updated District Strategic Plan which will guide our areas of growth in future years as we continue to provide inclusive, wholistic and personalized learning environments to develop students' core competencies: <https://www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/our-strategic-plan/>

2026/27 Valley View Focus

Alongside our commitment to continue improving student numeracy and literacy skills, this year Valley View Elementary is focusing on the core competencies of self-regulation and building relationships:

Self-Regulation

To strengthen students' Personal Awareness and Responsibility through intentional development of self-regulation, emotional awareness, resilience, and problem-solving skills so that students are better able to manage challenges, build positive relationships, and engage successfully in learning and the school community.

Building Relationships

To strengthen students' Social Responsibility: Building Relationships skills by developing their ability to communicate respectfully, demonstrate empathy, resolve challenges peacefully, and contribute positively to an inclusive school community where all students feel a sense of belonging and connection.

Why It Matters

Students need strong self-regulation and positive relationship skills because these competencies are foundational to learning and success, helping them feel safe, connected, and confident while engaging in academic learning, navigating challenges, building relationships, and developing the skills needed to thrive in school and beyond.

15. Inclusion BC - Below is a link to the Parents Handbook on Inclusive Education which provides some valuable information and resources for parents.

<https://inclusionbc.org/resource/parents-handbook-on-inclusive-education/>

16. ERASE BC - ERASE is an online tool to aid students, adults and school staff to build safe, caring and inclusive school communities. Please click on the link below for more information:

www.Erase.gov.bc.ca

17. Emergency Preparedness - Throughout the school year students and staff will participate in fire, earthquake and lockdown drills as part of our emergency preparedness program. For more information, please visit the link below:

<https://www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/emergency-preparedness/>

18. Dates to Remember

Friday, September 4th – New Student Orientation (grades 1-7) – 11:00 am

Tuesday, September 8th – First Day of School for students gr. 1-7 (8:35 am – 11:45 am)

Wednesday, September 9th – First full day of school – regular hours (8:35 – 2:30 pm)

Monday, September 21st – Non-Instructional Day

Thursday, September 24th – PAC Meeting at 6:30pm

Tuesday, September 29th – Truth and Reconciliation + Orange Shirt Day

Tuesday, September 30th – No School – National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Friday, October 2nd – Individual Student Photo Day

Wednesday, October 28th – Photo Retakes

I am excited to be joining the Valley View team and look forward to meeting students and parents starting next week and a great school year. Feel free to email me directly at dave.mayert@sd71.bc.ca if you have questions or concerns.

Enjoy the last week of summer!

Dave Mayert

Principal

Valley View Elementary

I respectfully acknowledge that we are on the unceded traditional territory of the Pentlach, Sahtloot, Sasitla and leeksun Peoples (K'omoks First Nations) and am thankful for the privilege of living on the land and the gift of working with their children