

August 27, 2021

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year. I hope everyone was able to enjoy a beautiful Comox Valley summer. This was definitely a summer for the record books.

As we prepare for the school year, I would like to share with you our Back to School Plan for September 2021.

Our plan was developed following the direction of the Ministry of Education and the guidelines set out by the Provincial Health Officer. We also work closely with Island Health to ensure we are in compliance with any and all local health orders.

The focus of our plan for this year is a return to face-to-face instruction. Should families choose an online form of educational programming we would encourage you to contact NIDES/Navigate who will provide online delivery for our District. <https://www.navigatenides.com/>

The Back to School Plan contains guidelines, which for the most part were in effect at the end of last year. Therefore, our students will be familiar with them. The main change is that cohort groupings will not be used as we start the year. The following is a summary of some of the Back to School guidelines that will be implemented:

- All K-12 staff must wear masks while indoors
- All students in grades 4-12 must wear masks in indoor spaces
- K-3 students are encouraged to wear masks, but it is a family decision
- Daily health checks will continue for all
- Anyone who is sick or feeling sick should not come to school
- Hand hygiene will continue
- Enhanced cleaning protocol will continue (min. once per day)
- Use of outdoor spaces is encouraged
- Cohort groupings **will not be used**
- Physical distancing **will not be mandated**, rather respecting individuals' personal space will be practiced
- Extra curricular activities and sports will resume

Please visit our website for further detailed information. <https://www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/>

Regarding parents and school visitors, where possible visitor access at the school will be limited to those areas required for the purpose of the visit. All parents and visitors are required to wear masks in all schools. We would ask that all parents and visitors please go through the school office for appointments. Student drop off and pick up in most situations should occur outside the school.

We encourage you to visit the COVID-19 Safe Schools – Province of B.C. website, which has been updated as of August 24, 2021. <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/covid-19-safe-schools>

Please take the time to review all the information and we encourage you to connect with your school principal if you have any questions or concerns regarding the Back to School Plan.

Thank you once again for your support. We look forward to a safe and rewarding school year.

Respectfully,



Tom Demeo
Superintendent of Schools